

# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

September 2009



Some of our new Reception children looking resplendent in their lovely new uniforms!

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to this new school year and a new term. I hope you all had a great holiday and a very enjoyable summer with your children. It is lovely to see all the children back, enthusiastic and excited as they settle into their new classes and meet their new teachers. We extend a warm welcome to our new parents and children this term. We hope it won't be long before they feel very much a part of our school. We also welcome our new Year 4 teacher, Miss Clark, to St. Joseph's. We hope she too will soon feel very settled into our school community.

Although we normally associate the summer holidays with being a quiet time, it has been a very busy one at St. Joseph's. Just before the end of the Summer Term we received some super news - we had achieved the ICT Mark! This is a national award that recognises St. Joseph's School as demonstrating commitment to continual improvement through ICT.

It was a wonderful reward for all the work that has been carried out in the past few years to promote ICT learning in the school and resource it to such a high standard. Congratulations must go to Mr Gorton for all his hard work and dedication in making this possible. Other members of the ICT team include Miss Puccio, Miss Memhet and Mrs Angelides. We thank them too for all their contributions to the award.

In light of this wonderful achievement it was decided to further advance ICT resourcing by creating 'Techno Bases' in Years 4, 5 and 6. These would replace the existing large stock cupboards. The work

began at the beginning of the summer holidays and now we have super areas for children to work in during class time. As well as having designated ICT areas in communal areas throughout the school, it is wonderful to bring ICT into the classroom in this fashion, enabling the children to access all of the available applications without having to leave the classroom.

And so, with many new and exciting things happening, we embrace another term. We hope that it will be a rewarding one for all our staff and pupils. We ask God for his guidance and strength as we begin a new academic year with all the joys and challenges it brings.

We also welcome our new Reception children.

Timi Adedipe

Marco Avanzato

Daniel Bonsignore

Sofia Cipullo

Oliver Czerwinski

James Fuller

Lewis Gilliam

Andrieca Salerno

Tom Uvalic

Alexia Yianni

Amari Allen

Donatella Blunt-Vyse

Shay Carey

Isabella Cooper

Luke Dawson

Mia-bella Galea

James Hayes

Matthew Tran

Billy Woodhall

They all look so smart in their new uniform and we hope they settle in very quickly indeed.

### Secondary Transfer

Can I please take this opportunity to remind Year 6 parents that applications for Secondary School places need to be completed by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009

## Eco Schools

This year, we are working towards gaining 'Eco Schools' accreditation. With eco-sustainability and protecting the environment being so prevalent in the news nowadays, we feel that it is vitally important that we 'do our bit' at St. Joseph's to protect the world and help to prevent unnecessary damage to our global environment. Miss Aherne is taking a lead role in this and has already made contact with a leading figure on this issue, Mr. Phillip Williams, who will be visiting us in the coming weeks to deliver an 'Eco' assembly and conduct an 'Eco Audit' of St. Joseph's. We will keep you informed of future developments regarding this exciting and very important venture.

In relation to this, there will be a 'Recycling' assembly for the whole school on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September which will be delivered by a member of Broxbourne Borough Council's Education Department.

## Special Visit - Danny Lawrence

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September we are very lucky to have a member of the British National Gymnastics Team, Danny Lawrence, visiting us and working with our children. Danny will deliver an assembly to the whole school and then work with groups of children on various activities. This will form part of a sponsored event and Miss Puccio will provide you with more details in a separate letter. We look forward to a fun-filled and rewarding day!

## Year 5 Trip

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October, year 5 will be visiting the Thames Barrier in relation to their geography topic on Water. This is the third consecutive year that this trip has taken place which tells you how successful it has been in previous years. We are sure that the children will have a marvellous day out...and learn a thing or two as well!!

## Dinner Money

The dinner money from this term is £1.80 per day which equates to £9:00 per week.

Bills will be sent on a half-termly basis since many parents since many parents find it beneficial to pay like this. Alternatively, you may choose to pay weekly or monthly.

