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Dear Parents,

I hope you all enjoyed a lovely Easter Break with your children. We are now back into the final term of the School Year—where does the time go? What lovely weather we are having at the moment—giving us the opportunity to use our beautiful school grounds to greater effect!

The Summer Term is always a very busy one and so I am including some dates for May and June so you can get them into your diaries early!!!

I hope those mums and grans who turned up for their 'Mother's Day afternoon tea' enjoyed being waited on by our boys and girls. It was a nice afternoon and I hope you had a nice 'Mother's Day' to follow!!

#### Year 5 'Pyjama Mufti Day'

Last Wednesday we enjoyed a wonderful Mufti Day organised by a group of children in Year 5. The theme of the day was 'pyjamas'....and I'm sure that this was a relief to you all...not too much preparation required! In total, £226 was raised which will go to UNICEF to support various projects in Papua New Guinea. Congratulations to those children who organised the event and publicised it so effectively. Well done one and all!

#### Easter Breakfast

Last Friday the children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 enjoyed a marvellous Easter Breakfast celebration in which they gave thanks for the wonder of the risen Jesus at Easter. The children looked splendid in the Easter bonnets and they certainly enjoyed the festivities. Many thanks to all of those people who played some part in organising the event and helping it to run so smoothly. Thank you to all of you who were able to attend and share in the lovely celebration.

### Year 4 'Loft' Visit

On Monday 11th/Tuesday 12th May, many children from Year 4 are going on a one night residential visit to 'The Loft' at the SPEC Centre, London Colney. This will be a marvellous opportunity for reflection and team-building and the children will have a wonderful time, I'm sure. In our next newsletter we will ask a few of the Y4 children to tell you exactly what they did during their visit....I can't wait to hear all about it!

### Voucher Schemes!

As you know, at present we are currently collecting vouchers from both Tescos and Sainsburys. We have already received thousands of vouchers for both schemes and will be able to acquire lots of new and exciting equipment for our children to use and enjoy. As the old saying goes....'Spend! Spend! Spend! And then send, send, send!!'

### Polling Day—School Closure

Please note that school will be closed on Thursday 4th June since the school is being used as a Polling Station for European and Local Council elections.

In addition to this, Bank Holiday Monday is on Monday 4th May 2009. Please remember that we are open on Friday 1st May as usual.

### Year 2 Production

The children in Year 2 are currently working incredibly hard on their forthcoming production based on a variety of classic fairy-tales and The Wizard of Oz....quite a combination. The production will take place on Friday 1st May at 2pm and all Year 2 parents are warmly invited to attend what promises to be a spectacular event!

### District Sports

You will have received a letter last week concerning this year's District Sports practices which begin this week. The practices will take place between 3:40pm—4:20pm on Tuesdays (Y5/6) and Thursdays (Y3/4). Please encourage your children to attend these practices...they are a great way to keep fit and have fun with their classmates! A date for your diary is Wednesday 17th June when the District Sports will take place at Picketts Lock.

### Lenten Collections

As always, the annual Lenten collection for the Westminster Catholic Children's Society was very well supported and Mrs Aylott has been very busy (even more so than usual!) in the last few weeks counting all of those coins that were crammed into the boxes. This is a marvellous way to encourage our children to think about those less fortunate than themselves and do a little something to help them.

### Summer Uniform

It is lovely to see the children back in their Summer uniforms...let us hope that we have a summer to do them justice.

However, there are a couple of things that I would like to remind you about concerning summer uniform. Firstly, boys should not wear high-necked T-shirts under their polo shirts. Vests are fine but the T-shirts do make their uniforms look rather untidy. Secondly, no white plimsolls are permitted, only the regulation black. Girls can wear white shoes or sandals (which can be open-toed) but white trainers are not permitted. In addition to this, can I please remind you that only stud earrings are allowed for the girls, no loops or hoops.

### Finance Committee

This week, an exciting new initiative has begun in school with a group of Year 5 children. One of our parents, Mrs Bonsignore, is working with the children on a finance project related to the School Growing Club and School Garden. This is an initiative sponsored by HSBC whereby the children get the opportunity to work with a trained professional in relation to managing finances for a particular project. The committee has been allocated a sum of money to invest in various projects related to the Growing Club and the School Garden and they have to record their outlay and income so as to make a profit (a substantial one we hope!!) which will be put into future ventures. This is a great opportunity for these children (and the school in general) and we thank Mrs Bonsignore for her help and support in the coming months.

### Key Stage 1 SATs

Many thanks to those parents who attended the Key Stage 1 SATs meeting last Friday. I'm sure that all of those present found the meeting both informative and reassuring. Thanks also to Miss Vouniotis for preparing the meeting and answering those 'tricky' questions!

