



MARCH 2017



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

Ash – Sophia and Pablo
Beech – Alex and Anastasia
Cedar – Elisha, Darragh and Brian
Elm – Jean and Jessica
Fir – Grace and Ethan
Hazel – Charlie and Madeleine
Maple – Amelia and Ruby
Oak – Tia and Harry
Pine – Isabella and Abbie
Sycamore – Jack and Ruby
Willow – Skye and Oliver



Today in assembly we had the March Draw for the School Association 100 Club.

The winners are:

First prize - £25 - Mrs Frankie Sathan

Second prize - £15 - Mrs Justyna Bennett

Third prize - £10 - Mrs Adele Costa Correa

Congratulations! The prizes are in the school office ready for collection.

Thank you for your continuing support,

The School Association

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

Our journey through Lent started with Fr Fortunato leading our Ash Wednesday Service for pupils in Years 1-6. He spoke to the children about the three practices of Lent: praying, fasting and giving alms, and reminded us of the importance of living out these practices in a thoughtful way as we prepare for Easter. It was lovely to witness the prayerful and reflective atmosphere as we received our ashes and thought about how we could welcome Jesus into our lives.

As St Joseph's Day (19th March) happened to fall on a Sunday this year, we celebrated our patron saint on Friday 17th March, along with Saint Patrick! In the morning, Fr Fortunato led Mass and discussed the important role that Joseph had in looking after Mary and Jesus. He taught us that, like Joseph, we should try to be more willing to listen to the word of God in our daily lives. The afternoon was then filled with exciting activities, including making cards and researching the life of St Joseph. The annual Fr Hanton memorial football and netball tournaments that take place to mark St Joseph's Day were thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part. There was a great atmosphere of team spirit evident among our Year 5 and 6 pupils. Congratulations to 'The Flying Pigs' who are our new netball champions and 'DEDSEC' for winning the football. I would like to add that the children chose the names for their teams!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Even though we are just past the mid-point of Lent, KS1 and KS2 took part in our reflective Stations of the Cross services in school this week. Led by the Chaplaincy Team, the pupils travelled along the road with our Lord reflecting on His journey to the cross.

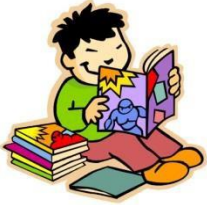
CHAPLAINCY TEAM FUND RAISING FOR THE FOOD BANK

Congratulations to the Chaplaincy team who have raised money for the Bishop's Stortford Food bank. We sent a cheque for £300 towards the storage and transportation of food.

Thank you all who brought in coins to 'top up our tins' in school.

BOOK FAIR

Thank you to all of those that attended our recent book fair. The money spent raised close to £1,300 in rewards which is fantastic news for the school. All reward money is used to enhance our class libraries as well as purchase resources to support the children's learning.



I am also very grateful for all of those that gave up their time to run the book fair during the day and would like to thank them for all of their hard work before, during and after the book fair.

Miss Bull

LOWER KEY STAGE 2 PERFORMANCE "HOLY MOSES"

On Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th March the children of LKS2 presented their Easter production of Holy Moses. With almost 90 children participating, it was a dynamic and colourful show based on the familiar Bible story. The performance showcased their amazing singing, acting and dancing abilities.

Congratulations to all the children and a huge thank you to all the staff who made this show such a great success.

K Roper

Music Subject Leader



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 until 26th May will be £65.80. 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 to register and place your order.



BAGS2SCHOOL TEXTILE RECYCLING

As part of our Eco Plan the school continues to take part in the Bags2School textile recycling scheme. The next collection is 20th April. Please fill your bags with all your unwanted household textiles and leave them in the bike shed before 9am on the collection date. If you miss the deadline please take the bag home with you as we cannot store them for the next collection.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please remember that we go to our summer holiday uniform from Easter to October half term when we return to school. Details can be found on the website under the Parents tab

SPORTING NEWS

The year 5 and 6 children have finished their term of tennis with Ali. Year 1 and 2 children will be starting after Easter. As promised, the results of the LKS2 BSP Gymnastics competition - Miss Roper came back to school beaming as the children had performed incredibly well and were placed mid-table. This is a very daunting competition as the calibre of performance is high and there is individual pressure. The children are expected to memorise 2 floor routines and a vault jump and deliver these individually in front of a judge.

28 year 6 children went to Birchwood to play in the QuickSticks competition. They had great fun in the sun. One team came 3rd in their group with the others unplaced. It was great to have so many children participate so enthusiastically in a sport they don't play often.

