

St. Joseph's Catholic School

July 2009



Our 'International Day' was a marvellous success....in fact it was magnifique!

Isle of Wight Residential Trip

A couple of weeks ago, Year 6 enjoyed a marvellous week in the Isle of Wight. The sun shone all week and the children visited a wide variety of attractions including Blackgang Chine, Osborne House, Carisbrooke Castle, Godshill Model Village and Dinosaur Isle (to name but a few!!) Those of you who attended Open Evening last week would have seen the photographs of their marvellous week away on various boards around the school. It was very pleasing to hear that the children were commended on their behaviour on many occasions throughout the week, especially by the hotel proprietors, Don and Caroline, who said they would love to welcome parties from St. Joseph's in the future. Well done, Year 6! Particular thanks go to Mrs Kinton for giving up her time and supporting Miss Puccio and Mr Gorton on the trip.

Foundation Stage Parent Consultations

Thank you to those parents who attended the Foundation Stage Parent Consultations a fortnight ago. I'm sure that you found the consultations very informative and were pleased with the reports that you received about your children.

New Classes

Tomorrow, the children will all meet with their new teachers (and Teaching Assistants) for next year. As always, I'm sure that the children are all very excited about meeting their new teachers (and the teachers likewise, I'm sure!!) and I know that they will all settle quickly into their new classes in September and have another very successful year!

School Profile

The School Profile for 2008/09 is now available to view on the school website at www.stjosephsherts.org.uk.

Dear Parents,

The last week of the academic year is here...can you believe it?! With just a few days of the Summer term left there still appears a lot of work to do!!

Of course, with the end of another school year, our thoughts turn to those children who will be leaving us at the end of this week as they set out on the next phase of their educational journey in their respective secondary schools. We wish them much success in their future endeavours.

As well as saying farewell to our Year 6 leavers we also say goodbye to two members of staff. Miss Spence, who has enjoyed a successful and rewarding year at St. Joseph's, is leaving due to re-location. We thank Miss Spence for the wonderful work that she has done with her Year 4 Class this year and wish her all the best in her future career. We also say goodbye to Mrs Fenlon who is moving on to pastures new. We thank her for all she too has contributed to St. Joseph's during her time with us.

Year 2 Charity Day

Last Friday year 2 held their charity ice-cream sale...and what a success it was! Overall, Year 2 raised over £130....that's quite a few ice-creams! Thanks to Mrs Angelides for organising the event and to all the other members of staff for their help in serving the masses!!

Scooters/Bicycles

For health and safety reasons, scooters/bicycles are not allowed to be ridden on school premises. If your child scooters/rides to school, they must wheel/push their scooter/bike onto the school premises. In addition to this, dogs are not permitted on school premises.

Gardening Club Day

On Sunday 5th July our Year 4 children (and lots of parents too!) attended a 'Farmer's Market' at Cedars Park as part of a Growing Club' initiative organised through Cheshunt Extended Schools (CHEXS). The children displayed the vegetables that they have been growing for the last three months as well as some of the crafts that they have been involved in making. The day was a great success and we came place 3rd place overall and received a special prize for our onions!! A huge vote of thanks to Mrs Baker, Mrs Aylott and Lee Barnett for helping the children every week as they cultivated their crops.

Infant Seaside Trip

On Tuesday 7th July the Infants enjoyed a splendid day out at Walton-on-the-Naze. Despite rain and thunderstorms at home, the children enjoyed a blissful day in the sunshine...well...at least until it started raining!! But not to worry...we all had an ice-cream and all was well with the world!!

Open Evening/Y3 Summer Production

On Thursday 9th July, we celebrated our annual Summer Open Evening. This was a wonderful occasion and the school looked quite superb thanks to the hard work of all of the teachers and their classes throughout the course of the year. The evening was made even more enjoyable by Year 3 who presented their own interpretation of the musical Grease...and what a great job they did! Grease certainly was the word! Thank you to Miss Todd for preparing the children so well and to Miss Gunn and Mrs Puntrello for their marvellous support.

End of Term Mass

There will be Mass on Friday 17th July starting at 9:15am in the School Hall to celebrate the end of another wonderful term/year at St. Joseph's. You are all very welcome to attend.

Music Assembly

This morning, we were treated to another super Music Assembly. These assemblies are a real celebration of the talents of our musicians and the audience certainly showed their appreciation of the efforts of all those concerned. Thank you to all of our peripatetic Music teachers (and Mr Kinton) for developing the children's musical talents.

Image Musical Theatre

On Friday 10th July the children enjoyed a marvellous performance of 'Wind In The Willows' by the Image Musical Theatre Group. As always, it was a marvellous afternoon's entertainment and the children were entranced throughout the performance. It is a joy to be able to provide our children with treats like this as a means of thanking them for all of their hard work throughout the course of the year.

Pupil Presentation To Governors

On Thursday 16th July a group of our pupils will give a short presentation to the Governing Body about the various achievements of the student body in terms of the various fund-raising events that have been held this year. This is always a very 'proud' evening for our Governors who see how our children are encouraged to achieve economic well-being as well as supporting other children less fortunate than themselves.

Roald Dahl Museum Visit (Year 3)

On Wednesday 15th July Year 3 will be visiting the Roald Dahl Museum. This promises to be an excellent trip....and we know this because Year 4 went a few months ago and said that they had such a fantastic time that they felt Year 3 would love it too!!

School Summer Fete

Last Saturday saw yet another very successful Summer Fete at St. Joseph's! People turned out in force to support the school and everyone that attended appeared to be having a marvellous time. Thank you to the PFA for organising the event so effectively and to all of the classes in the school who contributed to the Fete through their various stalls/activities. This Summer Fete is always such an enjoyable day and isn't it great to think that so much money is raised for our children whilst having a great time too!

