



## ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*"To Live Love and Learn in a Caring Christian Community"*

**JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2017**



At the whole school assembly prior to the half term we presented the Headteacher Mission award certificate to the following pupils who have been actively living out our school mission statement:

Ash – Carter and Agata  
Beech – Benjamin and Nicolas  
Cedar – Reggie and Ella  
Elm – Tommy and Niamh  
Fir – Grace and Oliver  
Hazel – Katie and Ciaran  
Maple – Patrick and Jacob  
Oak – William and Ala  
Pine – Steffi and Molly  
Sycamore – Vittoria and Ava  
Willow – Ethan and Harrison

### **NURSERY ADMISSIONS 2017-2018**

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 you will now be able to apply for a Nursery place. Our School Information Form (SIF) is available to download from our school website:

<http://www.stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk/schooladmissions.html>.

The process closes on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

### **CHAPLAINCY TEAM NEWS**

The Chaplaincy team have had a busy new year and are currently fund raising for the Bishop's Stortford Food bank through their 'Top Up A Tin' project.

This is a coin collection rather than a food collection as the Food bank needs monetary funding for storage and transportation of food goods as well as the food itself. Miss Roper and the children would like to thank all who have donated to this local cause. In addition to this the team are producing a thought for the week and distributing the Wednesday Word leaflets around the school.

### **SCHOOL MASSES**

KS2 children have all attended Mass at the church this term. As always, they were beautifully behaved and were able to answer some of the challenging questions posed to them by Fr Fortunato or Fr Peter during the Sermons. KS1 children enjoyed their class masses led by Fr Fortunato.

### **E SAFETY TRAINING**

Thank you to all those that attended the E-safety parent training session on Monday 6th February. We hope that you found it useful and would like to remind you that a PDF document from the session can be accessed via parent mail or on our school website. As the session highlighted, it is really important that we are working in partnership to raise children's awareness of the dangers the internet can sometimes present.

On Tuesday 7th February, we continued to celebrate safer internet day through a whole school assembly and a range of themed activities which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Miss Bull (Maple class teacher and computing coordinator).

## **SINGING CLUB O2 YOUNG VOICES CONCERT 2017**

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 33 children from the singing club attended the Young Voices Concert at the O2 Arena, London. They participated in an exciting 2 hour rehearsal where they performed the songs they had learnt and joined in with solo performers, the national beat box champions and the 'Urban Strides' street dance group. After tea, they performed, along with over 7,000 other children, to a packed arena. The preparation, over the last 4 months has been well worthwhile. Miss Roper would like to commend the children for their excellent participation and conduct on the day. Well done to Miss Roper for bringing it all together.

## **NURSERY VISIT TO THE LIBRARY**

Nursery enjoyed a visit to Bishop's Stortford library. We had a tour of the library, learnt how to use the kiosks and saw the range of books that they have.

We really enjoyed listening to stories and having some time to share books with our friends.

We are all very excited to use the library with our families at half term!

## **SUBWAY PAINTINGS**

As part of a joint community project, many schools were asked to help improve the environment in which we live. We were asked to paint beautiful images to brighten up the subways in the Thorley area. The children whose paintings were chosen attended the opening and I hope you will manage to visit the subways to see these paintings for yourself. Congratulations to the five amazing artists in our school. Rohana, Thomas, Ruby, Harriet and Anthony – their masterpieces will be permanently displayed for all to admire.



## **SPORTING NEWS**



The football league continues and the boys are doing exceptionally well. Both teams are getting game time, when pitches aren't waterlogged.

The year 5 and 6 children are enjoying their term of tennis with Ali keeping them on their toes outside. These year groups have another half term of tuition before it opens to the KS1 pupils.



 Year 1 and 2 pupils have had lots of extra bonuses in PE this term. They continue to have fun on alternate Fridays with their PE sessions being led by the sports leaders from Hockerill. They have also had Janine Peart in from Stortford Gymnastics leading their indoor PE sessions in readiness for the competition next half term.

Mr Doherty and Mrs Tracey took 16 UKS2 pupils to Birchwood this term to participate in the Sportshall Athletics competition. They fared well and made a late come back in the track events which is fantastic...we have runners!

There will be a new initiative starting next term which is aimed at increasing pupil fitness, which goes hand in hand with academic attainment. It will also contribute to the government's proposal of all children being active for 60 minutes a day.

## **YEAR 4 GYMNASTICS COMPETITION**

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February, a team of six children from Year 4 attended the Stortford Gymnastics Centre's competition for primary schools. Congratulations to Tia, Cloideach, Olivia, Anastasia, Conrad and Matthew who all performed their routines superbly on the day and contributed to a great team effort. We are very proud of you all.

## **YEAR 5 & 6 TRIP TO DUXFORD WAR MUSEUM**

Upper Key Stage 2 visited the Imperial War Museum as part of their History topic on WW2. All the children had a fantastic and informative day with the highlight for many being 'A Trip on Concorde'.

Behaviour was exemplary and I am sure many of the children would like to visit again.



