

20th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

October is dedicated to
the Holy Rosary in
honour of Mary!

During October, pupils spend time deepening their spiritual connection and devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Pupils pray the Rosary and meditate on the life of Jesus and the mysteries of the faith while reciting specific rosary prayers.

Mission Statement, Aims & Values

Our mission statement is 'Love and Learn in the footsteps of Christ.' We live this out in everything we do at school and it is underpinned by our core aims, which are for the pupils to be:

- Disciples of Christ by loving God, loving one another and helping others
- Ready to learn
- Secondary Ready

Caritas Ambassadors

The Caritas Ambassadors have been very busy this term following our mission to be faithful disciples of Christ by helping those in need.

Firstly, The Caritas Ambassadors from 'Matthew House' organised and led our MacMillan coffee morning, raising £223. Well done, children.



Secondly, the Caritas Ambassadors from 'Luke House' organised our Breast Cancer Appeal. They raised £164. Fantastic effort, children.



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Finally, the Caritas Ambassadors from 'Mark House' organised our Harvest Festival collection for our local food bank. Well done everyone.



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Thank you to your kind donations to each of our Appeals.

Curriculum

Over the past two years, we have reviewed our curriculum to ensure we have a multicultural curriculum where diversity is celebrated and significant individuals from different cultures and backgrounds are represented in our learning.

Our curriculum recognises and values the diversity of cultures, ethnicities, languages and backgrounds. It promotes inclusivity, respect and understanding among pupils by incorporating diverse perspectives, histories and experiences into the curriculum.

Our curriculum goes beyond simply acknowledging cultural diversity; it actively integrates cultural content, perspectives and experiences into various subjects and activities. Our curriculum reflects the contributions and experiences of different cultures and also encourages the exploration and appreciation of different cultural traditions, customs and values.

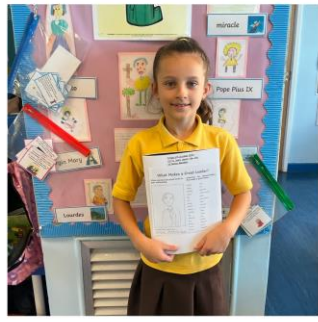
Our curriculum fosters cultural competence, empathy and global awareness. It helps pupils develop a broader understanding of the world, challenge stereotypes and build positive relationships with individuals from diverse backgrounds. This approach promotes social justice, equity and a sense of belonging for all pupils, regardless of their cultural backgrounds.

Throughout the year, diversity is celebrated. This month, we have been celebrating Black History Month in School. Black History Month educates our pupils about the history, achievements and contributions of individuals and communities. It provides an opportunity to learn about important figures, events and movements that have shaped Black history and culture. Our pupils have been learning about the significance of Black history and promoting inclusivity and diversity. The goal is to foster understanding, appreciation and respect for the experiences and contributions of significant individuals throughout history.

Spotlight on Black History Month

In RE, this week, the children have been learning the following new skills.

Year Group	English
Foundation 1	Mae C Jemison
Foundation 2	Martin Luther King
Year 1	Ella Fitzgerald
Year 2	Rosa Parks
Year 3	Nelson Mandela
Year 4	Mary Seacole
Year 5	Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan & Mary Jackson
Year 6	Harriet Tubman



Spotlight on Art

This term, we have been developing the pupils' artistic skills through Religious Art.

Year Group	Art
Foundation 1	The Lost Sheep – making sheep
Foundation 2	God's World- making fishes
Year 1	Noah's Ark – collage work
Year 2	God's Chosen People - drawing
Year 3	Baptism signs and symbols - drawing
Year 4	Mary the Mother of God - shading
Year 5	Creation Story using techniques from Artist Study Friedrich Hundertwasser – layering technique
Year 6	Tree of Giving thanks to God. Developing printing skills Portraits of Jesus using the skills of blending and shading,

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Prayer

This week, the children have been learning the following prayers:

F1	Sign of the cross, lunchtime prayer
F2	Tradition Prayer – morning and end of day prayer
Year 1	Spontaneous Prayer- Prayers of Petition
Year 2	Glory Be – Rosary Our Father
Year 3	Spontaneous Prayer- Prayers of saying sorry. Rosary
Year 4	Spontaneous Prayer Rosary Magnificat
Year 5	Rosary – Mysteries of the Rosary. Apostle Creed
Year 6	Rosary – Mysteries of the Rosary. Spontaneous Prayer

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St Joseph's Church Parish Links

From our recent parent questionnaire, a couple of parents were not aware of our parish links. Therefore, I thought you might be interested to know how we link with our local parish church, which is St Joseph's.

