

14th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit!

### Thought of the Week

The children have been learning about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts help us to respond to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, make good choices, and serve God and others.

### Ofsted Inspection

As you can imagine, we are 'over the moon' with our recent 'outstanding' grade from Ofsted so much that we have been celebrating all week. The children were an absolute credit to you. To thank the children for their consistent hard work and exemplary behaviour, we started our celebrations with ice lollies for everyone. Then on Wednesday, a travelling farm visited the school. The children had a wonderful experience learning about the animals, which is part of our Science topic 'Animals including Humans'. It also links particularly well with Catholic Social teaching where children are taught to 'Care for Creation' by caring for God's creatures. During the visit, the children got the chance to feed and stroke the animals.





## **Catholic Social Teaching**

As Catholics, we are called to serve by God. Therefore, we teach our pupils about the importance of serving others and promoting social justice. By engaging in acts of service and advocating for those in need, pupils develop a sense of worth by understanding their ability to make a positive impact on the world. Here a few of the jobs they have around school.

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Catholic Social Teaching</b>
<b>Foundation 1</b>	Plant Leaders
<b>Foundation 2</b>	Gardening Leaders
<b>Year 1</b>	Prayer Leaders
<b>Year 2</b>	Playtime Equipment Leaders
<b>Year 3</b>	Lunchtime Chair monitors
<b>Year 4</b>	Rosary Leaders
<b>Year 5</b>	Caritas Ambassadors, Library Monitors, Games Makers
<b>Year 6</b>	Sports Leaders, Class Apostles, House Captains

There are also a number of other jobs that the children are voting on for by the other pupils which are listed below:

<b>Catholic Social Teaching</b>
Class Apostle
Milk Monitors
Book Monitors
Library Monitors
Tidy Up monitors
Line Monitors
Sports Leaders
Eco Warriors
Sports Council
School Council
Sports Leaders, Class Apostles
Buddy Patrol
Head boy/Head Girl/ House Captains



We also emphasise the importance of working for social justice. By engaging in acts of service and advocating for those in need, pupils develop a sense of worth by understanding their ability to make a positive impact on the world. Over the past year, we have helped the following charities.

<b>Promoting Social Justice (Charity fundraising)</b>
MacMillan Coffee Morning
Pink Day for Breast Cancer
Poppy Day Appeal
Shoe Box Appeal
South Oxhey Foodbank
New Hope Trust Foodbank
Catholic Children's Society (Lenten Appeal)
Cafod (Lenten Appeal)
Red Cross – Turkey and Syrian Earthquake Appeal





### **Year 5 Retreat Day**

Our Year 5 class had a reflective and thought-provoking retreat at St Michael's Catholic High School. They thought about the gifts God has given them and how they can use these to help others. Thank you to Father Ben and the Year 12 students for leading the morning.



### **Sustainability Project**

Laudato Si is Pope Francis' message to us all to care for our earth. Therefore, as a school, we have been looking at a variety of ways in which we can look after God's world. Our Eco Warriors have been working hard to protect the environment. Yesterday, they presented their sustainability ideas to a panel of judges at Watford Football Club. The judges were very impressed with their message 'to care for our world' and loved their sustainability ideas. Other schools also presented their ideas. The winning team will be announced next week. Fingers crossed for our team.





### Year 6 School Trip

Year 6 have recently returned from their trip to Wales where they went hiking on the Beddgelert Ridge, explored the Sygun Copper Mine, visited the Welsh Mountain Zoo and experienced what it was like to be a pupil in a Victorian school. They had a brilliant time and have made memories which I am sure will last a lifetime.





### Year 5

Recently, Year 5 went to Phasels Wood to increase the pupils' physical activity levels. They had a fabulous time go-karting, climbing on Spider Mountain, aero-balling, zorbing and doing archery.



### Year 3 School trip to Woburn

Year 3 had a wonderful time at Woburn Safari Park, learning about wildlife and their different habitats.



### Year 4

In geography, Year 4 have been learning about Florida and understanding how to use maps. The pupils learnt how to use a map with a key by planning a route around Disney's Magic Kingdom. Unfortunately, I thought a trip to Disneyland in the USA might be a tad too far to go in one day. Therefore, the Year 4 class went to Legoland and planned their way around **before going**; using the map skills they had been taught in their previous lessons.

