

Love and Learn in the Footsteps of Christ

NEWSLETTER

7TH DECEMBER 2023

Upcoming Key Dates



6/12/23	KS1 Play (dress rehearsal)
7/12/23	KS1 Play
8/12/23	Gift Shop Day
8/12/23	Immaculate Conception Mass
13/12/23	Pantomime Trip,
14/12/23	Christmas Jumper Day
15/12/23	KS2 Advent Service.
20/12/23	End of Term Mass School closes at 1.30p.m.



A message from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been filled with joy as we witnessed the incredible talents of our Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 stars in the Nativity. The children's acting and singing were nothing short of magical, setting a beautiful tone for the Advent season. Thank you for joining us and being a part of these festive moments. Our Advent journey continues tomorrow with Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and next week, we have the Key Stage 2 Advent Service on Friday 15th December. Mark your calendars for the 14th December, where we invite the children to don their cosiest Christmas jumpers as we share our Christmas dinner together, amongst friends whilst spreading warmth and holiday cheer – a festive feast awaits our hungry learners! Wishing you a delightful weekend filled with joy and laughter. Warm regards, Mrs. Payne

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Spotlight on Collective Worship

Advent Retreat Day

At the start of Advent, in preparation for the birth of our Lord, the children participated in a retreat day filled with prayer, song, and reflection. This special day provided a sacred space for the children to deepen their spiritual connection and engage in meaningful contemplation. Through guided prayer sessions, uplifting songs, and moments of quiet reflection, the children had the opportunity to nurture their faith and prepare their hearts for the joyous celebration of Christmas. The retreat day served as a valuable reminder of the true meaning of Advent; encouraging the children to embrace the spirit of anticipation and hope. We are grateful to have witnessed the children's sincere engagement and thoughtful prayer.



Carol Singing at Pinewood Lodge

As Catholics, we are called by God to serve others. This week, the Year 5 and Foundation 2 Class embraced this calling by visiting Pinewood Elderly Care home and sharing their beautiful voices through carol singing. The elderly residents were delighted and deeply moved by the heartfelt performances of the children. It was a heart-warming experience for both the children and the elderly residents, fostering a sense of connection and joy within the community.



St Joseph's Church Parish Newsletter

Copies of the Parish Newsletter can be found here.
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/carpenderspark/newsletters/>

St Joseph's Church Mass Times

Day	Times
Tuesday	7.00p.m.
Wednesday	9.15a.m.
Thursday	9.15a.m.
Friday	6.00p.m.
Saturday	6.00p.m.
Sunday	8.30a.m. 10.30a.m.

Love and Learn in the Footsteps of Christ

Spotlight on RE

Over the next few weeks, the children will be learning about Advent.

Foundation 1	To learn about the story of Christmas
F2	To know that God's greatest gift was to send his son Jesus.
Year 1	Reflect on how we can prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
Year 2	To know about and reflect on God's choice of Mary and Joseph. To know that Advent is a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus.
Year 3	To understand that Advent is a time to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. To think about how we can prepare for Advent.
Year 4	To know that God fulfilled his promise to Mary when Jesus was born.. Reflect on the importance for us of the birth of Jesus.
Year 5	To reflect on the birth of Jesus and how we prepare for it. Make links between the story of Jesus' birth and beliefs about Jesus.
Year 6	Describe and show understanding of some Jesse Tree Bible stories making links between them and how they show God's faithfulness. Make links between the story of the birth of Jesus and beliefs about the type of king he is. Meditating the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.



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Spotlight on PE

Foundation 1	Learning to ride a balance bike.
Foundation 2	Learning to ride a balance bike.
Year 1	Tennis: Learning how to hit a ball. Stay Active Project with Rickmansworth Sports Partnership.
Year 2	To create a dance.
Year 3	Swimming: To practise and refine techniques.
Year 4	Cricket: To develop accuracy skills in throwing and hitting.
Year 5	Athletics: To develop sprint starting and finishing technique.
Year 6	Basketball: developing throwing, catching and dribbling skills.