We have a strong connection with the parish, which helps our pupils to foster a sense of community and spiritual growth by:

1. **Organising Masses, Liturgies and Services:** The school organises regular Masses for pupils, teachers and parents to attend together. These Masses are celebrated by our Father John and are held at the school or parish church. Additionally, the school staff are involved with the parish to provide opportunities for pupils to receive sacraments such as First Holy Communion.
2. **Prayer and Reflection:** The school and parish gather for special prayer services, devotions or Stations of the Cross during Lent. These activities are held in the parish church or within the school premises, providing opportunities for pupils, teachers and parents to deepen their faith and engage in communal prayer.
3. **Pastoral Support:** The school and parish work together to provide pastoral support to pupils and their families. This involves the parish priest or pastoral care team collaborating with the school to offer spiritual guidance or sacramental reconciliation.
4. **By establishing and maintaining these connections,** we aim to create a seamless integration between the school and parish community, fostering a shared sense of faith, support and belonging among pupils, families and parishioners.

Please see below our Liturgical Events calendar.

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October	Month of Most Holy Rosary
	Rosary led by teachers, pupils and parents
Friday 6 th October	Welcome Mass in school at 11.00.a.m.
Thursday 19 th October	Harvest Collective Worship
November	
Wednesday 1 st November	All Saints Day Mass 9.15am in Church
Friday 3 rd November	Year 2 St Martin de Porres Feast Day
Wednesday 8 th November	Year 4 Refugee Mass at 2.00p.m.
Wednesday 15 th November	Year 5 Remembrance Mass at 2.00p.m.
Thursday 30 th November	St Andrew's Day
Wednesday 29 th November	Year 6 Advent Mass at 11.00a.m. Year 4 Reconciliations
December	Advent
1 st December onwards	Reconciliation in school
6 th & 7 th December	Nativity
6 th December	Year 5 Reconciliations
Friday 8 th December	Feast of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass in church at 9.15 a.m. Year 6 Reconciliations
Friday 15 th December	Advent Service at church 1.30p.m.
Wednesday 20 th December	End of Term Mass in church 9.15a.m.
January 2024 Spring Term	Christmas
5 th January	Epiphany Mass TBC
February	Lent
Thursday 8 th February	Year 5 St Josephine Bakhita Feast Day
Wednesday 14 th February	Ash Wednesday Mass in Church at 9.15a.m.
Friday 16 th February onwards	Reconciliation in school
Tuesday 27 th February	Year 6 St Gabriel Possenti Feast Day
March	Lent
Friday 1 st March	St David's Day
Friday 8 th March	Mother's Day Liturgy
Friday 15 th March	St Patrick's Day
Tuesday 19 th March	St Joseph's Day Mass – 9.15am in Church F2 St Joseph's Feast Day
Monday 25 th March	Holy Week Liturgies
April	Easter
Tuesday 16 th April	Year 3 St Bernadette Feast Day
Tuesday 23 rd April	St George's Day
May	Month of Mary
1st May	Rosary
Thursday 9 th May	Ascension Mass at 9.15am in church
19 th May	Pentecost
30 th May	Corpus Christi Mass in church
June	
22 nd June	Year 4 St Alban Feast Day

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Friday 28 th June	St Peter and St Paul Mass in school
July	
14th July	Year 1 St Kateri Tekakwitha Feast Day
Friday 19th July	Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m.

Important Notices

1. Secondary School Transfer Information For Year 6 Parents

Secondary School admissions opened at the beginning of September and the closing date for all applications is 31st October 2023.

Year 6 parents must complete the online form at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions and complete the school's Supplementary Information Form, which you can obtain from the school's website or during the school's Open Evenings.

Please note that all Catholic secondary schools require a Certificate of Catholic Practice, which can be obtained from your parish priest.

2. Application for Primary School

Foundation 2 Class admissions opens at the beginning of November and the closing date for all applications is 15th January 2024.

If your child is ready to start school next September (e.g. pupils in Foundation 1) you must complete the online form at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions and complete the school's Supplementary Information Form, which you can obtain from the school's website or School Office.

Have a great half term,

Linda Payne

Dates for the diary

More than ever - please treat this calendar as a guide – I am sure as we progress through the year, there may be variations.

The acronym TBC means to be confirmed. **New date/Change of date**

October	
Monday 30th October	Start of term

November	
Wednesday 1 st November	All Saints Day Mass 9.15am in Church
Friday 3 rd November	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m. (after assembly)
Friday 3 rd November	PFA Fireworks Night. Parent Volunteers needed to help at this great event. Gates open at 6.30p.m.
Wednesday 8th November	Year 4 Refugee Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 4 parents are welcome to attend.
Wednesday 15th November	Year 5 Remembrance Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 5 parents are welcome to attend.
Friday 24 th November	Occasional Day – School Closed
Monday 27 th November	Flu Vaccination Session

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Thursday 30 th November	St Andrew's Non Uniform day (children may wear blue, white or tartan).
Wednesday 29 th November	Year 6 Advent Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 6 parents are welcome to attend.