Year 4 had a great time at Legoland, looking at the Lego models and structures. They also had fun on the rides.





## Year 2 Trip to Southend

In geography, Year 2 have been learning about the seaside. As a result, they visited Southend for the day, where they walked up the pier, rode the tram back, built lots of sand castles and even had a paddle in the sea. It was a great day.





## Year 1 Trip

The children have been learning about animals and their habitats. Year 1 went to Whipsnade Zoo to see all of the different types of animals they have been learning about in science.



## Foundation Stage Sports Day

Our Foundation Sports Day was a great success. Well done to all of the children for taking part in the Sports Day. A great effort was made by all. A special thank you to our Sports Leaders for their help.







## **Leavers' Mass and Assembly**

I cannot believe the time has come to say farewell to our Year 6 class. The Leavers' Mass will be on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 11.00a.m., in school, followed by our whole school picnic. If it rains, our picnic will be postponed until Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July. I apologise for the late notice. The Leavers' Assembly will be held on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July at 9.30a.m.

## **Key Stage 2 Play**

It might be hot during the Key Stage 2 Play. Therefore, please bring a bottle of cold water and hand held fans if you are coming to watch the show. Numbers will be limited to two adults per family. Priority will be given to parents of Year 6 and seats will be saved at the front of the hall. We want to keep our hall as cool as possible; therefore, to help us with this task, please only attend one showing- either the dress rehearsal or the 6p.m. performance.

## **Three Rivers & Watford Schools Sports Partnership Award Ceremony**

We are delighted that our pupils received numerous sporting awards at the Rickmansworth Sports Partnership Awards Ceremony. Well done all.



## **Classes**

The children have met their teachers today and they all appeared very happy in their new classrooms. The teachers are as follows:

Year	Teacher	Teaching Assistants
Foundation 1	Mrs Aston	Miss Blake Mrs Patel (Thurs)



<b>Foundation 2</b>	Mrs Burford (Mon-Wed) Mrs Rees (Thurs-Friday)	Miss Bradley Mrs Axe Mrs Patel
<b>Year 1</b>	Miss Pope	Mrs Osborne Mrs Patel
<b>Year 2</b>	Miss Donghi	Mrs Crosbie Mrs Kendal
<b>Year 3</b>	Miss Hooper	Mrs Moshoyannis
<b>Year 4</b>	Mrs Turner	Mrs McKane Mrs El-Jabbour
<b>Year 5</b>	Mrs Wade	Mrs McNally Mrs El-Jabbour
<b>Year 6</b>	Miss Winterman	Mrs Carter Mr Tannian Mrs Sheppard

In September, Mrs Dad, Mrs Bright, Mrs Shah and Miss Diaz will be covering PPA and interventions.

### **School Uniform**

I know you all will be buying new school uniforms over the summer. May I remind you that all children must wear the correct school uniform. I am very proud to have your children attend St Joseph's and wear our uniform. Therefore, please ensure you buy the school's polo shirts, jumpers or cardigans, and P.E kits with the school logo on. All children must wear black shoes only. Trainers are not permitted in school. I appreciate your help regarding this matter.

To order uniform, please visit: <https://www.aceembroideries.co.uk/st-josephs-primary-school?page=2>

### **Summer Building Works**

Since I became Headteacher of St Joseph's School in 2006, I have been writing numerous letters and applying for grants regarding our inadequate drainage system. Some of you may remember the 'great flood of 2016' when the school was flooded as a result of the deluge of water cascading into the school from the woods behind the school. I am delighted to inform you, that I have successfully been awarded £360,000 to fix the problem. The builders will be fitting a giant soakaway under the field and fixing the collapsed drains. This means that the field will be out of use for some time. However, this also means I have to find 10% of the final costings, which is £36,000. Therefore, over the next few years, your building fund contributions will go towards clearing this debt.



### **Attendance Award**

Year 1 have won the best attendance award! Well done Year 1!

Have a great summer break.

**Linda Payne**  
**Headteacher**





<b>July</b>	
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting)
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m. KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass End of Term Year 6 lunch <b>End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.</b>
<b>School Starts</b>	5th September