



14th December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Advent: Hope!

Thought of the Week

Advent is a special time when we get ready for the coming of Jesus and remember his promise to come again. This week, the children have been learning about what it means to be welcoming, and how we can prepare to welcome Jesus. The children have made Advent promises in preparation for the coming of Our Lord, Jesus.

School's Performance Data

The league tables were published yesterday and I am delighted to inform you that our school is listed as the number 1 performing school in Hertfordshire and 118th in the country. I would like to say a thank you to the Key Stage 2 team: Miss Winterman, Mrs Carter, Mrs Bright, Mrs Wright, Mrs Holdaway and Mrs Harper and to all of the staff who have supported the children on their learning journey. I would also like to thank the parents for supporting their children's learning too. I don't often get a chance to say this but it is an honour to work at St Joseph's and a pleasure to work with such wonderful staff, children, parents and governors.

PTA School Disco & Cake Sale

Thank you to everyone for your support and help with our PTA disco. The disco was a great night and the children had a wonderful time. We raised £650 towards the costs of our roof. Also, thank you for your kind donations to our Christmas Presents Store.

A Miracle in Town

The nativity play was excellent. The children sang, danced and recited their lines wonderfully. Well done children for your hard work, outstanding singing and amazing acting skills! The DVD will be on sale from the school office, costing £5.00.

Choir News

The choir have been extremely busy. Last week, they sang at Watford Colosseum with nineteen other local primary schools. Well done to all the members of the choir for singing beautifully and to Mrs Tannian for conducting. It was a wonderful night.

Key Stage 2 Advent Service

The Key Stage 2 Advent Service will be on Monday 17th December, in the church, starting at 1.30p.m. All parents/carers are welcome to join us.

End of Term Mass

There will be an Advent Mass on Friday 21st December, in church, at 9.15a.m. All parents/carers are welcome to join us.

Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 18th December is Christmas dinner day. The children may wear a Christmas jumper/tee shirt etc. The children do not have to wear their school uniform.

Donations such as water, wet wipes, cereal bars, biscuits, or socks would be greatly appreciated. All items donated will be given to the homeless adults in Watford.

Nursery School Applications

The paragraph below is very important for all parents with children born between 1st September 2015 and 31 August 2016. Applications for admission to our Nursery Class has now opened.

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:

- Supplementary Information Form
- Certificate of Catholic Practice (if applicable)
- Baptism Certificate (if applicable)

The closing date is 25th February 2019. Please do not be late as this could jeopardise your child's place at the school.

Snow Procedures

It may snow at some point this term. Therefore, I would just like to remind all parents of the bad weather procedures.

If in the unlikely event the school needs to be closed, please follow any of the procedures listed below:

1. Firstly, a text message will be sent to you via Parent Mail. Please ensure the school office has your correct mobile number.
2. Check the school website after 7.35a.m. to see if the school is closed or opening at a later time www.stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk.
3. Check our twitter feed @stjosephs775
4. Contact the school office after 7.45a.m. and listen to the answer machine message.
5. Listen to the local radio stations which will provide updated information on school closures.
6. Register with Everbridge School Closure Notification System following at the following website: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489>

This link will direct you to the 'Sign Up' page. Click on the 'sign up' button located at the top right hand side of the page on the grey strip. From there, follow the instructions. It should take no more than five minutes to register. You can have two devices added so you may want to include the mobile number and email address of a spouse or grandparent. They too would then receive any messages in relation to our school's closure. Alternatively, other people can register themselves separately.

Please note: this messaging system only applies to notifications of school emergency closure and does not in any way replace our usual Parentmail messaging system. However, please note the Parentmail system can be delayed during busy periods such as snow days.

If you require any assistance in signing up, please contact us.

Important Notices

1. School ends at 1.30pm on Friday 21st December.
2. Before school, children are not allowed on the climbing frames.
The Parentmail App is being updated at the end of the year. A separate letter with further information will be sent out to you.
3. If you do not receive any parentmail emails from the school, could you please give the school office your email address, and do remember to update your parent mail accounts with any new mobile or email addresses. If you do not have an email

address, please do not worry as you will still receive a paper copy of the school's newsletter. Thank you.

- Primary School Admissions closes on 15th January 2019. Please complete the Hertfordshire online form and our School's Supplementary Form before 15th January 2019.