Photography

As the Summer Term draws to a close with many productions and celebrations, can we just take this final opportunity to remind Parents that at St. Joseph's we do not allow the use of cameras or camcorders at any school events such as assemblies and class masses. However, during the course of the school year the children may be photographed to record their achievements in a variety of school activities. These may be class based activities or extra-curricular activities. These photographs are for school use only, either to form part of a display or for a school magazine or brochure. If you have any objections to your child being photographed in this way, please contact the main office.

Learning Platforms Meeting

Thank you to those parents who attended the Learning Platforms meeting last week. I'm sure those of you who attended found it very informative and cannot wait until we roll out the Learning Platform to you in September. More information about this exciting new initiative will follow in due course. Thank you also to Kate Eckland for providing us with support during the last two terms as we have been 'setting up' our Learning Platform.

Sports Day

On Thursday 2nd July we held our annual Sports Day with Infants competing in the morning and Juniors in the afternoon. Due to the heat we decided not to allow the children to watch each other's Sports Day but this did not detract from their enjoyment I'm sure...and kept them cool! Both events were a great success, and thanks to a great team effort on behalf of all of the staff, both were completed in just over an hour...a world record!! Thank you to all of those parents who attended to support the children...and a special thanks to those parents who took part in the Parent's Race...probably the most hotly contested events of the day!!

Y6/Reception Teddy Bear's Picnic

This afternoon, the buddies in Year 6 and Reception had a 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' to celebrate the end of their year together. Whilst this is the end of their year together at school, I'm sure that many of the friendships forged during the course of the year will continue long after the Year 6 children move onto their secondary schools.

Nature Trail

As I'm sure you have noticed, we are currently in the throes of constructing an addition to the School Garden in the form of a seasonal Nature Trail. We are being supported in this by the Probation Services and would like to extend our thanks to Dawn Lally for co-ordinating the project. We anticipate that the Nature Trail will be fully operational in September and will provide our children with the opportunity to enjoy some 'quiet time' during break times and lunch times as well as holding a wealth of educational opportunities for teachers to exploit.

International Day

What a fabulous day we had at St. Joseph's on Friday 3rd July as we celebrated our International Day. The day had a French theme and started off superbly with a lovely assembly by Year 5. This was followed by a variety of activities throughout the course of the day including food tasting, working with Euros and Key Stage 2 classes visiting Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 to share some French stories and songs with the younger children. At the end of the day, many parents also came along to share in some French 'delicacies' and get a real flavour of our special day....please excuse the pun! A word of thanks goes to Miss Spence for organising the day and making it such a success. Thank you also to those students from St Mary's (Bishops Stortford) and Mrs Jones who supported us on the day.

Year 5 Brighton Trip

On Monday 29th June Year 5 visited Brighton on a Geography field trip in relation to the topic on Contrasting Localities. The children had a wonderful time and had real 'hands-on' experience of a bustling seaside town in the glorious sunshine!

Saracens Healthy Schools Day

On Tuesday 7th July the children took part in a Healthy Schools Day organised by Saracens Rugby Club. A member of the Saracens squad was in school all day and the children were treated to a very entertaining assembly followed by an hours coaching. Despite the showers, the children had a marvellous time and learnt a great deal too. Thank you to Saracens for their support and also to Miss Puccio for organising the day's events.

Year 3 Production

The Year 3 production will be performed again on Thursday 16th July 2009 in the school hall. All parents are welcome to attend.

Sports News

Our cricket team have been in action recently...and have been performing very well too! A couple of weeks ago they defeated Millbrook School in a League match and are currently awaiting confirmation of their final fixture of the season...which will hopefully be a final!!!

Our Cross Country team were involved in the Cheshunt Schools Cross Country Event at Cheshunt school last Wednesday. All of the runners performed very well and the boys were just pipped at the post for the team event despite Luigi Palumbo finishing first, Zachary Ntim in fourth and William Winslow eighth! Unlucky, boys!

Leavers' Mass

The Mass for our Year 6 children will take place on Tuesday 14th July, commencing at 7:00pm. In order to make this a very special occasion for them and their parents, we ask that no siblings or younger children attend this Mass.

Routine Hearing Test In School

As part of the School Health Service, the Paediatric Audiology Team makes an annual visit to the school to test the children's hearing.

This visit will take place on Tuesday 15th September 2009.

This involves all new children to the school from Year 1 upwards since the last visit, all Year 6 children, and any other referrals. The children will be asked to play a listening game whilst wearing headphones. If you do not wish your child to participate, please

inform us in writing stating your child's name and date of birth along with your reason for not wishing your child to be tested.

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2009

Wednesday 2nd September – School closed for INSET Day

Thursday 3rd September – First day of Autumn Term

Friday 18th December – Last day of Autumn term - school closes at 2:00pm

Friday 23rd October – school closes at normal time for Half Term

Half Term – Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

Return – Monday 2nd November 2009

Spring Term 2010

Monday 4th January – INSET Day – school closed

Tuesday 5th January – first day of Spring Term

Friday 12th February – school closes normal time for Half Term

Monday 15th Feb. – Friday 19th Feb. – Half Term

Monday 22nd February 2010 – return to school

Thursday 1st April – last day of Term - school closes at 2.00pm

Summer Term 2010

Monday 19th April – first day Summer Term

Monday 3rd May – Bank Holiday – school closed

Friday 28th May – school closes normal time for Half Term

Monday 7th June 2010 – INSET Day – school closed

Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2010 – Half Term

Tuesday 8th June 2010 – return to school

Wednesday 21st July 2010 – last day of Term – school closes 2.00pm

Thursday 22nd July 2010 – INSET Day – school closed

Friday 23rd July 2010 – Occasional Day – school closed

One more INSET Day to be confirmed