

Love and Learn in the Footsteps of Christ

NEWSLETTER

20TH DECEMBER 2023

Upcoming Key Dates



04/01/24

School Starts Back

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

We commemorated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with utmost reverence. The children displayed exemplary behavior, adding to the beauty of this momentous occasion. It was a truly remarkable and meaningful way to honor this special day.



A message from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a great term filled with valuable learning experiences. Your support has been greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

In preparation for the arrival of our Lord, we have been busy with various activities over the past few weeks. These included: an amazing nativity play; a beautiful advent service; participating in a number of Masses and pupils in Year 4 to Year 6 engaging in reconciliation. We started our Christmas festivities with a delightful trip to the pantomime. Our Christmas dinner was a fun event, filled with joy and karaoke. Yesterday, the children had a wonderful time competing against one another in the 'Event of the Year' - the Christmas Quiz and at their class parties.

Yesterday, the highlight of the day was the much-anticipated visit from Father Christmas. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their advent and festive celebrations.

To finish our term, we celebrated Mass at the church. Many parishioners commented on the children's outstanding behaviour and reverence. What a wonderful way to finish our term!

I hope you have a joyful Christmas as well.
Merry Christmas Everyone,
Linda Payne

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Christmas Jumper Swap Shop

The Christmas jumper swap proved to be a resounding success, thanks to the exceptional organisation skills of the eco-warriors. The event left customers extremely satisfied. It was heartening to see the children exploring various avenues to promote sustainability and minimise waste; inspired by Pope Francis' Laudato Si message.



Sleeping Beauty Pantomime Trip

The children, along with the adults, had an absolutely marvellous time during the pantomime trip.

It was a wonderful experience for the children. We were incredibly lucky to meet the famous Prince Charming and Muddles at the end of the show.

Thank you to the PFA for providing refreshments during the intermission.



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Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day

Our Year 3 Minnie Vinnies demonstrated exceptional skill in preparing for Christmas dinner, meticulously arranging the cutlery and crackers, setting up the chairs and arranging the table decorations. Their efforts contributed to a delightful dining experience. Thank you, Year 3.

Check out the amazing job they did
<https://twitter.com/i/status/1735243431184670831>

The children had a delightful Christmas lunch and looked absolutely splendid in their Christmas jumpers. We thank the hardworking kitchen staff for their delicious dinner and all of the other staff for their dedication and efforts in making this occasion so memorable.



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Father Christmas Visit

Yesterday, the children were delighted to see Father Christmas. He delivered gifts of gold coins and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Whole School Christmas Quiz

The children participated in the much-loved Annual Christmas Quiz. The quiz is based on what the children have been learning. This is a great assessment opportunity to see what the children have retained in a fun way. The children had a fantastic time during the quiz.

Christmas Parties

Activities such as musical bumps, musical statues, dead lions, you name it, we had it at our Christmas parties. Some of the older children opted for a Christmas movie and popcorn. They all had a wonderful time.



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mini Vinnies & Caritas Ambassadors

Our Minnie Vinnies and Caritas Ambassadors have been very busy spreading Christ's love this Advent season. This week, they delivered Christmas cards and gifts to the local Elderly Care home and to 'people who help us'. The people receiving the cards and gifts were very touched and extremely grateful. Thank you to those who have donated to our Elderly Care Package Appeal. I would especially like to thank Dilesh Mehta from Shaneel Enterprise for donating luxurious toiletries for the Pinewood Lodge Residents. Your kind donations were greatly appreciated.



Good bye Mrs McNally & Miss Diaz

Sadly, Mrs McNally & Miss Diaz are leaving us for pastures new. Mrs McNally is moving to Leigh-on-Sea and Miss Diaz is travelling around Australia. We will dearly miss them, but we wish them luck in their new ventures.



St Joseph's Church Christmas Services

The Christmas Services at the church are as follows:

- Christmas Mass: 24th December at 6 p.m.
- Midnight Mass 24th December at 12 midnight.
- Christmas Day Mass: 25th December at 10.30a.m.

St Joseph's Church Parish Newsletter

Copies of the Parish Newsletter can be found here.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/carpenderspark/newsletters/>

Family Prayer Time

Please click on the link below to read the December RE Newsletter:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

School Admissions

Attention Foundation 1 parents and those seeking a school place for their child in September 2024

Applications for admission to our school are now open.

If your child was born between September 1st, 2019, and August 31st, 2020, you will need to apply for a school place.

Please complete the Hertfordshire online 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>)

You will also need to complete the School's Supplementary form.



Nursery Admissions

We are pleased to announce that we now offer full-time Nursery provision from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our Nursery Class, please take note of the following information. Applications for admission to our Nursery are now open to children born between the 1st of September 2020 and the 31st of August 2021.

To apply, it is essential that you complete the School's Supplementary Form, which can be obtained from our school's website or the school office. Kindly ensure that all forms are fully filled out and returned to the school office before we can consider your child's admission. In order to complete the application process, we kindly request the following documents:

1. Supplementary Information Form
2. Baptism Certificate (if applicable)

We appreciate your cooperation in providing the necessary documentation for the application process. Should you have any further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Term Dates

January 2024	
Spring Term	
Thursday 4th January	Start of term
Friday 5th 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 14th February	Ash Wednesday Mass in Church at 9.15a.m.
Friday 16th February	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
19th – 23rd February	Half Term holiday – School Closed
Monday 26th February	Start of Term

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

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Term Dates continued...

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.
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)

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Term Dates continued...

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 19 th 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.