



16th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers



Thought of the Week

Advent is a special time. This week, the children have been learning about what it means to have hope and faith that God will keep his promise to return to us and how we can prepare our hearts to receive him. The children are continuing to try to keep the Advent promises they made in preparation for the coming of Our Lord, Jesus.

Mrs Wright is retiring



Many of you may know that Mrs Wright has been trying to retire for a number of years now; however, every year, I have managed to convince her to stay for 'just' one more year. Alas, this year, I have failed to keep Mrs Wright for one more year. With a heavy heart, I am saddened to write that Mrs Wright has finally decided to call it a day and bow out, leaving her phonic 'split digraphs' and reading recovery books behind her.

Since 1998, Mrs Wright has had many different roles. She has worked in the Office; in Nursery as a Teaching Assistant; as a Trainee teacher and then as a Foundation 1, Foundation 2 and Year 1 Teacher; Recovery teacher and a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Wright for her hard work and dedication to our pupils and to our school community. She is an inspirational teacher and leader and she will be dearly missed by us all. We wish her luck on her retirement journey.

End of Term

As you know, the end of term is on Thursday 17th December. To reduce mass gatherings at the end of the day, we are asking all parents to collect their children at the following staggered times

Class	End of the Day Times	Collection Point (normal procedure)
Nursery	12.00 noon	Nursery Gate
Reception	1.00p.m.	Nursery Gate
Year 1	1.10 p.m.	Key Stage 2 gate
Year 2	1.15 p.m.	Key Stage 1
Year 3	1.20 p.m.	Key Stage 2 gate
Year 4	1.25 p.m.	Key Stage 2 gate
Year 5	1.30 p.m.	Key Stage 2 gate
Year 6	1.35 p.m.	Key Stage 2 gate

Important Notice: School Admissions: Primary School Place

The paragraph below is very important for all Foundation 1 parents. Applications for admission to our school opened on 2nd November. You will need to apply for a school place if your child was born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017

Please ensure you complete the **Hertfordshire on-line form at:**

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx>)

When completing the on-line form, please be aware that there are four St Joseph's schools in Hertfordshire so it is very important to select the right St Joseph's. We are St Joseph's in Watford, code number 9193383.

You will also need to complete the **School's Supplementary Information Form** which is obtainable from the School Office or the school's website. A **Certificate of Catholic Practice** is also required which you can get from your church. If you are unable to contact the church, please inform the School Office and we will, hopefully, be able to help you.

All forms must be completed and returned to the School Office before admission can be considered.

Therefore, in order to apply for our school, the following documents are required:

1. Supplementary Information Form.
2. Certificate of Catholic Practice (if applicable).
3. Baptism Certificate (if applicable).

Please do not be late as this could jeopardise your child's place at the school. The closing date for all applications is 15th January 2021.

Nursery School Applications

The paragraph below is very important for all parents with children born between 1st September 2017 and 31 August 2018. Applications for admission to our Nursery Class is now open.

Please ensure you complete the **School's Supplementary Form which you can obtain from the school's website or the school office.** Your priest will also need to complete a **Certificate of Catholic Practice** which is obtainable from your church. All forms must be completed and returned to the school office before admission can be considered. Therefore, in order to apply for our school, we must receive:

- 1. Supplementary Information Form.
- 2. Certificate of Catholic Practice (if applicable).
- 3. Baptism Certificate (if applicable).

The closing date is 22nd February 2021. Please do not be late as this could jeopardise your child's place at the school.

Important Notices

St Joseph's Church Services

Advent Recollection Service: 16th December at 7p.m.

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Love and Learn in the footsteps of Christ!



