

23rd September 2016

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. This week, 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 next two weeks, pupils will be 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.

Mass

There will be a welcome Mass for the new children, staff and families on Thursday 29th September, in school, at 9.30a.m. Please do come along and help us celebrate this special occasion.

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.

Macmillan Foundation Stage Coffee Morning

Foundation 1 and 2 will be raising money for Macmillan by holding a coffee morning on Friday 30th 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.

Flood Update

The building works from last term's flood are progressing well. The hall floor has been laid and it looks wonderful. The skirting boards around the school still need to be painted and two carpets need to be laid. Hopefully, the works will be completed within the next three weeks.

School Uniform

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



Important Secondary School Transfer Information

Secondary School admissions opened on 1st September and the closing date for all applications is 31st October 2016. 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.

Important Notices

1. As you know our school has an open door policy. However, in the mornings, when the children are lining up, the teachers are unable to chat because they are busy looking after the class. Therefore, if you have an urgent message that you need to tell the teacher, please inform the office or write in the home-school link book. Thank you.
2. From next week, Foundation Stage children will now have to come into school by themselves so it will be greatly appreciated if you could say your goodbyes in the playground and let the children enter school by themselves. Thank you for your help in teaching the children to be independent learners.
3. No dogs are allowed on the school site, at any time.
4. Please ensure your child does not arrive at school any earlier than 8.40a.m unless they are attending Breakfast Club or Cheerleading Club.
5. Please do not pick up other children other than your own, without parental permission.
6. Finally, it is lovely to see so many families catching up, chatting with one another after school. However, please ensure you vacate the school premises by 3.30p.m. as the caretaker has a number of important health and safety checks to carry out. Therefore, the playground needs to be vacated as soon as possible! Thank you.

Attendance Award

Year 4, had the best attendance last week with 99.3%! Well done Year 4!

Have a great week.

Mrs Linda. Payne

Dates for the diary

Thursday 29th September
Friday 30th September
Friday 7th October
Monday 10th October
Friday 14th October
Monday 17th October
Wednesday 19th October
Friday 21st October
Friday 21st October

Monday 31st October
Friday 4th November
Friday 4th November

Thursday 10th November
Thursday 24th November
Friday 25th November

Wednesday 30th November
Thursday 1st December
Thursday 1st December
Friday 2nd December

Thursday 8th December
Thursday 8th December
Friday 9th December

Monday 12th December
Wednesday 14th December
Thursday 15th December
Friday 16th December

Welcome Mass at 9.30 a.m. in school
Foundation Stage MacMillan Coffee Morning at 9.00a.m.
Parents' Forum at 9.45 a.m.
Year 2 Meeting at 2.30pm
Pink Non Uniform Day to support Breast Cancer Appeal
Parents' Evening
Parents' Evening
Harvest Assembly at 9.05a.m.
End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.

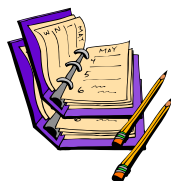
Start of term
PTA Fireworks Night at 6.30p.m.
Parents' Forum at 9.45 a.m.

Year 5 Class Mass. Starts at 2.00p.m.
Year 4 Class Mass. Starts at 2.00p.m.
PTA Disco

St Andrew's Non Uniform day
Year 6 Class Mass. Starts at 2.00p.m.
New F1 pupils visit to the school
Parents' Forum at 9.45 a.m.

KS1 Play - dress rehearsal. Starts at 9.30a.m.
1.30p.m New F1 Parents meeting (January intake only)
KS1 Play. Starts at 9.30a.m.

Choir singing at Watford Colosseum 7.15pm
Christmas Dinner
KS2 Advent Service with Carols. Starts at 1.30p.m.
Foundation Stage & KS1 Pantomime, Watersmeet Theatre



Monday 19th December
Wednesday 21st December
Wednesday 21st December

Key Stage 2 Pantomime at Watersmeet Theatre
Mass in church 9.15a.m.
End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.



Spring Term 2017

Thursday 5th January
Friday 6th January
Thursday 26th January

Start of term
Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Welcome Mass (for new F1 January intake) starts at 9.30a.m.
Parents' Forum at 9.45 a.m.



Friday 3rd February

Monday 6th February
Wednesday 8th February
Friday 10th February
13th – 17th February

Parents' Evening
Parents' Evening
End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
Half term break

Monday 20th February

Start of term

Wednesday 1st March
Thursday 2nd March
Friday 3rd March
Friday 17th March

Ash Wednesday Service at church
World Book Day – Book Character Non Uniform day
St David's Non-Uniform Day
St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day
St Joseph's Day Mass – date to be confirmed.

Thursday 24th March
Monday 27th March
Thursday 30th March
Friday 31st March
Friday 31st March
Monday 3rd April
Tuesday 4th April

Lenten Toy Sale
Lenten Cake Competition
Mass in School
Easter Bonnet Parade
End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.
Easter School for Year 6
Easter School for Year 6



Summer Term 2017

Tuesday 18th April
Friday 21st April
Friday 21st April

Start of term
St George's Non-Uniform Day
Parents' Forum at 9.45 a.m.



Monday 1st May
Monday 8th- 12th May
Monday 15th – 26th May
Friday 19th May
Monday 22nd May
Tuesday 23rd May
Friday 26th May
29th May – 2nd June

May Day. School closed.
KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests
KS1 SATs- Year 2
Parents' Forum at 9.45 a.m.
KS1 Sports Day at 1.30p.m.
KS2 Sports Day at 1.30p.m.
End of half term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
Half term break

Monday 5th June
Tuesday 6th June
Tuesday 6th June
Wednesday 7th June

School Closed – Inset day
Start of term
KS1 Reserve Sports Day
KS2 Reserve Sports Day

Monday 12th June
Wednesday 21st June
Friday 23rd June
Monday 26th – 30th June
Wednesday 28th June

Year 1 Phonic tests commence
Phonic meeting for F2 parents- Getting ready for Year 1
Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m
Year 6 School Journey
F1 new pupils visits

Thursday 6th July
Wednesday 5th July
Friday 7th July

F1 new parents meeting
Foundation Stage Sports Day
Parents' Forum at 9.45 a.m.

Wednesday 12th July
Thursday 13th July

Foundation Stage Reserve Sports Day
Transition day

Friday 14th July

Year 6 Leavers' Mass

Monday 17th July
Tuesday 18th July

KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m.
KS2 Play at 6.00p.m

Wednesday 19th July
Wednesday 19th July

FS & KS1 Teddy Bear Picnic (Please bring a Teddy Bear)
Year 6 Barbecue



Thursday 20th July

Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m.
End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.