December	Advent
Friday 1 st December	Foundation Stage, Key stage 1 & 2 Christmas PFA Disco Parent volunteers needed for this event to go ahead.
Wednesday 6 th December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play (dress rehearsal- parents and toddlers welcome). Starts at 9.30a.m
Thursday 7 th December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play. Starts at 9.30a.m. All parents welcome to attend .
Friday 8 th December	Feast of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass in church at 9.15a.m.
Friday 8 th December	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 4
Wednesday 13 th December	Pantomime Trip, Watersmeet Theatre
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day (children may wear a Christmas jumper/teeshirt).
Monday 18 th December	KS2 Advent Service. Starts at 1.30p.m. at church
Tuesday 19 th December	Whole School Christmas Quiz & Foundation Stage Party
Wednesday 20 th December	Mass in church 9.15a.m. All parents welcome to attend. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.
21st December – 3rd January	Christmas Holiday – School Closed

January 2024 Spring Term	
Thursday 4 th January	Start of term
Friday 5 th January	Epiphany Mass in Church (No Celebration Assembly)TBC

February	Lent
Thursday 1 st February	Parents' Forum at 5pm
Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 6 th February	Parents' Consultations
Wednesday 7 th February	Parents' Consultations
Wednesday 14 th February	Ash Wednesday Mass in Church at 9.15a.m.
Friday 16 th February	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
19 th – 23 rd February	Half Term holiday – School Closed
Monday 26 th February	Start of Term

March	Lent
Friday 1 st March	St David's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green, red, white or yellow).

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Thursday 7 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 8 th March	Mother's Day Assembly starts at 9.00a.m. All F1 – F2 mothers/carers welcome to attend. More information to follow.
Friday 15 th March	St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green or white).
Tuesday 19 th March	St Joseph's Day Mass – 9.15am in Church All parents welcome to attend
Monday 25 th March	Holy Week Liturgies Lenten Cake Competition (all children may enter by baking a cake). Cake sale.
Tuesday 26 th March	Lenten Toy Sale (please donate old toys).
Thursday 28th March	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.

April	Eastertide
Monday 15th April	Start of Term
Tuesday 23 rd April	St George's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear red, white or blue).

May	Month of Mary
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday. School closed.
Thursday 9 th May	Ascension Mass at 9.15am in church All parents welcome to attend
Friday 10 th May	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
1 st – 24 th May	KS1- Year 2 Assessment
Monday 13th – 16th May	KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests (free breakfast club for Year 6 pupils all week, starting at 8.00a.m.)
Monday 13th May	KS 2 Spelling, punctuation and Grammar Paper 1 & 2 tests
Tuesday 14th May	KS2 Reading Test
Wednesday 15th May	KS2 Maths Paper 1 & 2 Test
Thursday 16th May	KS2 Maths Paper 3 Test
Thursday 16 th May	Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend)
Monday 20 th May	Walk to School Week
Tuesday 21 st May	KS2 Sports Day at 9.30a.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Tuesday 21 st May	KS1 Sports Day at 1.20p.m. KS1 parents may attend.

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Friday 24 th May	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
27 th May – 31 st May	Half Term Holiday – School Closed

June	
Monday 3rd June	Inset Day – school closed.
Tuesday 4th June	Start of Term
Tuesday 4 th June	Year 1 Phonic tests commence Year 4 Multiplication tests commence
Wednesday 12 th June	Class Photographs
Tuesday 18 th June	KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 9.30p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Tuesday 18 th June	KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Tuesday 25 th June	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Tuesday 25 th – 28 th June	Year 6 Trip to Bournemouth
Friday 28th June	St Peter and St Paul Mass in school TBC

July	
Monday 1 st July	F1 new children and parents visits 1.30p.m.
Tuesday 2 nd July	Reserve date: Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Tuesday 2 nd July	Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 2 parents are welcome to attend)
Wednesday 3 rd July	New to Year 2 Transition Meeting at 2.30pm (All Year 1 parents are welcome to attend)
Thursday 4 th July	New to Year 1 Transition Meeting at 2.30pm (All Foundation 2 parents are welcome to attend)
Monday 8 th July	F1 new children and parents meeting 1.30p.m.
Thursday 11 th July	Transition Day for all pupils Secondary School Transition day New to F2 Parents' Meeting at 9.15a.m. (Current F1 parents to attend).
Friday 12 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass in school at 11.00a.m. Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting)
Tuesday 16 th July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Wednesday 17 th July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m KS2 parents are welcome to attend. Year 3,4,5 and 6 pupils must be back in school at 5.40pm
Friday 19th July	Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass End of Term Year 6 lunch End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.