



21st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

October is dedicated
to the Holy Rosary in
honour of Mary!

Thought of the Week

This week, we are continuing to learn about Mary, the Mother of God. This is a time when we seek to renew our friendship with Mary. Each day, the children will spend time raising their minds and hearts to Mary in prayer. During October, the children are saying the rosary each day.

Covid Updates

Thank you for your support during our recent Covid Outbreak and for adhering to our Covid restrictions, which have helped keep our school fully open and keep more pupils in education. In my last newsletter, I informed you about the gradual lifting of our Covid restrictions. However, since then, the cases of Covid-19 have increased in three classes. Therefore, Public Health Hertfordshire have **told** the school to keep all Covid restrictions in place. This will be reviewed after half-term in conjunction with Public Health Hertfordshire. Hopefully, the half term break will act as a circuit breaker and eliminate any future positive Covid-19 cases; then we can begin to consider lifting some of our restrictions, such as our Class Masses, 'before' and 'after-school external clubs'. However, this will only happen once I have the 'go ahead' from Public Health Hertfordshire.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Harvest Appeal and cake sale. I was overwhelmed with the response and the donations received. Thank you very much. With the money raised from the cake sale £334.00, we have purchased new playtime equipment.

Mental Health and Well-Being

Today's children are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. Our school curriculum is designed to teach, support, guide pupils to stay safe, develop positive relationships and keep healthy.

We know that children and young people are increasingly experiencing challenges, and that young people are at particular risk of feeling lonely. Our PSHE and RSE curriculum content will give them the knowledge and capability to take care of themselves and receive support if problems arise.

Recent times have high-lighted the importance of looking after each other. Taking care of our children's mental health and well-being is very important to us at St Joseph's.

For example, if the children do not feel good about themselves then they will find it hard to concentrate or be motivated to work. Their moods can also affect others either negatively or positively. This term, we have been focussed on ensuring the children are feeling loved/valued, are ready to learn and are following the commandment that Jesus gave to us, which is; 'to love one another as I have loved you'. Being kind or being loving towards others, not only lifts the mood of the person being kind, but it also has a positive effect on the other person receiving the kindness. That is why we have been teaching children to be kind and caring. We know that doing acts that are kind to others or that we enjoy, makes us feel good.

Important Notice: School Admissions: Primary School Place

The paragraph below is very important for all Foundation 1 parents and any parent seeking a School place for their child in September 2022. Applications for admission to our school opens on 1 November. You will need to apply for a school place if your child was born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018

Would you please ensure you complete the **Hertfordshire online 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 online form, please be aware that there are four St Joseph's schools in Hertfordshire, so it is imperative 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, 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 15 January 2022.

Wildlife

As you know, our school is surrounded by beautiful woodland. At night, the school becomes a wildlife haven for hedgehogs, foxes and other animals. We are aware that sometimes the animals leave waste products behind. To reassure you all, the caretaker checks the school site each day and removes any waste products. If you have any concerns regarding waste products on the school's roads, please get in touch with Three Rivers District Council.

Parents & Teachers Association (PTA) Christmas Present Appeal

If you have any unwanted gifts/toiletries, please send them to the school office for our Christmas shop. During December, the children will have the chance to visit the Christmas shop and buy a gift for their parents at a small cost. All money raised will go towards our new 'home' reading books fund. We will require volunteers to help wrap up

presents; therefore, please contact the school office if you are available to help at any point during December.

1. School Closed

The school will be closed on Friday 22 October due to staff Inset.



Attendance Award

Year 4, had the best attendance last week .Well done Year 4!

Mrs L. Payne

Dates for the diary

Dates for the diary

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| October | |
| Friday 22nd October | School Closed – Deanery Inset Day |
| 25th October – 29th October | Half Term Holiday – School Closed |

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| November | |
| Monday 1st November | Start of term |
| Thursday 4th November | Year 5 Remembrance Mass at 2.00p.m. To be confirmed |
| Friday 5th November | Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m. |
| Thursday 18th November | Year 4 Refugee Mass at 2.00p.m. To be confirmed |
| Friday 26th November | Occasional Day – School Closed |
| Tuesday 30th November | St Andrew's Non Uniform day (children may wear blue white or tartan). |
| Tuesday 30th November | Flu Vaccination Session |