### Key Stage 2 SATS

The Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) for Key Stage 2 take place between Monday 11th May and Friday 15th May 2009. The children have been working really hard in recent weeks in the lead up to the tests and we wish them all the best of luck...you can only do your best, children. Could all Y6 parents ensure that the children get lots of rest and sleep in the coming weeks to ensure that they are in 'tip-top' form for the week of the tests. Optional SATs for Years 3-5 will take place during the following week.

### School Trips

There were several school trips last month. Year 6 were involved in a trip to RAF Hendon which was enjoyed by all. Year 4 made a trip to the Roald Dahl Museum and later in the month Reception and morning Nursery went to 'Willows Farm'. In addition to this, Year 2 went exploring to Capel Manor and Year 1 went to the Toy Museum at Bethnal Green. These wonderful opportunities afford our children a marvellous chance to take their learning outside of the classroom and actually 'bring it to life'.

### Orchestra Assembly

Today we enjoyed another marvellous Orchestra Assembly in the School Hall. These assemblies afford us the opportunity to enjoy the plethora of musical talents within our school and they are a splendid way of encouraging other children to take up an instrument and enjoy the satisfaction that musicianship can bring. Many thanks to Miss Gunn and Mr Kinton who continue to give of their time and talents so freely to nurture the children's musical talents.

### School Field/Garden After School

Could I take this opportunity to remind parents that children are not permitted in the school garden or on the school field after school has ended unless they are taking part in practices. Your children are not supervised during this time and we ask parents to make sure they remain with you at all times. Please remember that the garden and field are strictly out of bounds at this time.

### Class Charities

This term, each class will be running a charity event to raise money for a variety of good causes. Each class has been given a designated charity/ day and has decided on a venture to raise money for their particular cause. This Friday (1st May) Y4 will be holding a Cake Sale in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Society so send in your children with some money to buy a yummy cake at break! Look out for various posters and letters advertising these events in the coming months.

### Growing Club

Our Year 4 'Growing Club' is going exceptionally well...indeed, the fruits (or should that be vegetables?!) of their labours are already evident for all to see in the raised beds adjacent to the Junior playground. Many thanks to Mrs Baker, Mrs Aylott and Lee (our visiting 'expert!') who work with the children on a weekly basis to help them plant the various crops and nurture them. As mentioned previously, towards the end of the summer term the harvested vegetables will be entered into a competition to be staged in Cedars park involving 14 other local primary schools. What a great day this promises to be!!

### School Garden

Spring has sprung and Summer is now threatening to 'put in an appearance' at the moment! This of course means that our thoughts once again turn to our fabulous School Garden and the joys that it holds....one of those being its maintenance!! With this in mind, we will be holding a gardening morning on Sunday 17th May (9am—12 noon)...all volunteers more than welcome...and no expertise required...just barrow-loads of enthusiasm!!!

## Sports Update

Now that the football and netball seasons are over, we turn our attention to other sports and sporting events. As mentioned earlier, District Sports practices are now running on a weekly basis, but in addition to this there are also other sports clubs taking place as follows:

Speed Stacks (Years 5 and 6)

Gym Club (Year 5)

Cricket Club (Years 5 and 6—day TBC)

A couple of dates for you diary are as follows:

Wednesday 13th May—Y5/6 Cross Country Event

Wednesday 20th May—Tag Rugby Tournament

Wednesday 3rd June—Y5/6 Kwik Cricket Tournament

If your child is selected for any of the above events, you will be notified by letter as usual.

Those children in Year 6 not involved in the Kwik Cricket Tournament will participate in an 'Afternoon of Sport' at St. Mary's (Bishop Stortford). Year 6 parents will receive a letter confirming details closer to the time.

## Website Reminder!

Just a reminder that the school website's new URL is [www.stjosephsherts.org.uk](http://www.stjosephsherts.org.uk). Please visit and give us some feedback!

## Walk To School Week

This term's 'Walk To School' Week takes place between 18th—22nd May 2009. The theme for this term's event is 'Walk n' Talk' and focuses on the benefits of walking to school with friends. All children will receive a leaflet to read with parents, a sticker and a diary. There is also a poetry competition running in the lead up to 'Walk To School Week' and your child will be given more information about this by their class teacher.

## Term Dates Academic Year 2009/2010

### **Summer Term 2009**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May - Bank Holiday - school closed  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May - school closes normal time for Half Term  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - INSET day**  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Half Term  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009 - return to school  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June—Polling Day—School Closed  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July - last day of term - school closes 2.00pm  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July - INSET day - school closed**  
**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 closes at 2p.m.on this day.**