## Traffic Congestion at school gates!

Could I please remind you that parking is **NOT** permitted in front of the school gate? This is extremely dangerous, especially if any emergency was to occur in school. Could I please urge you to park further down the road and not block access to the school at any time. It is important that we show consideration to our neighbours in Trinity Lane and Royal Avenue. Thank you for your help with this issue. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents that parking in the school car park during drop off and pick up is strictly prohibited.

## Absences

The Law (Education Regulations 1981) allows the school to grant leave of absence for a maximum of two weeks for a child to take part in an annual family holiday. Parents need to request this permission and the school can refuse to give its approval.

In general, holidays during term time disrupt your child's education and they inevitably miss part of the curriculum which will not be repeated. For these reasons, we ask you to think seriously before committing yourself to a holiday during term time. Please put all requests for approval of an absence in writing, prior to the absence taking place, using the official request form available from the school office.

## Uniform

Our children have started the term looking really smart. Thank you again for presenting them so well. We (you) are always commended by neighbours and visitors on the smartness of our children in their uniforms. I know you as parents appreciate this too. It is essential that clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name, and that your child also realises that he/she must be responsible for his/her own clothes.

Can I just take this opportunity to remind all parents that children are not permitted to wear jewellery other than stud earrings. Wrist bands and friendship bracelets are not allowed to be worn. Nail polish and hair gel is not an accessory to the school uniform. I would also ask that all hair bands and bows are in school colours.

Our uniform policy and dress code request that pupils do not come into school with hairstyles such as lines, zigzags and colourings.

After our numerous successes on the sporting front last year, we are all keen, both children and teachers alike to limber up for another year of sporting endeavour! Hopefully, we will enjoy a few more weeks of glorious sunshine before those autumnal chills start to creep up on us! When the weather does become a little colder the children will be allowed to bring in a pair of plain black tracksuit trousers for PE to keep out the worst of a typical English winter.

Can I just remind you that PE is an integral part of the National Curriculum and at St. Joseph's it has always been viewed as one of the most important subjects of the curriculum since it promotes so many positive values to our young people. In light of this, if your child is unable to take part in a PE lesson for any reason it is vital that you inform the class teacher of this with a note on the day of the PE lesson that is going to be missed. Similarly, we will inform you if your child misses a PE lesson for any reason since we are sure that you are fully supportive of our stance on this issue.

## Medical Matters

As this is the beginning of the school year could all parents please complete the medical forms that have been sent out (blue sheets). It is of vital importance that these are completed and sent back so that we have the necessary information in the case of an emergency.

Recently we have found it difficult to contact parents when the need has arisen. Mobile phone numbers have not been updated or illegible on forms. Could we please ask that you notify the school office if there are any changes in phone numbers.

Could we please remind all parents that due to school policy staff or children cannot administer any medication during school time apart from the epi-pen in an emergency and inhalers.

## More Gardening Success!

We were delighted to receive success in the London Children's Flower Society for our green fingers! The school was awarded two gold medals, one for the cultivation of a School Garden and the other for growing summer flowers, herbs and vegetables.

Our garden continues to go from strength to strength. You may also have noticed our new 'Four Seasons Trail' in the area surrounding the school garden. We are currently in the process of developing this area trying to create a real 'Secret Garden' effect.

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October there will be another 'Gardening Morning' when the committee meet to plan and organise future developments as well as tidying up the garden and other beds before winter well and truly sets in! Whilst we have a core group of 7 or 8 people who regularly attend these mornings and help to maintain the garden, it would of course be wonderful to welcome new 'members! No gardening expertise is required...just wheelbarrow loads of enthusiasm and buckets of energy!! As the old adage goes...'Many hands make light work! If you are able to spare an hour or two on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October between 9:00am and 12: 30 pm you would be more than welcome! Refreshments provided!!

## Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations for the Autumn term will take place on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October from 1:30pm - 4:00pm and then from 5:00pm - 7:00pm. You will be able to book a slot for these consultations in the usual fashion from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

Please note that school will close at 1:00pm on this day.

The class teachers really welcome this opportunity to discuss your child's progress at this early stage in the year and we find that these 'discussions' are mutually beneficial. Due to the nature of these consultations it is important that the time slots are adhered to and we ask for your co-operation in this matter. If you feel that you would like a little more time to discuss an issue that may arise, could you please make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher at a mutually agreed later date.

