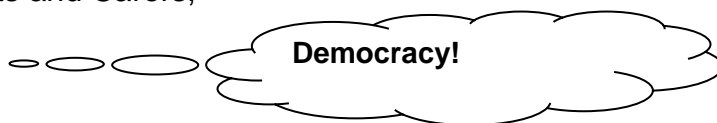


9th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,



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 rights 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.

Harvest, Class Assemblies, Parents' Evening

We have always embraced our community at St Joseph's and there is no doubt that parents are one of the most impacted groups as a result of imposed school procedures advised by the Department for Education. We do not want the 'parents can't come on site' message to be translated as 'parents are not welcome' as this is far from the truth. In being committed to this message, we are going to look for as many ways as we can to open up the school in the virtual world so you are not left with a sense of loss in school engagement. I have been trialling assemblies from my office which, after a few minor teething troubles, are now working quite well. Following on from this, I held the usual Year 6 Secondary School Meeting via Zoom. The following activities will also be taking place virtually:

- Harvest classroom presentation;
- Parent-Consultation evenings;
- KS1 Christmas Nativity (TBC);
- Curriculum Workshop;
- Parent Forum;
- Liturgies.

Look out for letters with Zoom invites and further details as we work through the school calendar. We will endeavour to make this as tech friendly as possible and will include some basic instructions for using Zoom where relevant. For those interested, we are using Zoom, Google Meets and MS Teams as it is but in the event of a full or partial lockdown, we will revert to using MS Teams / Google Meets which are better platforms for learning and resourcing.

School Improvement Priorities for 2020-2021

As a school, we are constantly striving for academic excellence.

This year, the school's priorities are:

1. Implementing the recovery curriculum in order to address gaps in pupils' knowledge and understanding.

2. Developing remote / blended learning by using Google Classroom/Purple MASH.
3. To continue to develop parental engagement in the Catholic Life of the school and in their children's religious education.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Well done to Foundation 1 and Foundation 2 for raising £220 during their recent coffee morning. All proceeds raised have been donated to Macmillan Cancer Campaign. Thank you for your kind donations.



Pink Non School Uniform Day

On Friday 16th October, there will be a non-uniform day to raise money for Breast Cancer Research. Children may wear pink or red clothes. We are asking for a £1 voluntary contribution. Please do support this worthwhile cause.

Fireworks Night

Sadly, due to the Covid-19 restriction, there will not be a fireworks display this year.

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 small 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

The children look fantastic in their new school uniforms. 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. In addition, please ensure your child is wearing the correct PE kit. Thank you.

Important Notices

Covid-19 Restriction

1. Thank you for your support with all of the Covid-19 changes we have introduced. We have a number of children coming into school very early in the morning before their allocated, staggered start time. Please keep to your allocated slots. If you require an earlier start time, please ensure your child attends our Breakfast Club. This can be booked via the School Gateway App.
2. **Important Secondary School Transfer Information**
The closing date for Secondary School Admissions is 31st October. Year 6 parents must complete the online form at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions and complete the Supplementary Form which can be downloaded from the school websites.

Attendance Award

F1 and F2 had the best attendance last week with 100%! Well done

Have a great week.

Mrs Linda. Payne

New dates in blue

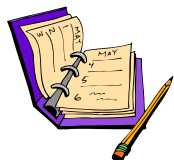
Dates for the diary

September	
Friday 25 th September	Foundation Stage Macmillan Outside Coffee day, which will be outside. Foundation Stage parents are welcome to attend. More information to follow.
Monday 28 th September	Individual/Sibling Photographs

October	
Friday 2 nd October 2020	Year 6 Parents Secondary School Transfer Meeting 2p.m.via Zoom at 6.00p.m.
Friday 16 th October	Pink Non Uniform Day to support Breast Cancer Appeal (Children may wear pink). F1 Virtual Parents' Evening
Week commencing 19 th October	Virtual Parents' Evening (all week)
Thursday 22 nd October	Virtual Harvest Assembly (F1 – Y6) All parents welcome to watch our virtual Harvest Assembly. More information to follow. End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
Friday 23 rd October	School Closed – Deanery Inset Day
26 th October – 30 th October	Half Term Holiday – School Closed

November	
Monday 2nd November	Start of term
Thursday 5 th November	Flu Vaccination Session 12.30p.m. – 3.00p.m.
Thursday 5 th November	Year 5 Remembrance Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 5 parents are welcome to virtually attend.
Friday 6th November	Virtual Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Thursday 19 th November	Year 4 Refugee Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 4 parents are welcome to virtually attend.
Thursday 26 th November	Year 6 Advent Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 6 parents are welcome to virtually attend.
Friday 27 th November	Occasional Day – School Closed
Monday 30 th November	St Andrew's Non Uniform day (children may wear blue white or tartan).

December	
Thursday 3rd December	Flu Vaccination Session 8.30a.m. – 12.00p.m.
Friday 4th December	Virtual Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 4 TBC
Wednesday 9 th December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play (dress rehearsal- parents and toddlers welcome). Starts at 9.30a.m. All parents welcome to attend if Covid restrictions are lifted. (otherwise it will be streamed)



Thursday 10 th December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play. Starts at 9.30a.m. All parents welcome to attend if Covid restrictions are lifted. (otherwise it will be streamed)
Friday 11 th December	Whole School Trip Pantomime, Watford Palace Theatre
Monday 14 th December	KS2 Advent Service. Starts at 1.30p.m.TBC / Virtual
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day (children may wear a Christmas jumper/teeshirt).
Thursday 17 th December	Whole School Christmas Virtual Quiz & Foundation Stage Party
Friday 18 th December	Mass in church or virtual Mass TBC 9.15a.m. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass/Virtual Mass
21st December – 4th January	Christmas Holiday – School Closed

January 2021 Spring Term	
Monday 4 th January	Start of term
	Swimming starts for Year 3 and Year 5 TBC

February	
Thursday 4 th 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 12 th February	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
15 th – 19 th February	Half Term holiday – School Closed
Monday 22 nd 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 5 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 26 th 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
Tuesday 30 th March	Easter School for Year 6

April	
Monday 12th April	Start of Term
Friday 23 rd April	St George's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear red, white or blue).
	Swimming starts for Year 3 and Year 6 TBC

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
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 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 & 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.