



23rd September 2019

Dear Parents,

Democracy!

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School we believe in celebrating the increasingly diverse cultural backgrounds of our community, whilst also promoting and holding true to what we recognise to be British Values.

Democracy is at the heart of our values. The children have been following Christ's teachings by making decisions about their learning and behaviour towards each other.

Pupils are taught to listen carefully, with concern for each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Over the past few weeks, pupils were given the opportunity to vote for the House Captains and School Council members. The elections of the School Council members and House Captains are based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action.

The pupils will then be given the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council and regular questionnaires.

Rugby World Cup 2019

To celebrate the start of the Rugby World Cup, Saracens coaches will be coming into school and teaching our pupils tag-rugby.

Throughout the World Cup period, we will be having our own mini World Cup Competition. The children will be playing rugby and competing against other classes. Therefore please can you ensure that your child has their PE kit in school.

Mass

There will be a welcome Mass for the new children, staff and families on Friday 11th October, in school, at 9.15a.m. Please do come along and help us celebrate this special occasion.

Father will be signing Secondary School Transfer forms straight after Mass.

Macmillan Foundation Stage Coffee Morning

Foundation 1 and 2 will be raising money for Macmillan by holding a coffee morning on Friday 27th September at 9.00a.m. Parents and carers are welcome to attend.

Healthy Lunches!

Thank you to all the parents that have made a great effort in providing their child with a healthy lunch. May I just remind you all that **sweets, crisps** and **fizzy drinks** are not allowed at school. However, the children may have a small treat in their lunch boxes such as a biscuit or chocolate bar. Fruit, dry fruit, water and juice are also allowed at playtime.

Nut Allergies!

May I just remind you all that nuts are not allowed in school because we have a few children with nut allergies. This is a life threatening condition so please ensure your child's lunch or break time snack does not contain nuts or nut products e.g. peanut butter, nutella and cereal bars. Thank you.

School Uniform

Please may I remind you that children may wear small gold or silver stud earrings only. Other jewellery such as bracelets, rings, hoop earrings or coloured earrings are not permitted. Brightly coloured socks and head bands are also not allowed. Thank you.

Important Secondary School Transfer Information

Secondary School admissions has opened and the closing date for all applications is 31st October. Year 6 parents must complete the online form at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions and complete the School's Supplementary Form which can be picked up during the School's Open evenings.



Pupil Premium Funding

In certain circumstances schools are able to claim approximately £1,600 extra of funding per child for pupils whose parents are in receipt of various benefits. The criteria are the same as they would be for applying for 'free school meals' in KS2. The money can be used to support anything that improves a child's enjoyment, wellbeing, achievement or attainment at school.

Recently for example we have used such funding to pay for individual music tuition, 1:1 maths/literacy support, breakfast club and after school club places etc.

If you think that you or your partner may be eligible to claim this extra money for your child, I urge you to speak to Mrs Tannian in the school office as soon as possible. All enquiries of this nature will be treated in strictest confidence. If you know you are entitled to Pupil Premium funding you can apply directly using the following website: www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals
Once successfully applied for, this funding will remain in place each year that your child is with us. Please note that this extra funding is available to all eligible children in school, from Nursery to Year 6.

Parent/Grandparent Volunteers

We are looking for parent/grandparent volunteers to help in school. If you are interested in helping with reading, gardening or crafts and have some spare time, we would appreciate your help. In order to help in school, you will need to complete a Hertfordshire County Council sponsored DBS [Disclosure & Barring Service]. Any parent who has not been checked and wishes to help in school, please contact the office.

Attendance Award

Year 4 had the best attendance last week with 100%! Well done Year 4!

Have a great week.

Mrs Linda. Payne

New dates in blue

Dates for the diary

September	
Friday 27 th September	Foundation Stage Coffee Morning. Foundation Stage parents are welcome to attend.
October	
Tuesday 1 st October	Year 2 Parents' Meeting regarding SATs at 2.30p.m
Thursday 3 rd October	Year 6 Hudnell Park School Trip
Thursday 3 rd October	Foundation 2 Phonics Meeting for all F2 parents at 2.30p.m. or 6.00p.m.
Friday 4 th October	Year 6 Trip. St Michael's Junior Sports Day
Friday 4 th October	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Wednesday 9 th October	Year 4 Parents' Meeting regarding the new Multiplication Test at 2.30p.m. or 6.00p.m.
Friday 11 th October	Welcome Mass at 9.15a.m in school, (F1-Y6). – All parents welcome to attend. Father will be signing Secondary School Transfer forms straight after Mass.
Tuesday 15 th October	Year 3 Hudnell Park – School Trip (New date)
Tuesday 15 th October	Year 6 Trip. One World Festival at St Michael's
Friday 18 th October	Pink Non Uniform Day to support Breast Cancer Appeal (Children may wear pink).
Tuesday 22 nd October	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 23 rd October	Parents' Evening
Thursday 24 th October	Harvest Assembly (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
Friday 25 th October	School Closed – Deanery Inset Day
28 th October – 1 st November	Half Term Holiday – School Closed