## Events for the Term:

You will be receiving a comprehensive list of events for the term shortly so that you can fill up those calendars and diaries.

Although the term has barely begun we are thinking ahead to all the wonderful things that will be happening this year.

We have decided to spread the celebrations throughout the year so that all year groups get the chance to celebrate at different times. Some initial dates are as follows:

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Foundation Stage Production

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Year 3 and 4 Production

We are sure that you will want to participate in the event being staged by your child/children and we look forward to seeing you at them.

## After School Clubs

This term, as well as the usual sports clubs available, there are a couple of additional clubs beginning to cater for other skills and aptitudes. You will have received letters concerning these clubs already and those children wishing to participate in clubs for which there are limited spaces will receive notification of their involvement at the beginning of next week.

As the term/year progresses, other clubs will also take place and existing clubs will be offered to different year groups as appropriate.

### Tuesday

Netball (Y6) - 3:35 - 4:15/4:30 (depending on daylight)

### Wednesday

Art Club (KS1) - 3:45 - 4:45

Cookery Club (Y5) - 3:45 - 5:00

### Thursday

Football (Y5/6) - 3:35 - 4:15/30 (depending on daylight)

Gymnastics (Y1-Y6) - 3:40 - 4:30

Many thanks to the staff for giving of their time so freely to organise and run these clubs for the benefit of our children.

May I ask you to ensure that you collect your child promptly at the end of each club/session since the staff have work to do after these clubs finish and should not have to wait with children who have not been collected on time.

## School Profile 2008/9

The School Profile for last year (2008/9) is now available to view on the school website ([www.stjosephsherts.org.uk](http://www.stjosephsherts.org.uk)). If any parent would like a hard copy please ask at the school office.

### Beginning of Term Mass

We had a beginning of term mass on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September. We apologise for not notifying parents in time that this was taking place. It was lovely that some of you did hear of it through word of mouth. Thank you for being a part of the celebration. We will ensure that all future celebrations are well advertised.

### Welcome Assembly

We will have a special assembly to welcome our new reception children into school. This will take place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 9:15a.m. Their Year 6 'Buddies' will have the opportunity to introduce their new child to all the other children and welcome them into our school community. We hope you can attend this assembly.

We also hope that our new Nursery children will be very happy and enjoy the wonderful opportunities afforded by our Nursery.

### Theatre Visit

On Tuesday, children from Years 5 and 6 visited the Apollo Theatre in London to see the highly acclaimed production of the children's classic novel, 'Carrie's War'. The production was marvellous, as indeed were our children, and I know that they all thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to completing some work based on what they saw in future Literacy lessons.

### Governor Morning

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September our Governing Body will have a full morning visit to our school. It will be an opportunity for our Governors to see the school 'in operation' rather than 'childless' which is often the case due to early morning/evening meetings. As well as this, the Governors will be able to talk with members of staff concerning various curriculum areas for which they are responsible. We are truly blessed to have such a proactive and skilled Governing Body and thank them all for their hard work and dedication in striving to make St. Joseph's an even better school than it already is...and that is quite a challenge!

## Term Dates

### Autumn Term 2009

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – School closed for INSET Day

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – First day of Autumn Term

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

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – school closes at 1:00pm for Half Term

Half Term – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Return – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009

### Spring Term 2010

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January – INSET Day – school closed

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – first day of Spring Term

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February – school closes normal time for Half Term

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. – Half Term

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 – return to school

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April – last day of Term - school closes at 2.00pm

### Summer Term 2010

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April – first day Summer Term

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Bank Holiday – school closed

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May – school closes normal time for Half Term

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010 – INSET Day – school closed

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2010 – Half Term

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010 – return to school

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010 – last day of Term – school closes 2.00pm

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010 – INSET Day – school closed

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2010 – Occasional Day – school closed

One more INSET Day to be confirmed



After the success of being the first primary school in Hertfordshire to achieve the FMSIS award, our Governors look forward to another marvellous year at St. Joseph's. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful Governing Body!