### **DINNER MONEY FOR JUNIORS**

**Please note: Dinner money must be paid for either weekly or half-termly IN ADVANCE.**

School meals are currently priced at £2.35 per day, £11.75 per week. If you wish to pay for next half-term in advance, the cost of school meals up to the Easter holidays will be £70.50. If you prefer, you can pay any amount of your choice to keep your balance in credit. Please pay online using the School Gateway system or by cash or cheque, making any cheques payable to Hertfordshire Catering Ltd.

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE CATERING MANAGER :** Two weeks' notice in writing to Mrs Thompson is required for any changes to the children's dietary pattern. If your child is coming into school late due to an appointment please remember to book their meal when you ring in. Thank you.



### **MILK ORDER**

Milk is available to all age groups through the school. If you would like your child to receive mid-morning milk please just visit [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) to register and place your order.

### **BAGS2SCHOOL TEXTILE RECYCLING**

Thank you for all the textiles donated in our latest bags2school collection. We are very pleased to advise that we collected 300kg and raised £120 for the school. Please look out for the details of our next collection on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

### **YOUR SCHOOL ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Firstly, thank you to everyone who supported today's cake sale. Total to be announced soon. We really appreciate all the volunteers who gave up their time and all the cakes, baked and bought.

### **EVENTS**

We have a number of upcoming events scheduled, so please make a note in your diaries.

**SPRING DISCO – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March. KS1 3.45-4.45pm and KS2 5-6.30pm**

**MAY FAYRE – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May. 12noon-4pm.**

**CHILDREN'S SPONSORED RUN – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June**

**SUMMER FAMILY DISCO – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 6-8pm.**

Plans are already afoot for our biggest fundraiser of the year - the May Fayre. Any auction prizes that could be donated would be gratefully received. Please speak to a committee member or make contact using the email address below if you can help.

### **FACEBOOK POLL**

Following a poll on the 'St Joseph's School Association Bishop's Stortford' Facebook page, you have decided our nominated charity for this year will be the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust as they routinely cover Bishop's Stortford and surrounds. The entirely charity-funded air ambulance will receive 50 per cent of what is raised at our children's sponsored run on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from the air ambulance will also be attending the May Fayre and the sponsored run. The children will hear more from the charity about what they do at an upcoming assembly.

### **CHRISTMAS SAVINGS CLUB**

Still paying for Christmas 2016? Why not make Christmas 2017 different. Start saving with the school's Christmas Savings Club and help the school enrich your child's school life at the same time.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact either Rachel Kelly on 07756 633357 or Donna Swyers on 07990 017666. Alternatively look out for them on the playground!

### **CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

We had a very successful Christmas Fayre and would like to thank everyone who worked tirelessly to make it a much-loved event. It raised a total of £2,264.36.

### **FLYING HIGH AT DUXFORD**

The Year 5 & 6 trip to the Imperial War Museum, Duxford - on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February was entirely funded by the School Association, thanks to your contributions and help. In fact, all pupils on trips for the rest of 2017 will receive £10 per child towards their educational trip this year. This funding, which totals £3,500, was agreed by the committee at its January meeting.

### **GET IN TOUCH**

As always if you want to help out at an event, or have any ideas you would like to share please email us at [stjosephsschoolassociation@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stjosephsschoolassociation@hotmail.co.uk)

### **NOTE FROM GOVERNORS**

We sent a letter home towards the end of January telling you the good news that we have obtained funding to have a new school building built. We are 90% certain that this will mean a new building to be built on the current play area whilst the school continues to run from the present building. During this month of February, the decision will be confirmed but there is still a chance that we will have a complete refurbishment of the present building which would have to take place whilst the school is re-housed in a temporary accommodation block on the playing fields. Either way, we will get a new school building which we have been striving towards for over a decade.

We were delighted to inform you that the Local Authority have agreed that our new school should be a two form entry school and they will fund the extra classes needed. This will mean that we will be able to admit 60 pupils per year group, rather than the current 45. It will also mean that, when we are in the new building, we will no longer have to have mixed year group classes.

Presently, the aim is to get planning consent by April 2018 and that building will actually start in May 2018. We hope that the new school will be fully up and running from September 2019.

The Local Authority have to consult the public about the proposal for us to become a two form entry school. This process has begun and we hope that you will complete the on-line form to support the proposal. We expect that most people in our Parish will support this as there is a need for more Catholic primary school places currently and this demand is only going to increase dramatically as the thousands of new houses get built over the coming years.

We do not have any more details at the moment. Over the next year, we will be working through the processes required and then we will be involved in the development and design stages before the planning application is submitted. We will let you know when we have more information.

Suzanne Fitzgerald, Chair of Governors

**PLEASE SEE ATTACHED DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2017 / 2018**

**St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School**  
**Academic Year Dates 2017/2018**

**Autumn Term 2017:**

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	INSET- No Pupils
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	<u>Pupils Return</u>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET- No pupils
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Half Term holiday
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term (13.30 finish)

**Spring Term 2018:**

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	INSET- No pupils
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	<u>Pupils Return</u>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February - Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term holiday
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of term (13.30 finish)

**Summer Term 2018:**

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	INSET- No pupils
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	<u>Pupils Return</u>
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	INSET- No pupils
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> May - Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Half Term holiday
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term (13.30 finish)