Attendance Award

The Foundation 2 class had the best attendance last week with 100%. Well done Foundation 2!

Have a lovely week.

Mrs L. Payne

Dates for the diary



December	
Monday 17 th December	KS2 Advent Service with Carols. Starts at 1.30p.m.
Tuesday 18 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day (children may wear a Christmas jumper/teeshirt).
Wednesday 19 th December	Whole School Christmas Quiz & Foundation Stage Party
Thursday 20 th December	Whole School Trip Pantomime, Watersmeet Theatre
Friday 21st 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

January 2019 Spring Term	
Monday 7th January	Start of term
Friday 11 th January	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Friday 18 th January	Swimming starts for Year 3 and Year 5

February	
Friday 1 st February	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Tuesday 5 th February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 7 th February	Maths meeting for F1 & F2 parents. Starts at 2.30pm or 6.00p.m.
Monday 11 th February	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 13 th February	Parents' Evening
Friday 15th February	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
Monday 25th February	Start of Term
March	
Friday 1st March	St David's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green, white or yellow). Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Wednesday 6 th March	Ash Wednesday Mass starts at 9.15a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass
Thursday 7th 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 15 th March	St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green or white).
Monday 18 th March	St Joseph's Day Mass – date to be confirmed.
Friday 29 th March	Mother's day Class Assembly starts at 9.00a.m. All F1 – F2 mothers/carers welcome to attend.
Friday 29 th March	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 5

April	
Monday 1 st April	Lenten Cake Competition (all children may enter by baking a cake).
Thursday 4 th April	Lenten Toy Sale (please donate old toys).
Friday 5th April	Easter Bonnet Parade (F1 – Y6 classes) (F1-Y6) All parents welcome to attend the Easter Bonnet Parade. Children make bonnets at home and must bring them into school today. All children may participate in this event. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.
Monday 8 th April	Easter School for Year 6
Tuesday 9 th April	Easter School for Year 6
Monday 22nd April	Start of Term
Tuesday 23 rd April	St George's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear red, white or blue).
Friday 26 th April	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.

May	
Monday 6th May	May Day. School closed.
Tuesday 7 th – 24 th May	KS1 SATs- Year 2
Monday 13th – 16th May	KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests (free breakfast club for Year 6 pupils all week, starting at 8.00a.m.)
Monday 13th May	KS 2 Spelling, punctuation and Grammar Paper 1 & 2 tests
Tuesday 14th May	KS2 Reading Test
Wednesday 15th May	KS2 Maths Paper 1 & 2 Test
Thursday 16th May	KS2 Maths Paper 3 Test
Friday 17 th May	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 20 th May	Walk to School Week
Wednesday 22 nd May	KS1 Sports Day at 1.30p.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Thursday 23 rd May	KS2 Sports Day at 1.30p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Friday 24 th May	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.

June	
Monday 3rd June	Inset Day – school closed.
Tuesday 4th June	Start of Term
Wednesday 5 th June	KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 1.30p.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Thursday 6 th June	KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 1.30p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Friday 7 th June	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 10 th June	Year 1 Phonic tests commence
Wednesday 26 th June	F1 new pupils visits 1.30p.m.
Thursday 27 th June	Phonic meeting for F2 parents- Getting ready for Year 1 at 2.00p.m.
Friday 28 th June	St Peter & St Paul's Mass in school at 11.00a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass

July	
Monday 1 st – Friday 5 th July	Year 6 School Journey
Wednesday 3 rd July	F1 visits and new parents meeting 1.30p.m.
Friday 5 th July	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Tuesday 9 th July	Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend)
Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th July	Year 5 Overnight trip to Phasel's Wood
Wednesday 10 th July	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Wednesday 10 th July	Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 2 parents are welcome to attend)
Thursday 11 th July	Secondary School Transition day New to F2 Parents' Meeting at 9.15a.m. (All F1 parents to attend).
Friday 12 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass

	Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m.
Tuesday 16 th July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Wednesday 17 th July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m. KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 18 th July	FS & KS1 Teddy Bear Picnic (Please bring a Teddy Bear)
Thursday 18 th July	Year 6 Barbecue at 1.30p.m.- 3.00pm. Year 6 parents welcome to attend. Foundation Stage Reserve Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Friday 19 th 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.