

St. Joseph's Catholic School
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Dear Parents,

What an action packed month it has been since the last newsletter. The season of Advent is always an interesting time to be in a primary school. We have had the joy of seeing and hearing our young children prepare for Christmas and the coming of Jesus.

Our Year 6 children took responsibility for leading the 'Advent Assembly' this year and decorating our school Christmas tree. It was a very moving assembly and one that I feel prepares the whole school for the coming of Christmas. With the hall and tree all decorated, it was time for our Foundation Stage children to produce a wonderful interpretation of the Nativity story. The children were absolutely wonderful on both days. They performed for local elderly residents on the Monday and to parents and friends on the Tuesday. It was a truly magical performance and we certainly knew that Christmas had arrived at St. Joseph's!

Carol Singing (Years 5 and 6)

A fortnight ago, our Year 5 children went carol singing to King Arthur Court Day Centre in Cheshunt where they gave a splendid rendition of many of their songs from their forthcoming Christmas Production. They also sang outside 'Adams' in Waltham Cross on Friday 12th December to help to raise money for a children's charity. Not to be outdone on the carolling front, Year 6 have been involved in two carol singing events in the local community recently. On Friday 5th December they sang at the Pavillion Shopping Centre before moving onto Emmanuel Lodge to perform a variety of carols for the senior citizens there. Well done to all of the children in years 5 and 6 for bringing a little festive cheer to the local community.

Epiphany Mass

Although we are still awaiting Christmas, our thoughts are already looking ahead to the New Year, and in particular our Mass to celebrate the beginning of a new term. This will be a special 'Epiphany' Mass and will be on Friday 9th January 2009 and will begin at 9:15am in the School Hall. All parents are warmly invited to attend.

Astronomy Roadshow Planetarium

On Wednesday 28th January the 'Astronomy Roadshow Planetarium' will be visiting school. A huge 7.5 metre Planetarium will be erected in the School Hall for the day and all classes will have the opportunity to visit the Planetarium and see a 'show' pertinent to their age group. You will receive further details about this *cosmic* event at the start of next term.

Year 6 Mass

Year 6's class Mass will take place on Tuesday 13th January 2009 at 2:45pm in the School Hall. All Year 6 parents are warmly invited to attend.

Nursery Parties

These took place on Monday 15th December. All of the children had a super time with lots of fun and food.....not to mention a special visit from Santa himself!

Term Dates

Please see our website for term dates (www.stjosephsherts.org.uk)

Festive Cheer!

Our year 6 children will continue our Carol singing tradition in the School Garden. On Thursday 18th December they will be singing a host of carols—traditional and modern from 3:00p.m. onwards. The School Council will be selling cups of hot chocolate to parents and friends to help them to stay warm!!! Please join us in the School Garden for what promises to be a very festive gathering!

Year 5 Production

We look forward to ending our term with the Year 5 Production on Tuesday 16th December at 7:00pm in the School Hall. The children have been practising very hard and I am sure we have a real treat in store. Can I just take this opportunity to further remind parents of children in Year 5 that no younger siblings are permitted to this event. Please make alternative arrangements for this evening.

Orchestra Assembly

Recently, we were treated to a wonderful musical assembly at which our orchestra performed a variety of pieces that they have been working on in recent weeks. It is wonderful to see our children developing their musical talents in this way and a huge debt of thanks go to Miss Gunn and Mr Kinton for their tireless efforts in helping these children develop their musical talents. Well done everyone!

Sporting News

Due to the nights 'drawing in', Netball and Football Practices have been suspended until the beginning of next term. These practices will recommence on the following dates:

Netball—Tuesday 13th January

Football—Thursday 15th January

Each of the above practices will finish at 4:30pm.

Details of other Sports Clubs taking place in the Spring Term will be sent out to the relevant classes.

End of Term Mass

This will take place on Friday 19th December at 9:15 a.m. in the School Hall. You are all very welcome to join us at this Mass.

Children to finish early at 2 p.m. on this day

Book Fair

As you know, we had a Book Fair in school last week and many of you took the opportunity to bring your children along after school to purchase a book...or even two! By doing this, not only has your child directly benefited by having a lovely new book to read, but the school also benefits since we are able to obtain free books in relation to the amount of money spent to put into our school library. Hence, all of the children at St. Joseph's benefit from your generosity...so a 'double' thanks to those of you who spent money at the Book Fair! In all, thanks to your generosity, we were able to purchase nearly £700 worth of books for our library!

ICT—School Website

We are currently endeavouring to populate all areas of our newly designed school website. In future weeks, we will be adding examples of children's work, photographs of various displays and events and up-to-date events, calendars etc. Please keep visiting the website in the weeks to come to see how the content is gradually increasing. Just in case you've forgotten, the address is:

www.stjosephsherts.org.uk.

If you have any comments on the website or ideas that we could use, please let us know...we are open to ideas!

Gaelic Football

Unfortunately, the Gaelic Football Tournament that our Year 4 children were due to take part in last week was postponed at the last moment due to the weather. This was very disappointing for the children since they were eagerly looking forward to the event for which they had been practising so hard. However, all is not lost since the tournament is set to be rescheduled for next term...when the weather has improved slightly (we hope!). We will keep year 4 parents informed of further developments in relation to this.

A Final Word.....

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all very much for your never ending support during this year. Thank you also for supporting the events organised by the PFA. What a wonderful success the Christmas Fayre was, raising a lot of money for our school!! Your contributions and support to these events allow the school to provide outstanding resources and learning opportunities for your children which we would otherwise not be able to afford. I am sure you would join me in thanking the staff of St. Joseph's for all their achievements this year. In addition to the normal working day, you can appreciate that many extra hours are spent behind the scenes preparing for performances and getting ready for this festive time. This is only possible through the hard work and commitment of a very dedicated team. A very big thank you to them all for what they contribute to St. Joseph's!

On behalf of the Governors, staff and children of St. Joseph's School. I wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas with every best wish for 2009!