

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

July 2008



Our Year 6 children busy making final preparations for their Production, 'Songs From The Musicals'...it should be a real bobby-dazzler!

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Dear Parents,

Once again I sit here writing the final newsletter of the academic year and I ask myself 'Where have the last 10 months gone?' It only seems like a matter of weeks that I was welcoming you all back to school after the Summer break! As always, it has been another marvellous year at St. Joseph's with so much to celebrate on so many fronts. All of our achievements are I feel due to the marvellous partnership that we have and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your continued support throughout the year.

As the Summer holidays approach, we are already looking forward to another great year at St. Joseph's in 2008/9. As you all know, education and schools are moving on apace and it is our duty to ensure that we provide the best possible facilities and education for the children in our care. This means improvements to the fabric of the school building as well as changes in our approach to delivering the curriculum to meet the needs of all our learners.

With this in mind, we are undertaking further building works during the Summer break. Thanks to the acquisition of a grant, all of the playgrounds will be fully re-surfaced and the car park area will also be renovated to provide further parking spaces in a safer environment. In addition to this, the fascia boards all around the school are to be replaced with white UPVC boards to further enhance the look of the school building in which all members of our school community take so much pride.

As well as these physical changes, we will also be implementing changes in the way that we plan and deliver certain curriculum areas to ensure that we take advantage of the various resources available to support teaching and learning throughout the school.

With these thoughts in mind, we look forward excitedly to what promises to be another fabulous year at St. Joseph's.

Of course, we have six weeks to re-charge our batteries...let's hope that Summer finally arrives and decides to 'hang around for a while!' May I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to welcoming you all back safe and well in September.

Happy holidays!!

### Gaelic Football

St. Joseph's Gaelic Football teams continue to go from strength to strength. Recently, the under 12 team and the under 14 team travelled to County Laois for a tournament, and both teams did extremely well. The under 12s reached the final and lost by just a single point in extra-time. The under 14s went one better and won all of their matches, including the final! Congratulations to all of the boys who played and once again a huge thanks to Mr Griffin and his coaching team who have done such a marvellous job in the last few years to establish such a strong group of teams in all age categories. Perhaps we could get Gaelic Football on the Olympic stage for 2012! We'd be happy to host the games here at St. Joseph's!!

### School Dinners

Please note that school dinners as from September 2008 will cost £1.75 per day/£8.75 per week.

### Golf Society

Many thanks to all of those parents and partners who took part in the annual golf day/meal at Nazeing Golf Club last month. A great day was had by all and a lot of money was raised for school. Particular thanks go to Frank Pajak and Noel Deady who put a lot of hard work into making the day such a success. Congratulations to those who won....but remember it's the taking part that counts (it is an Olympic year after all!).

### Kwik Cricket Tournament

A fortnight ago our cricket team took part in the Cheshunt Schools Kwik Cricket Tournament at Cheshunt Cricket Club. Considering the fact that the team had very little practise before the event, they performed superbly. They won both of their group games against St. Clements and Flamstead End and proceeded to the final where they fought valiantly against a very strong Fairfields team. Despite their best efforts, our team eventually lost the final but deserve great praise for making it there on their very first attempt! We expect great things from our team next year!

### Summer Fete

What a marvellous day we had last Saturday for our Summer Fete. Although the weather didn't look too promising earlier in the day, all of those prayers must have worked because we enjoyed a fabulous afternoon of sunshine. A huge vote of thanks goes to those parents on the PFA who give so tirelessly of their time to organise the Summer Fete...and many other events besides. They help to raise so much money for our school which is then used to provide even better facilities for your children at St. Joseph's. Thank you also to all of you who came along and supported their efforts on the day...every penny raised will be put to good use!

### Isle of Wight Residential Trip (30<sup>th</sup> June - 4<sup>th</sup> July)

The children in Year 6 enjoyed a marvellous week away in the Isle of Wight last week. Not only did they have a fabulous week in terms of weather, they also had a wonderful hotel in which to stay and were treated like royalty by the proprietor of the hotel who said that they were an excellent group. As well as educational visits to see the HMS Victory, Carisbrooke Castle, Dinosaur Isle and Osborne House, the children also enjoyed trips to Blankgang Chine for for some fun as well as a Pleasure Cruise around the Needles. As well as this, the children also had the opportunity to see a glass blowing demonstration and were also taken to Alum Bay Sweet Manufactory to see how sweets are made....very tasty! Thank you to Miss Philo, Miss Mehmet and Mrs Baker who accompanied the children on the trip and ensured that they all had a great time and came back to us safe and sound. What a pity they didn't lose Mr Gorton though!!

### Sun Awareness

Although it may not appear to be very relevant this week having looked at the weather forecast, please remember to apply some sun protection cream to your children before they come out to school in the mornings on the days when the weather is likely to be hot. We recommend that children wear baseball caps and that they should be 'school' baseball caps.

