

St. Joseph's School January 2009



The day turns bitter.
Snowflakes steal the humid
warmth.

A crisp winter feel.

Rachel Dempsey

St. Joseph's Catholic School

Royal Avenue

Waltham Cross

(01992) 629503

e-mail:admin@stjosephs351.herts.sch.uk

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new term and a very happy New Year to each of you. I hope you all had a very enjoyable Christmas, celebrating the festive season with your families.

It was lovely to see the children come back full of excitement about the special times they had shared during their Christmas holiday. They all look refreshed and ready for a new year and a new term.

I wish you all a very happy New Year and hope 2009 will be a very successful one for your child/children and all at St. Joseph's School.

New Beginnings

We welcome all our new children into Reception this term. I am sure they will settle in quickly and it won't be long before they feel very at home at St. Joseph's.

Dario Boggia

Daniella Derrick

Eloise Firth

Maciej Gawron

David Hudson

Benjamin Ssengo

Wiktorija Lacka

Christian Lobrutto

Elisa Perone

Chloe Conway

Chanelle Donkor

Cristian Nicolini

Christian Gleitzman

Charlotte Jess

Kayleigh Kavanagh

Iris Littleton

Stefano Orsini

Niamh Pymont

We also extend a very warm welcome to all our new children who begin nursery this term. They look really smart in their lovely bright uniform and we are sure they will settle in quickly and be very happy indeed, as valued members of our school community.

Could I please take this opportunity to remind you that it is indeed a new term, a new year and the holidays are over. It is vital that your child/children get to bed at a reasonable hour in order to be alert and ready to give of their best. Each day at St. Joseph's is full of new experiences and opportunities and it is important that our children seize them!!!

Welcome Assembly

The Welcome Assembly for the new children in Reception will take place on Friday 23rd January at 9:10a.m. All new Reception parents are welcome to attend, along with year 6 'Buddy' parents.

Year 5 Trip

Earlier this month our Year 5 children enjoyed a very informative (if a wee bit chilly!) trip to the Thames Barrier in London. Such trips and the educational experiences that they provide are a great source of motivation to our young learners and are of immense value. Many thanks to those adults who accompanied the children on the day and made the trip such a success.

Year 4 'Winter' Production

This will take place on Monday 2nd February at 7p.m. in the School Hall. We look forward to a wonderful evening—the children have already started to prepare for the event and it promises to be a wonderful evening. Please note that no younger children are permitted to these evening performances so please make alternative arrangements for them so you will not be disappointed on the night. We look forward to seeing you there.

Wednesday 25th February - Ash Wednesday

We will be having a Prayer Service in the school hall at 9:15a.m. when the children will be given their ashes. You are all very welcome to join us. Please remember that each child will be given their charity collection box for the 'Westminster Catholic Children's Society' for the season of Lent. We ask for these boxes to be returned as full as possible by Monday 30^h March.

Book Fair

We have another Book Fair in school beginning on Thursday 5th February and running until February 12th. As usual, the Book Fair will be open after school for half an hour every day and the children will also be given the opportunity to visit with their classes on designated days at lunch-time.

As you may know, the more books that you buy, the more books that we receive to supplement the books that we already have in our school library. The Book Fair will be open during lunchtimes for specific classes (the children will be informed of 'their day' closer to the event) and after school every day. As you well know, reading is so important in ensuring that your child reaches their full potential in all areas of the curriculum... and of course it's great fun too!! We look forward to seeing you during the course of the week...feel free to pop in more than once if you like... you could pick up a bargain...or even two!!

Parent Consultations

You will receive your child's annual report on Friday 20th March 2009. Following this, you will have the opportunity to discuss the report with the class teacher on Friday 27th March. These consultations will follow the usual procedure and appointments can be made in the usual way from Friday 20th March 2009

We have decided to hold these in the School Hall again for a number of reasons. At the last Parent Consultations in the autumn term, we were very unhappy with the behaviour of a number of children, especially in the hall. Parents went into classes for their meetings and children were left unsupervised in the hall and around the school. As well as this, when held in the classrooms, some of the consultations over-ran considerably, thus causing many parents to have to wait a long time for their appointment. This will not be allowed to happen in the hall since we will be operating a buzzer system so that all appointments are of an equal length.

