



5th December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Advent: Hope!

Thought of the Week

Advent is a special time. This week, the children have been learning about what it means to have hope and faith that God will keep his promise to return to us, and how we can prepare our hearts to receive him. The children have made Advent promises in preparation for the coming of Our Lord, Jesus.

Choir News

The choir have been extremely busy. On Wednesday, they sang at Woodhall Primary School with some of the 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.

PTA School Disco

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 £580 towards the costs of our roof. Also, thank you for your kind donations to our Christmas Presents Store.

Key Stage 1 & Foundation Stage Nativity Play

The KS1 dress rehearsal starts at 9.30a.m. on Wednesday 11th December. Toddlers/babies are welcome to this show.

The KS1 play starts at 9.30a.m. on Thursday 12th December. All parents and carers are welcome to attend so please do come along and watch the show!

Key Stage 2 Advent Service

The Key Stage 2 Advent Service will be on Tuesday 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 20th December, in church, at 9.15a.m. All parents/carers are welcome to join us.

Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 18th December is Christmas dinner day. The children may wear a Christmas jumper/tee shirt with non-uniform. We are asking for £1 voluntary donation. All proceed raised will go towards our new reading books.

Mrs Joan McNulty

If you were a former pupil of St Joseph's School, I am sure you will remember Mrs McNulty. She was the school nurse of St Joseph's School and sadly, she has recently passed away. She worked at our school for many years. Mrs McNulty dedicated her life to our school and as a former pupil myself, I remember her for her kind and caring nature. She genuinely cared about every child in school. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Mrs McNulty for her hard work and commitment to our school. She will always be remembered here and



never forgotten. Her funeral will be held at West Herts Crematorium on 18th December at 2p.m.

Important Notice: School Admissions: Primary School Place

The paragraph below is very important for all Foundation 1 parents. Applications for admission to our school opened on 4th November 2019. You will need to apply for a school place if your child was born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016

Please ensure you complete the **Hertfordshire on-line 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 on-line form, please be aware that there are four St Joseph's schools in Hertfordshire so it is very important 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. All forms must be completed and returned to the school office before admission can be considered.

Therefore, in order 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 15th January 2020.

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 add two devices 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

School ends at 1.30pm on Friday 20th December.

Attendance Award

Year 5 had the best attendance last week. Well done Year 5!

Have a lovely week.

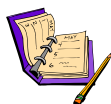
Mrs L. Payne

Dates for the diary

December	
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
Thursday 18th June – 19th June	Year 5 Overnight trip to Phasels Wood (New date)

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 10th 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.