Christmas Mass: 24th December at 6p.m.
 Midnight Mass 24th December at 12 midnight.
 Christmas Day Mass: 25th December at 8.30a.m. & 10.30a.m.
 Book your place at: [Events | Roman Catholic Church of St Joseph \(rcdow.org.uk\)](https://rcdow.org.uk)

Attendance Award

Year 3 had the best attendance last week. Well done Year 3!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

God Bless,

Mrs L. Payne

Dates for the diary

December	
Thursday 17th December	End of term. (See staggered end of day times above)
21st December – 4th January	Christmas Holiday – School Closed

January 2021 Spring Term	
Monday 4th January	Start of term
Friday 8th January	Swimming starts for Year 3 and Year 4 TBC

February	
Thursday 4th February	Maths meeting for F1 & F2 parents. TBC
Friday 5 th February	Virtual Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 8 th February	Parents' Evening TBC Save the date
Tuesday 9 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 9 th February	Parents' Evening TBC Save the date.
Friday 12th February	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
15th – 19th February	Half Term holiday – School Closed
Monday 22nd February	Start of Term
March	
Monday 1 st March	St David's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green, red, white or yellow).
Thursday 4 th March	World Book Day – Book Character Non Uniform day. All parents are welcome to attend the World Book Day Assembly if Covid restriction are lifted. This is a non-uniform day. Children may dress up as their favourite book character.
Friday 5 th March	Virtual Parents' Forum
Friday 12 th March	Mother's day Class Assembly starts at 9.00a.m. All F1 – F2 mothers/carers welcome to attend. Outside/Virtual TBC
Wednesday 17 th March	St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green or



	white).
Friday 19 th March	St Joseph's Day Mass – date to be confirmed. (TBC)
	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 4 TBC
Monday 22 nd March	Lenten Cake Competition (all children may enter by baking a cake). Cake sale.
Tuesday 23 rd March	Lenten Toy Sale (please donate old toys).
Friday 26th March	Easter Bonnet Parade (F1 – Y6 classes) (F1-Y6) All parents welcome to attend the Easter Bonnet Parade TBC. Children to make the bonnets at home and bring them into school. All children may participate in this event. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.
Monday 29 th March	Easter School for Year 6 TBC
Tuesday 30 th March	Easter School for Year 6 TBC

April	
Monday 12th April	Start of Term
Friday 16th April	Swimming starts for Year 3 and Year 5 TBC
Friday 23 rd April	St George's Non-Uniform Day (children may wear red, white or blue).

May	
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday. School closed.
Friday 7 th May	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
3 rd – 21 st May	KS1 SATs- Year 2
Monday 10th – 13th May	KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests (free breakfast club for Year 6 pupils all week, starting at 8.00a.m.)
Monday 10th May	KS 2 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Paper 1 & 2 tests
Tuesday 11th May	KS2 Reading Test
Wednesday 12th May	KS2 Maths Paper 1 & 2 Test
Thursday 13th May	KS2 Maths Paper 3 Test
Friday 14 th May	Last swimming for Year 5
Monday 17 th May	Walk to School Week
Tuesday 18 th May	KS1 Sports Day at 9.30a.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Tuesday 18 th May	KS2 Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Thursday 20 th May	Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend)
Friday 21st May	Swimming starts for Year 6 TBC
Friday 28 th May	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
31 st May – 4 th June	Half Term Holiday – School Closed

June	
Monday 7th June	Inset Day – school closed.
Tuesday 8th June	Start of Term
Tuesday 8 th June	Year 1 Phonic tests commence Year 4 Multiplication tests commence
Tuesday 15 th June	KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 9.30p.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Tuesday 15 th June	KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may

	attend.
Thursday 24 th June	Phonic meeting for F2 parents- Getting ready for Year 1 at 2.00p.m
Friday 25 th June	F1 new pupils visits 1.30p.m.
Friday 25 th June	St Peter's & St Paul's Mass in school at 9.00a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass
TBC	Year 6 School Journey.

July	
Thursday 1 st July	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Friday 2 nd July	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Friday 2 nd July	F1 visits and New Parents meeting 1.30p.m.
	Final Year 3 swim – double session TBC
Wednesday 7 th July	Reserve date: Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Wednesday 7 th July	Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 2 parents are welcome to attend)
Thursday 8 th July	Transition Day for all pupils Secondary School Transition day New to F2 Parents' Meeting at 9.15a.m. (Current F1 parents to attend).
Friday 9 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass. Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting)
Monday 12 th July	FS & KS1 Teddy Bear Picnic (Please bring a Teddy Bear)
	Final Year 6 swim – double session TBC
Tuesday 13 th July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Wednesday 14 th July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 15th July	Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass End of Term Year 6 lunch End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.