Sports Update

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Netball and Football Practices began again this week as follows:

Netball—Tuesday

Football—Thursday

Each of the above run between 3:40pm and 4:20pm and parents should ensure that their children are collected promptly at the end of each practice.

We look forward to our Netball and Football teams continuing with the successes that they enjoyed last term...maybe even a trophy or two...or three!!!

Planetarium Visit

On Wednesday 28th January 2009 we have booked a visit from the Astronomy Roadshow Planetarium. This is a superb facility which allows the children to visit a planetarium in the comfort of their own school hall....no travel expenses!! Each class will enjoy a 'show' specifically tailored to their age range and I'm sure that all of the children will thoroughly enjoy their time in the planetarium. Many thanks to those of you who have already sent in your £1 towards the cost of the planetarium. As you were informed in a letter last week, we are also holding a 'Space' Mufti day to make this day extra special. Could you please ensure that the required money is sent in by Wednesday (21st January 2009).

Year 6 Class Mass

Thank you to all of those parents who helped Year 6 to celebrate their Class Mass on Tuesday 13th January 2009 in the School Hall. The theme of the Mass was 'Journeys' which is our current RE topic.

Year 5 Prayer Service

Year 5 will be celebrating their Prayer Service on Tuesday 27th January at 3pm in the School Hall. All Year 5 parents are warmly invited to this celebration.

Term Dates Academic Year 2009/2010

Spring Term 2009

Friday 13th February - school closes normal time for Half Term

Monday 16th Feb. - Friday 20th Feb. - Half Term

Monday 23rd Feb - return to school

Friday 3rd April - last day of term - school closes 2.00pm

Summer Term 2009

Tuesday 20th April - first day Summer term

Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday - school closed

Thursday 21st May - school closes normal time for Half Term

Friday 22nd May - INSET day

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May - Half Term

Monday 1st June 2009 - return to school

Friday 17th July - last day of term - school closes 2.00pm

Monday 20th July - INSET day - school closed

Tuesday 21st July - Occasional day - school closed

Autumn Term 2009

Wednesday 2nd September school closed for INSET day

Thursday 3rd September—First day of Autumn Term

Friday 23rd October—school closed for INSET day

Thursday 22nd October—school closes normal time for half term

Half Term—Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October

Friday 18th December—last day of the Autumn Term

School Mural

As you may know, we are very lucky to have our very own 'artist in residence' - Mrs Marilyn Andretti — who works with us on a regular basis on a variety of projects. At present, Mrs Andretti is putting the finishing touches to a beautiful butterfly mural that she has been working on with children from Year 5. The finished work of art (and it is truly spectacular!) will soon be on display for you all to enjoy.

School Chalet

An exciting new addition to our grounds will soon appear on the school field...a wonderful chalet...complete with its very own veranda! This will be a multi-purpose additional 'room' which will be used for a variety of lessons/group activities as well as being available for the children to enjoy at break-times.

Dinner Information

If you wish your child to change from packed lunch to school dinners (or vice versa) could you please give the school office six weeks notice so that the change can be processed by Shire Catering. No changes will be allowed to take place without this notice.

School Council

Our School Council continue to work very hard to represent all of the pupils at St. Joseph's. Just before Christmas, using some of the money that they raised last term, the School Council presented all of the classes with a variety of toys and games to supplement those that they already have for wet break-times and Golden Time. There are lots more activities and events planned for this term and the School Council will keep you informed of these in due course.

School Choir

In the near future, we will be holding auditions for our new School Choir. Any children interested should return the required form to the School Office by the stated date and they will then receive notification of the audition times and dates. As places are limited, only those with a serious interest should apply.