



APRIL / MAY 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 – Ethan and Matilda  
Beech – Ethan and Leora  
Cedar – Bartosz and Daniel  
Elm – Sophie, Joseph and Jean  
Fir – Christiaan and Lily  
Hazel – Thomas and Isla  
Maple – Olivia, Luke, Amelia and Clara  
Oak – Lorcan and Anna  
Pine – Daniel and Isabella  
Sycamore – Shriya and Daniel  
Willow – Anna and Lilly



The winners of the April Draw for the School Association 100 Club were :

First prize - £25 – Rachel Kelly  
Second prize - £15 – Sean O'Connor  
Third prize - £10 - Michelle Keating  
Congratulations!

The winners of the May Draw for the School Association 100 club were :

First prize - £25 – Tracey McCarthy  
Second prize - £15 – Harriet Izzard  
Third prize - £10 - Christina Page  
Congratulations!

### 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 the summer holidays will be £82.25. 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. If you know your child is having any days out of school e.g. secondary transfer days, school trips etc. please make sure you take off £2.35 for each day they will not be having a lunch.

**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.



## EYFS NEWS



Nursery has had a very exciting end to the half term. The children have learnt first-hand about life cycles by hatching chicks. Nursery welcomed their chicks after a 3 week wait. With the help of a life cycle exploration kit the children learnt how an egg develops into a chick. The children in the afternoon session were lucky enough to watch a chick hatch right in front of their eyes! The chicks are now settled into their



new home.

EYFS children have enjoyed a visit to Standalone farm this half term. The children braved the colder weather and were rewarded with the opportunity to feed a baby lamb. We were lucky enough to see lots of new life as the farm has recently welcomed piglets, calves, chicks and lambs. We all enjoyed the milking demonstration before we came home. Staff would like to thank all of the parents that came with them on the trip.



On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May the EYFS held a working party for some garden improvements. Thank you very much to all the parents who helped us to improve the learning space for the children. We are looking forward to seeing it in use next half term!



## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

The school photographers will be in school on Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup> to take the class and team photographs.

Please make sure your child comes in full uniform and if there are any sports kits at home please ensure they are washed and returned before Tuesday.

## SPORTING NEWS

As the weather is warming up, we are able to get more sport done, which is great. The Daily Mile continues and children will soon be able to test their running fitness at the sponsored run.

We are now in the midst of the netball, football and cricket leagues. The netball and football have started slowly, with the year 5s and 6s learning to play with new team members and in new positions. Cricket has started well, narrowly losing our first game by 5 runs.

We have taken part in two competitions this half term; mini red tennis and kwik cricket. The year 3/4 pupils who represented the school at tennis came third in their group which was amazing and the year 6 pupils endured a scorching hot morning at Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club but were unplaced.

Ali is now enjoying the endless energy of the Year 1/2 tennis group on a Tuesday morning. Unfortunately, Ali is

leaving the club as she has an exciting new opportunity in Saffron Walden. The tennis will continue with a new coach but I know that those who have had Ali will know how inspirational and fun she has been.



Keep active as Sports Day is round the corner!

## **YOUR SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

### **MAY FAYRE**

The family of St Joseph's pulled together for the May Fayre, making it a spectacular event.

The weather was kind for the School Association's greatest fundraiser of the year and drew in an outstanding crowd.

The wonderful support and help the event received made it the great success it was.

Thank you to everyone who gave up their time, money, donations and efforts.

The money raised will be vital as the school moves towards realising its new building plan and fully furnishing it for the pupils of St Joseph's.

The approximate amount raised is £5,782. Last year we were at £4,981, so a great result!

Well done to everyone that helped and very big thank you to Tracy McCarthy, Liz Weatherhogg and Tanya McConn for organising.

### **EVENTS**

Please make a note of upcoming events scheduled.

Children's Sponsored Run – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June

Camping Night – Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup>

Summer Family Disco – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 6-8pm.

### **CAMPING**

Places are being booked for the school field camping night on Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup>. Families taking part will be able to use the school's barbecues and will receive a continental breakfast on Sunday morning.

To show your interest, talk to parent and committee member Alistair Robertson in the playground or contact him on the email below.

### **SPONSORED RUN**

Mini Mo Farahs and pint-sized Paula Radcliffes will be raising money by running next month.