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| December | |
| Wednesday 1st December | Year 6 Advent Mass at 2.00p.m. To be confirmed |
| Wednesday 8th December | KS1 & Foundation Stage Play (dress rehearsal- parents and toddlers welcome). Starts at 9.30a.m |
| Thursday 9th December | KS1 & Foundation Stage Play. Starts at 9.30a.m. All parents welcome to attend . |
| Friday 10th December | Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 4 |
| Monday 13th December | KS2 Advent Service. Starts at 1.30p.m.TBC / Virtual |
| Wednesday 15th December | Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day (children may wear a Christmas jumper/teeshirt). |
| Thursday 16th December | Whole School Christmas Virtual Quiz & Foundation Stage Party |
| Friday 17th December | Whole School Trip Pantomime, Watersmeet |
| Tuesday 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 |

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| 22nd December – 3rd January | Christmas Holiday – School Closed |
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| January 2022 Spring Term | |
| Wednesday 5th January | Inset Day – School Closed |
| Thursday 6th January | Start of Term |

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| February | |
| Friday 4 th February | Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m. |
| Monday 7 th February | Parents' Consultations all week Save the date |
| Monday 7 th February – Friday 11 th February | Feeling Good and Children's Mental Health Week |
| Tuesday 8 th February | Safer Internet Day |
| Friday 11th February | End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m. |
| 14th – 18th February | Half Term holiday – School Closed |
| Monday 21st February | Start of Term |

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| March | |
| Tuesday 1 st March | St David's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green, red, white or yellow). |
| Wednesday 2 nd March | Ash Wednesday Service – More details to follow. |
| Thursday 3 rd 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. |
| Thursday 17 th March | St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green or white). |
| Friday 18 th March | St Joseph's Day Mass – date to be confirmed. (TBC) |
| Friday 25 th March | Mother's day Class Assembly starts at 9.00a.m. All F1 – F2 mothers/carers welcome to attend. |
| Monday 28 th March | Lenten Cake Competition (all children may enter by baking a cake). Cake sale. |
| Thursday 31 st March | Lenten Toy Sale (please donate old toys). |
| Friday 1st 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. |

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| April | |
| Tuesday 19th April | Start of Term |
| Friday 22 nd April | St George's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear red, white or blue). |

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| May | |
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| Monday 3rd May | Bank Holiday. School closed. |
| Friday 6th May | Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m. |
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| 3rd– 20 th May | KS1 SATs- Year 2 |
| Monday 9th – 12th May | KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests (free breakfast club for Year 6 pupils all week, starting at 8.00a.m.) |
| Monday 9th May | KS 2 Spelling, punctuation and Grammar Paper 1 & 2 tests |
| Tuesday 10th May | KS2 Reading Test |
| Wednesday 11th May | KS2 Maths Paper 1 & 2 Test |
| Thursday 12th May | KS2 Maths Paper 3 Test |
| Monday 16 th May | Walk to School Week |
| Tuesday 17 th May | KS1 Sports Day at 9.30a.m. KS1 parents may attend. |
| Tuesday 17 th May | KS2 Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend. |
| Thursday 19 th May | Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend) |
| Friday 27 th May | End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m. |
| 30 th May – 3 rd June | Half Term Holiday – School Closed |

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| June | |
| Monday 6th June | Inset Day – school closed. |
| Tuesday 7th June | Start of Term |
| Tuesday 8 th June – 11 th June | One World Week – Working together for a just, peaceful and sustainable world. |
| Tuesday 7 th June | Year 1 Phonic tests commence Year 4 Multiplication tests commence |
| Tuesday 14 th June | KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 9.30p.m. KS1 parents may attend. |
| Tuesday 14 th June | KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend. |
| Thursday 23 rd June | Phonic meeting for F2 parents- Getting ready for Year 1 at 2.00p.m |

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| Wednesday 29 th June | Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend. |
| July | |
| Monday 4 th July | F1 visits and new parents meeting 1.30p.m. |
| Tuesday 5 th July | Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 2 parents are welcome to attend) |
| Wednesday 6 th July | Reserve date: Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend. |
| Thursday 7 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 15 th July | Year 6 Leavers' Mass Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting) |
| Monday 18 th July | KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend. |
| Tuesday 19 th July | KS2 Play at 6.00p.m KS2 parents are welcome to attend. |
| Wednesday 20th 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.