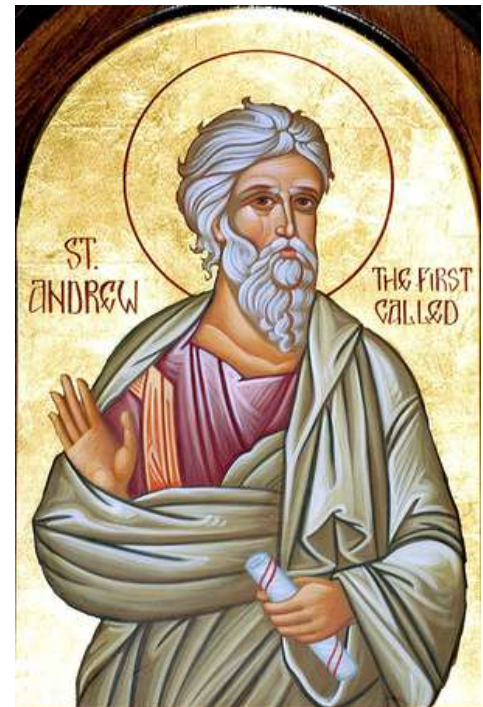
Saint Andrew's Feast Day

The school community celebrated St. Andrew's Day on November 30th by wearing blue, white or tartan. The day was filled with excitement and a sense of Scottish pride as children came dressed in a variety of colourful and creative outfits that showcased their individuality and enthusiasm.

Throughout the day, pupils participated in various activities and learned about the significance of St. Andrew's Day. Teachers incorporated Scottish traditions and culture into their lessons, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for this important day.

The non-uniform day not only allowed students to express their creativity but also served as a reminder of the diverse and inclusive community we have at our school. It was heartwarming to see pupils embracing different cultures and traditions, fostering a sense of unity and respect among peers.

We look forward to more opportunities to celebrate and embrace our school's rich cultural diversity in the future.



RE Newsletter

Please click on the link below to read the December RE Newsletter:
<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

Family Prayer Time

Family prayer time is a great way to come together to pray as a family. Please use our Prayer at Home resource to guide you during this Advent season.



Cricket Festival

The children participated in the Rickmansworth Schools Sports Partnership cricket festival. Their performance was commendable. The children worked diligently and put in a great deal of effort. Their dedication and hard work contributed to their success, securing second place out of ten teams. Their commitment to practising and improving their skills paid off and their performance was a testament to their hard work. Well done, Team!



Well-Being

Click on the link below to find wellbeing tips to support your child emotionally and help them cope with problems they may face.

<https://www.parentkind.org.uk/for-parents/health-and-wellbeing/wellbeing-tips>

Cheerleading Club

The cheerleading club's performance and stunts were truly outstanding. The cheerleader's dedication and hard work were evident in their flawless execution of intricate routines and impressive stunts. Their synchronised movements, high-energy choreography, and impeccable timing captivated the audience and created an electrifying atmosphere during last Friday's assembly. The cheerleading club's commitment to excellence and their unwavering spirit uplifted the entire school community, instilling a sense of pride and enthusiasm. Their remarkable performance not only showcased their talent and skill but also served as an inspiration to their peers. We commend the cheerleading club for their exceptional performance and applaud their contributions to our school's vibrant spirit and sense of unity.



Year 2 Mill Green Mill & Museum Visit

Last week, the Year 2 pupils went on an educational trip to Mill Green Mill and Museum, which perfectly complemented their ongoing history exploration of the Great Fire of London. The highlight of the visit was the opportunity for the children to meet the knowledgeable miller, who graciously demonstrated the inner workings of the water mill. Witnessing the mill in action gave the pupils a firsthand understanding of its significance during the historical period they are studying. Additionally, the children actively participated in a hands-on activity by engaging in the process of bread-making, further immersing themselves in the historical context. This interactive experience not only enriched their understanding of the Great Fire of London but also fostered a deeper appreciation for the practical aspects of history.



Year 1 Local Area



As part of their geography topic, Year 1 had a delightful time exploring the various shops, services, types of houses, and facilities in South Oxhey. This hands-on experience allowed the children to gain a deeper understanding of their local community and its unique characteristics. By immersing themselves in the surroundings, the children were able to observe and learn about the different aspects that make up the vibrant fabric of South Oxhey. This engaging exploration enhanced their geographical knowledge and helped them develop a sense of connection and appreciation for their neighbourhood.