### Dance Festival

Some of our girls from Year 4 and year 6 attended a Dance Festival at Turnford School a couple of weeks ago. Both groups performed superbly and were highly commended for their superb performances and impeccable behaviour...well done girls! Thank you to Miss Philo and Miss Young for preparing the girls so well during the last few months, as well as for running the Dance Club throughout the year.

## District Sports

What a fabulous afternoon we had at Picketts Lock on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June for the annual Cheshunt Schools District Sports. There were nine schools competing on the day and this meant that the children had to take part in heats to actually appear in the final. Incredibly, we had a representative in each final...quite an achievement in itself! Not only that, thanks to the superb performance of all of the children in the squad, we once again won the overall trophy....for the fourth consecutive time, I believe (not that we're counting of course!!). Congratulations to all of those children who competed on the day, and to all of those who regularly attended practices but didn't quite make the team...we couldn't have done it without you!!

## Year 6 Production

The children in Year 6 are currently busy preparing for their annual production, which will take place at 7:00pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July. The theme of the Production is "Songs from the Musicals" and it promises to be an evening to remember!

## Leavers Mass

The Year 6 Leavers Mass will take place at 7:30pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July. All Year 6 parents are of course invited to the celebration but we ask that siblings are not brought along since we feel that this should be a special event solely for the leavers themselves. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

## Infant Trip to the Seaside

The children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 will be going on a trip to Walton-on-the-Naze on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July. This is always a fabulous day and both children and adults alike look forward to the outing. Let's keep our fingers crossed for some of that rather rare commodity at the moment...sunshine!!

### Bicycle Coding Day

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July, the children in Years 5 and 6 have been asked to bring their bicycles into school to have them secretly coded by Cheshunt Police to help to trace their bicycles if they are stolen...and this does happen....just ask Mr Gorton! The bicycles will have a sticker attached to say that they have been coded and hopefully this will act as a deterrent to a possible thief. The bicycle's chassis number will also be added to the police database to help in their return if they are stolen. We are hoping that this coding will happen on a regular basis in the years to come. Children should bring their bicycles into school on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> and place them behind the extension. The children will need to know their postcode for the coding to take place.

### End of Term

We will celebrate an end of term Mass on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 9:15am in the school hall. You are all welcome to attend as we reflect on another wonderful year at St. Joseph's.  
Could I also take this opportunity to remind you that school closes at 2:00pm on this day.

### Year 2 Visit to the Fire Station

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June, Year 2 visited Cheshunt Fire Station. All of the children had a great time and came to appreciate more fully what a wonderful job our fire-fighters do on a day-to-day basis.

### Open Evening

It was wonderful to see so many parents at our Open Evening this week. This was a marvellous opportunity to celebrate another splendid year at St. Joseph's and it was lovely to hear so many of your positive and supportive comments to the staff on the evening. We feel that we are a great team here at St. Joseph's, and you, the parent body, are a vital element of our team. Thank you once again for your continued support.

### Visiting Teacher

On behalf of the children in Years 5 and 6, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Hywel Jones from St. Mary's (Bishops Stortford) for the marvellous work that he has done at St. Joseph's during the last two terms. On a fortnightly basis, Mr Jones has taught History in Years 5 and 6 and has given the children a taste of what historical research is like in secondary school. I know that the children really enjoyed Mr Jones' lessons and they produced some outstanding work in a variety of forms.

### School Council Presentation to the Governing Body

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July, the School Council will give their annual presentation to the Governing Body. This is an opportunity for the School Council to inform the Governing Body of their achievements throughout the year and it is an occasion that all of the governors really look forward to.

### Image Theatre Group

A couple of weeks ago, the children enjoyed another marvellous performance by the Image Theatre Group. It was wonderful to see the children participating so whole-heartedly in the performance...I'm sure you heard all about it when they got home!!

### Library Books/Sports Kit

As the end of term approaches, could you please make sure that all library books and sports kit is returned to school before the end of this week.

### District Sports Team Photograph

There will be a District Sports Team photograph taken on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July. These photographs will be available to purchase before the end of term.

### School Council Fruit Ice Cream Week

Congratulations to the School Council who ran a very successful Ice Cream Week two weeks ago. Lots of money was raised for the School Council and next years newly appointed councillors will have the opportunity to invest this money wisely as they take up their positions in September.

### Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day on 27<sup>th</sup> June was a great success! All of the children deserve great praise for their efforts on the day...nobody gave up and all of the races were very competitive...especially the Mums and Dads races!! Many thanks to all of you who were able to attend on the day.

### **Term Dates Summer Term 2008**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July - Last day of Summer Term - School closes at 2pm

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July - School closed for INSET day**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - School closed for Occasional Day**

### **Academic Year 2008/9 Autumn Term 2008**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September - School closed for INSET Day**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - School closed for INSET Day**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - First day of Autumn Term

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Last day of Autumn term

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October - School closes at normal time for Half Term

Half Term - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October

Return - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November