November	
Monday 4th November	Start of term
Thursday 7 th November	Year 5 Remembrance Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 5 parents are welcome to attend.
Friday 8 th November	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m. PTA Fireworks Night at 6.30p.m. (weather permitting)
Thursday 21 st November	Year 4 Refugee Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 4 parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 28 th November	Year 6 Advent Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 6 parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 28 th November	St Andrew's Non Uniform day (children may wear blue white or tartan). PTA School Disco (information to follow).
Friday 29 th November	Occasional Day – School Closed

December	
Wednesday 4 th December	Choir singing at Watford Colosseum 7.15pm Parents are welcome to attend. Tickets must be purchased from Watford Colosseum.
Friday 6 th December	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Friday 6 th December	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 4
Wednesday 11 th December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play (dress rehearsal- parents and toddlers welcome). Starts at 9.30a.m
Thursday 12 th December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play. Starts at 9.30a.m. All parents welcome to attend.
Friday 13 th December	Whole School Trip Pantomime, Watford Palace Theatre
Tuesday 17 th December	KS2 Advent Service with Carols. Starts at 1.30p.m.
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day (children may wear a Christmas jumper/teeshirt).
Thursday 19 th December	Whole School Christmas Quiz & Foundation Stage Party
Friday 20th December	Mass in church 9.15a.m. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass
23rd December – 3rd January	Christmas Holiday – School Closed

January 2020	
Spring Term	
Monday 6th January	Start of term
Friday 10 th January	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Friday 17 th January	Swimming starts for Year 3 and Year 5

February	
Tuesday 4 th February	Maths meeting for F1 & F2 parents. Starts at 2.30pm or 6.00p.m.
Friday 7 th February	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 10 th February	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 11 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11 th February	Parents' Evening
Friday 14th February	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
17th 21st February	Half Term holiday – School Closed
Monday 24th February	Start of Term
Wednesday 26 th February	Ash Wednesday Mass starts at 9.15a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass
Friday 28 th February	St David's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green, red, white or yellow). Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.

March	
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day – Book Character Non Uniform day. All parents are welcome to attend the World Book Day Assembly. This is a non-uniform day. Children may dress up as their favourite book character.
Friday 6 th March	Parents' Forum
Tuesday 17 th March	St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green or white).
Thursday 19 th March	St Joseph's Day Mass – date to be confirmed.
Friday 20 th March	Mother's day Class Assembly starts at 9.00a.m. All F1 – F2

	mothers/carers welcome to attend.
Friday 27 th March	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 5
Monday 30 th March	Lenten Cake Competition (all children may enter by baking a cake). Cake sale.

April	
Thursday 2 nd April	Lenten Toy Sale (please donate old toys).
Friday 3rd April	Easter Bonnet Parade (F1 – Y6 classes) (F1-Y6) All parents welcome to attend the Easter Bonnet Parade. 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 6 th April	Easter School for Year 6
Tuesday 7 th April	Easter School for Year 6
Monday 20th April	Start of Term
Thursday 23 rd April	St George's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear red, white or blue).
Friday 24th April	Swimming starts for Year 3 and Year 6

May	
Friday 1st May	Parents' Forum
Friday 8th May	Bank Holiday. School closed.
4 th – 22 nd May	KS1 SATs- Year 2
Monday 11th – 14th May	KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests (free breakfast club for Year 6 pupils all week, starting at 8.00a.m.)
Monday 11th May	KS 2 Spelling, punctuation and Grammar Paper 1 & 2 tests
Tuesday 12th May	KS2 Reading Test
Wednesday 13th May	KS2 Maths Paper 1 & 2 Test
Thursday 14th May	KS2 Maths Paper 3 Test
Monday 18 th May	Walk to School Week
Tuesday 19 th May	KS1 Sports Day at 9.30a.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Tuesday 19 th May	KS2 Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Thursday 21 st May	Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend)
Friday 22 nd May	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
25 th May – 1 st June	Half Term Holiday – School Closed

June	
Monday 1st June	Inset Day – school closed.
Tuesday 2nd June	Start of Term
Wednesday 3 rd June	KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 9.30p.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Wednesday 3 rd June	KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Friday 5 th June	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 8 th June	Year 1 Phonic tests commence Year 4 Multiplication tests commence
Wednesday 24 th June	F1 new pupils visits 1.30p.m.
Thursday 25 th June	Phonic meeting for F2 parents- Getting ready for Year 1 at 2.00p.m
Friday 26 th June	St Peter & St Paul's Mass in school at 11.00a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass
Monday 29 th June – 3 rd July	Year 6 School Journey

July	
Wednesday 1 st July	F1 visits and new parents meeting 1.30p.m.
Thursday 2 nd July	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Friday 3 rd July	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Friday 3rd July	Final Year 3 swim – double session
Wednesday 8 th July	Reserve date: Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Wednesday 8 th July	Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 2 parents are welcome to attend)

Thursday 9 th July	Secondary School Transition day New to F2 Parents' Meeting at 9.15a.m. (Current F1 parents to attend).
Friday 10 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting)
Monday 13 th July	FS & KS1 Teddy Bear Picnic (Please bring a Teddy Bear)
Friday 10 th July	Final Year 6 swim – double session
Tuesday 14 th July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Tuesday 14 th July	Year 6 Barbecue at 1.30p.m.- 3.00pm. Year 6 parents welcome to attend. Parents to bring party food please.
Wednesday 15 th July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m. KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 16th July	Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.