The Daily Mile is now up and running with most classes getting out at least 3 times a week. The intention of the Daily Mile is that the children run for 15 minutes a day. They can, of course, walk or run. The feedback from both teachers and pupils is very positive which is a great start to this initiative, getting children fit and active!

We have entered the cricket, football and netball league for the summer term, so the afternoons will be busy! Once you've enjoyed the chocolate that this holiday offers, get active!



The boys have had a strong end to the season with a few, very important wins. Our A team, captained by Tristain, finished third in the league after their best performance of the season - beating Northgate 5-2. . Our B team had a fantastic season, winning the majority of their games with very impressive score lines - this has made us very excited for next year, boys!

The girls have also had an excellent season

so far, with impressive wins. All players enjoyed the games and showed excellent levels of sportsmanship and should be proud of their performances! Mrs Foster and Mr Doherty.



The girls team, already Bishop Stortford district champions, went to the County Quarter Finals at St. Albans, with 12 of the best teams in Hertfordshire. In our group we came 2nd, beating the Hitchin champions 3 - 2 before losing to the St. Albans champions 4 - 0.

THIS MEANS WE WERE EITHER THE 5TH OR 6TH BEST TEAM IN THE COUNTY -

FANTASTIC !!!!

YOUR SCHOOL ASSOCIATION REPORT

Thank you to everyone for their support so far in 2017. The discos this school year have raised an impressive total of £950. The February cake sale made £263. Thank you to everyone who supported these events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please make a note in your diaries:

May Fayre – Saturday 13th May 12noon-4pm
Children's Sponsored Run – Wednesday 14th June
Camping Night – Saturday 1st July
Summer Family Disco – Friday 14th July 6-8pm.

May Fayre

Arrangements are well underway for our biggest fundraiser of the whole year. We will soon be assigning stalls to organisers and, as ever, will be hugely grateful as the family of St Joseph's work together to make sure the long-awaited fayre is its usual success.

Sign-up sheets will be making an appearance at classes in the run-up to the event and we are still on the look-out for any auction and raffle prizes that help raise brilliant funds for your children's school experience.

If you can help with prizes or have any new ideas, please come to the next School Association meeting or email us. Details below.

Camping Night

Happy campers will be pitching up their tents on the St Joseph's school field this summer to raise money to enrich our pupils' school life.

Parent and committee member Alistair Robertson has kindly offered to revive the camping night as a fundraiser for the School Association on Saturday 1st July. Families taking part will be able to use the school's barbecues and will receive a continental breakfast on Sunday morning. There is talk of a camp fire, singing and even marshmallows! The school toilets will be available throughout the event. If anyone has a marquee that could be used as a communal shelter, in case of inclement weather, they are asked to contact Alistair or email below please. Cost of the event is to be confirmed.

Next Meeting

The next School Association meeting is Wednesday April 19th. Everybody welcome.

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

NOTE FROM GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors take our legal responsibilities to ensure Equality and Accessibility very seriously. To this end we have a rolling 3 year plan of consultation, action and review. To ensure that our curriculum is rich and diverse, research is currently ongoing into the preferred programme for PSHE, a decision to be made at the end of the current academic year. New schemes of work have been introduced in Science, History, Art, Design and Technology and Geography enriching the experience of the pupils. There is significant input from the Chaplaincy Team extending to the pupils who have raised funds for Cafod and the food bank.

The school newsletter will continue to be used to communicate with parents and there is an intention to conduct a survey among parents to seek views on how the school implements the Equality Duty Act.

To improve communication and enable our non-verbal children to access the learning environment, one of our staff members, specialising in speech and language, has provided a programme of support for parents. Two members of staff have been on autism training. There has been extended use of the speech and language therapist for pupils highlighted by the school.

Plans are in place for a new school building when accessibility for all pupils will be highlighted.

If you have any concerns or suggestions in relation to an Equality or Accessibility issue then please contact us through the office or at governors@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk.

On the new school building front, many meetings have been taking place to try and finalise what we have funding for to include in our new building. Hertfordshire County Council have been extremely helpful. Although some issues have not been finalised at the time of writing, what I must point out is that we are going to need as much fund raising as possible over the next few years. We are going to get a brand new school building but there is no additional funding for anything that is not part of the building. This means that there will be no funding for any new furniture; expensive white boards; or outside play equipment for example. We will all need to do our best to raise as much as we can so that the new school is as well furnished and equipped as the new building itself.

Prayer

Lord, who visits us in unexpected ways,

Open my eyes to see you in unlikely places,

To greet others with a spirit of acceptance

And to look for goodness in every encounter today.

Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.

Amen

Wishing you a peaceful and reflective Lent and joyful Easter.