Plans are being finalised for the sponsored run around the field on Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup>. It is being trialled as an alternative to the Sponsored Bounce after the fundraising success of the running event two years ago. The children have been increasing their fitness with the Daily Mile event and showing some great ability in athletics so it promises to be a brilliant day.

### **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)

Well done to everyone that helped and very big thank you to Tracy and Liz for organising.

### **BAGS FOR SCHOOL 21/06/2017**

As part of our Eco Plan the school continues to take part in the Bag 2 School textile recycling scheme. The next collection is Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June and collection bags will be sent home nearer the date.

### **MAY THE MONTH OF MARY**

It has been wonderful to have over 70 pupils attending our praying of the rosary each Friday in May during lunchtimes. Each session has been led by a member of staff with and all have enjoyed the reflection and prayers offered to Our Lady.

## **BEGINNING AND END OF SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS**

As you are aware since November the school gates to the KS1 and 2 playground are closed in the mornings until 08.40 - this is our agreed time when pupils are allowed onto the playground before school. This was following a safeguarding review of good practice and lessons learnt from isolated incidents in the past. Could we please remind you that access to the main school is not until 08.40 and pupils should not be left without adult supervision until 08.50 when the classrooms open. Unfortunately recently a few pupils have been left outside the locked gates as early as 08.15.

At the end of the school day please wait by the gate into the playground or the fence by the preschool building. Please do not enter the playground until the bell has rung. Parents are requested to collect their children promptly at 15.30. The gates into the playground will be locked at 15.45 allowing time to leave the premises. If you are running late please let the office know as soon as possible before 15.30 who will be collecting on your behalf. If you are unable to make alternative arrangements the children will be brought to the office for collection. However, please do try to make alternative arrangements as we cannot guarantee that staff will be around to supervise them.

**Clubs -** For the Soccer Development club where parents are requested to stay, those parents are allowed to stay on the premises but the gates will be locked. Those parents need to ensure that any siblings are properly supervised during this time and that the woods, the school building and areas behind the school building should not be accessed by your child.

For all other clubs, parents are asked to leave the premises and collect their children from the school office if it is an indoor club e.g. Singing club, Spanish, Italian. For outdoor sports / fixtures, the playground gate will be open from 16.30. Please be aware that pupils not picked up will be brought into the school office area to be picked up.

If your child is at 'Night Owls' and you wish to pick them up before 16.30, please come to the School Office where you will be directed through to their building.

Thank you for understanding and continued support of the school.

## **MANCHESTER**

A special reflective act of worship was observed this morning focussing on the terrible news this week from Manchester, and the questions of why and what next for us, the children of God. I am sure that many of you have seen on various news outlets and social media advice of what to say to children if they talk about and ask questions about this and other tragedies that happen all over our world.

Some good advice from the NSPCC explains:

Children are exposed to news in many ways, and what they see can worry them. Our advice can help you have a conversation with your child:

- listen carefully to a child's fears and worries
- offer reassurance and comfort
- avoid complicated and worrying explanations that could be frightening and confusing
- help them find advice and support to understand distressing events and feelings
- children can always contact Childline free and confidentially on the phone and online.

Taken from:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/supporting-children-worried-about-terrorism/>

Other useful websites include:

Newsround advice for children if they are upset by the news:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002>

Responding to children and young people affected by media coverage:  
<https://www.winstonswish.org.uk/responding-children-young-people-affected-media-coverage-incident-manchester/>

Supporting children after a frightening event:  
<http://davidtrickey.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/aftertheevent280410.pdf>

## **GOVERNING BODY'S EQUALITY QUESTIONNAIRE**

Many thanks in advance for completing this surveymonkey questionnaire which will help inform our next three to four years work. Please complete the survey by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June.

## **SCHOOL BUILDING 2<sup>nd</sup>CONSULTATION PERIOD- WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Thank you to those that responded to the previous consultation and assisted us in moving closer to our aim. Of the 141 responses from members of the public, including the school community, 78% were supportive. We really need the Local Council to hear why this is so important for us as a school and the wider Bishop's Stortford area as the building of houses in Bishop's Stortford North will put an extreme pressure on all school places.

Opportunities to expand and have someone else pay for the additional buildings are extremely rare in the current economic climate and the time of academies – our time to act is now.

Please find attached to this newsletter the documentation regarding what you can do next.