



8th December 2017

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.

Mr Gobin

It saddens me to write this, but Mr Gobin will be leaving us at the end of December for pastures new. Mr Gobin will be taking up a new teaching post in Abu Dhabi before emigrating to Australia to be with his one true love, Elsie. ☺

His dedication and commitment to teaching your children and the football teams is commendable. Mr Gobin has been a fantastic teacher and he will be greatly missed by us all.

Therefore, from January, Mrs Collins will be teaching the class. Mrs Collins is an experienced Class Teacher and she currently works in a school in Clapham. Mrs Collins attended St Joseph's School as a pupil, and also worked as our Reading Recovery Teacher (over four years ago) so many of you may remember her. We all are very sad to see Mr Gobin go and we wish him the best of luck. We will be having a special leaving assembly for him on Monday 18th December at 9.00a.m. You all are welcome to attend.

PTA School Disco & Cake Sale

Thank you to everyone for your support and help with our PTA disco and cake sale. The disco was a great night and the children had a wonderful time. We raised £639 towards our new library.

A King is Born

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 is now on sale from the school office, costing £5.00. Thank you to all the parents who helped to put the stage away after the performance.

Choir News

The choir have been extremely busy singing. On Wednesday, the choir 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 18th 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 Wednesday 20th December, in church, at 9.15a.m. All parents/carers are welcome to join us.



Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 14th 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. We are asking for a donation for our gift shop. Possible gift examples could be: bubble bath set, make-up, socks, chocolates, mugs etc. The children will have the opportunity to buy their mum or dad, a gift at our gift shop on Friday 14th December. Each gift will be wrapped beautifully. Cost £3 per gift.

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. Please see attached letter.

Important Notices

1. Parent Mail

If you do not receive 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.

2. School Admissions: Primary School Place

The paragraph below is very important for all Foundation 1 parents. Applications for admission to our school opened on 6th November 2017. You will need to apply for:

A reception place in primary, infant or first school if your child was born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014

Please ensure you complete the **Hertfordshire on-line form**, the **School's Supplementary Form** and **Certificate of Catholic Practice**. 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.

A Supplementary Information Form is obtainable from 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)

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 2018.



Attendance Award

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

Have a great week.

Mrs L. Payne

Please note the changes to the diary dates.

December	
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day (F2- Y6 classes) This is a non-uniform day.
Friday 15 th December	Foundation Stage Christmas Party
Monday 18 th December	KS2 Advent Service with Carols. Starts at 1.30p.m. (Y3- y6 classes). KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
Tuesday 19 th December	Whole School Trip Pantomime, Watersmeet Theatre (F1 – Y6 classes)
Wednesday 20th December	Mass in church 9.15a.m. (F2- Y6 classes) All parents are welcome to attend. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.

January 2018	
Spring Term	
Thursday 4th January	Start of term
Friday 5 th January	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.

February	
Friday 2 nd February	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 5 th February	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 7 th February	Parents' Evening
Friday 9th February	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
Monday 19th February	Start of Term
March	
Thursday 1 st March	World Book Day – Book Character Non-Uniform day (F1 – Y6 classes). All parents are welcome to attend the World Book Day Assembly. This is a non-uniform day.
Friday 2 nd March	St David's Non-Uniform Day(F1 – Y6 classes) Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Friday 16 th March	St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day(F1 – Y6 classes)
Monday 19 th March	St Joseph's Day Mass – date to be confirmed. . (F2 – Y6 classes). All parents are welcome to attend.
Monday 26 th March	Lenten Cake Competition(F1 – Y6 classes)
Wednesday 28 th March	Lenten Toy Sale(F1 – Y6 classes)
Thursday 29th March	Easter Bonnet Parade(F1 – Y6 classes) 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.

April	
Tuesday 3 rd April	Easter School for Year 6
Wednesday 4 th April	Easter School for Year 6
Monday 16th April	Start of Term
Monday 23 rd April	St George's Non-Uniform Day (F1 – Y6 classes)
Friday 27 th April	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.

May	
Monday 7th May	May Day. School closed.
Tuesday 8 th – 25 th May	KS1 SATs- Year 2
Monday 14th – 17th May	KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests
Friday 18 th May	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 21 st May	KS1 Sports Day at 1.30p.m. KS1 parents are welcome to attend.
Tuesday 22 nd May	KS2 Sports Day at 1.30p.m. KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
Friday 25 th May	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.

June	
Monday 4th June	Inset Day – school closed.
Tuesday 5th June	Start of Term
Wednesday 6 th June	KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 1.30p.m. KS1 parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 7 th June	KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 1.30p.m. KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
Friday 8 th June	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 11 th June	Year 1 Phonic tests commence
Thursday 21 st June	Phonic meeting for F2 parents - Getting ready for Year 1
Wednesday 27 th June	F1 new pupils visits
Friday 29 th June	St Peter & St Paul's Mass in school at 9.15a.m. (F2 – Y6 classes). All parents are welcome to attend.

July	
Monday 2 nd – Friday 6 th July	Year 6 School Journey
Thursday 5 th July	F1 new parents meeting
Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th July	Year 5 Overnight Trip to Phasel Wood (new date)
Wednesday 11 th July	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. FS parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 12 th July	Secondary School Transition day New F2 Parents' Meeting at 9.15a.m.
Friday 13 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass (F1 – Y6 classes) Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass and picnic.
Monday 16 th July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Tuesday 17 th July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
Wednesday 18 th July	Year 6 Barbecue at 1.30p.m.- 3.00pm. Foundation Stage Reserve Sports Day at 9.30a.m. FS parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 19 th July	FS & KS1 Teddy Bear Picnic (Please bring a Teddy Bear) (F1 – Y2 classes)
Friday 20th July	Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m. All parents are welcome to attend. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.