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 those in need.
- Ready to learn
- Secondary Ready

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Admissions

Attention Foundation 1 parents and those seeking a school place for their child in September 2023/4. 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.

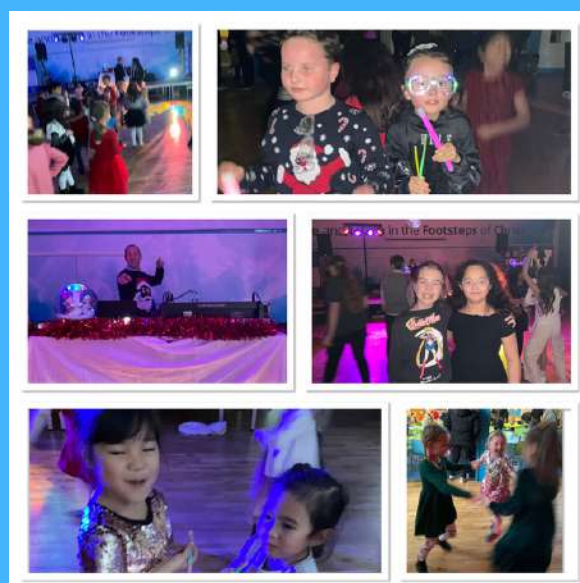
To apply, it is essential that you complete the School's Supplementary Form, which can be obtained from our school's website or the school office. Kindly ensure that all forms are fully filled out and returned to the school office before we can consider your child's admission. In order to complete the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

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

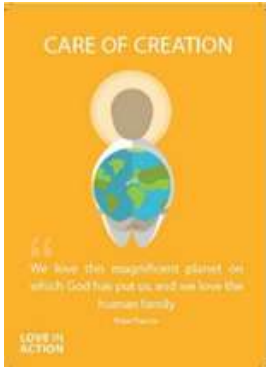
We appreciate your cooperation in providing the necessary documentation for the application process. Should you have any further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

| School Disco

The children had a fabulous time at the disco, thanks to the invaluable assistance provided by the Parent-Friends Association (PFA). The PFA played a crucial role in ensuring the event's success by dedicating their time, effort and resources. The PFA's dedication and hard work truly made the disco a memorable and delightful occasion for all the children involved.



Catholic Social Teaching



Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. It is our moral compass guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world.

Our faith calls us to love God and to love our neighbours in every situation, especially our sisters and brothers living in poverty. Following in the footsteps of Christ, we hope to make the justice, love, and peace of God present in our world.

The Eco Warriors are focusing on the Care of Creation. As Christians, we are called to be good stewards of creation. That means we are meant to look after the world that God created for us. We must all work to leave our world in a better condition for the people who come after us.

The Eco Warriors have demonstrated their dedication to environmental consciousness throughout this term by actively promoting various initiatives. These include a toy swap shop, switching off lights at the end of lessons, organising the Big Tidy Up Campaign and facilitating a Christmas Jumper Swap Shop. These efforts reflect the Eco Warriors' commitment to fostering a sustainable and eco-friendly environment within our school community. Their hard work and innovative ideas have made a positive impact on raising awareness and encouraging responsible actions towards caring for our world.

Eco Warriors Care of Creation



Caretaker Vacancy

Sacred Heart School in Bushey is currently seeking to hire a new caretaker to join their team. This position requires a commitment of 32 ½ hours per week and offers a pay grade of H3. The caretaker's responsibilities will include performing day-to-day maintenance tasks and addressing minor repairs as needed. Additionally, they will be responsible for coordinating with external contractors for any major repair work required and other health and safety checks. Furthermore, the caretaker will be responsible for opening the buildings in the morning and ensuring they are properly locked at the end of the day. If you are interested in this role, please reach out to the school office at 01923 901179 or send an email to admin@sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk. If you would like to chat about the role. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Term Dates

December	Advent
Friday 8 th December	Feast of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass in church at 9.15a.m.
Friday 8th December	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 4
Wednesday 13 th December	Pantomime Trip, <u>Watersmeet Theatre</u>
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day (children may wear a Christmas jumper/teeshirt).
Friday 15th 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.
21st December – 3rd January	End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m. Christmas Holiday – School Closed

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)

Love and Learn in the Footsteps of Christ

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.

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.