



**St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School**  
Ainsdale Road South Oxhey Watford WD19 7DW  
Tel 020-8428 5371 Fax 020-8421-0568

8<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

**Keeping Safe**

### **Thought of the Week**

This week, the children have been thinking about keeping safe. The children have been learning about road safety, the importance of keeping safe when playing outside and E-safety.



### **His Holiness, Pope Francis & Her Majesty the Queen**

Each year, at Christmas time I send a number of special people Christmas cards, on behalf of the pupils and staff at the school. Last week, I received two responses from two very important people. Firstly, His Holiness, Pope Francis has written to the school and sent his blessings of peace upon our school community. Secondly, Her Majesty the Queen has also written to the school, wishing us a Happy New Year.



### **Key Stage 2 2016 Achievements**

I am also delighted to inform you all that our school is in the top 25% of schools nationally for combined progress across Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and mathematics. Hertfordshire for Learning has written a letter of congratulations to all pupils, staff and parents. Please see attached letter. This is fantastic news and I would like to thank you for supporting your children with their learning and thank the staff and pupils for their hard work. A special thank you to Miss Winterman, Mrs Carter, Mrs Holdaway and Mrs Bright for their continued hard work supporting Year 6.



### **St David's Day**

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, there will be a non-uniform day to celebrate St David's Day, the Patron Saint of Wales. The children may wear green, white or red on this day. We are asking for a voluntary £1.00 contribution towards our school fund



### **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 a small chocolate bar. Fruit, water and juice, are also allowed at playtime.

### **Book Day**

To promote our love for reading, we will be celebrating International Book Day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. The children may dress up as their favourite book character and there will be a special assembly starting at 9.00a.m. All parents and carers are welcome to attend our assembly.



### **Supporting Children with their Reading**

This year, we are focusing on improving the children's reading skills. In school, the children are taught different strategies to help them read. Studies have shown that when children read every day at home, they become better readers.



Improving reading is a way to enable children to maximise their opportunities in all other areas of schooling, so it is crucial that this is done every day. Therefore, it is very important that your child reads at home, daily for at least ten minutes. However, I know many children already read daily at home and I would like to thank you for your support.

When your child has read each day, I would ask that you sign and date your child's reading record. Whilst reading with your child, it is important to ask a few questions about what they have read. This will also help develop their comprehension skills. Questions such as 'What do you think will happen next?' or 'Why did the author use those words?' are good starters.

Finally, a list of the most common words can be found at the following website: [www.highfrequencywords.org](http://www.highfrequencywords.org). If you could help your child, read and spell the high frequency words that will really help them with their schooling.

### **Nursery Admission 2017**

The application process for a nursery place at our school has now opened. For children born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014, please apply online at: [www.hertsdirect.org/nurseryadmissions](http://www.hertsdirect.org/nurseryadmissions) and complete our Supplementary Information Form by 17<sup>th</sup> March. Forms are on our website or available from the school office. In addition, a certificate of Catholic Practice will also be required, which can be obtained from Father Stephen.



### **Sports Notices**

The children have been very busy participating in many sporting competitions against other schools:

- Year 4 came first in the Local Consortium Athletics Competition and went through to the County finals which they won.
- Year 2 came thirtieth in the county Athletics Competition.

Well done to all the children and thank you to the staff involved in their training! Fantastic effort!

Finally, the boys played a tough football match against Hillside Junior School The score was 4-3 to Hillside. Well done boys for the great effort!

## ***Important Notices***

1. Please ensure your child wears a coat to school as it is cold outside.
2. Boots may be worn to school but pupils must wear shoes in school.
3. Please ensure your child wears black shoes to school. Black trainers or boots are not part of the school uniform .
4. White, cream or brown tights only. Thank you.

### **Prayer of the Week**

Dear Lord  
Please look after all the sick and poor. Please look after my two grandads in heaven.  
Amen

By Kayleigh Year 3

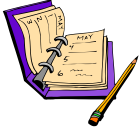


## Attendance Award

Year 5 have won the best attendance award, this week with 99.7%. Well done Year 5. Keep up the good work.

**Have a great half term.**

**Linda Payne  
Headteacher**



### Dates for the diary

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February  
13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February

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

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Start of term

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> March  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> April  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April

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

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> May  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May  
29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> June  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June

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

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> July  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July

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

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July

Foundation Stage Reserve Sports Day  
Transition day

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Year 6 Leavers' Mass

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July

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

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July

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



Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July

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