

# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

October 2009



Our children were completely mesmerised by the performance that gymnast Danny Lawrence put on at the school recently.

## 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

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
Royal Avenue  
Waltham Cross  
(01992) 629503  
e-mail: [admin@stjosephs351.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjosephs351.herts.sch.uk)  
[www.stjosephsherts.org.uk](http://www.stjosephsherts.org.uk)

Dear Parents,

October is upon us already and it really feels like the 'Autumn Term' now! Life at St. Joseph's is always exciting and this term has begun with a bang!

We have had so much happen in this first half of the term. Danny Lawrence, Team UK Gymnast, visited our school and worked with all the classes as well as performing an amazing routine himself for all the children to enjoy. We have had police officers visit to talk about 'Stranger Danger' , Talks to Years 5 and 6 on the dangers of drugs, Sainsbury's visiting to talk about Road Safety to name but a few! It has just been a hectic but exciting few weeks.

I look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming parent consultations and wish you all a happy half-term break.

### Governor Morning/Welcome Assembly

A couple of weeks ago we held a Governor Morning at St. Joseph's whereby members of the Governing Body visited the school to see it 'in action' rather than late in the evening when all of the children have gone home. It was a marvellous morning for them to visit since our 'Welcome' Assembly for the Y6/Reception buddies took place and the Governors were thrilled to see our newest 'recruits' welcomed into our school community. After this, the Governors met our newly appointed Class Reps and our Year 6 Banking Committee who explained their roles and responsibilities. To conclude the morning the Governors toured the school and saw a variety of lessons/activities with which they were truly impressed. We are truly blessed to have such a supportive Governing Body

and thank them for their ceaseless hard work and dedication to St. Joseph's.

### Eco- Council

Our Year 5 Eco-Council, lead by Miss Aherne is now fully operational and their weekly meetings are providing us with plenty of 'food for thought' in relation to how we at St. Joseph's can help to protect our planet and make it safe for future generations. This is a really special venture and the children are rising admirably to the challenge of making St. Joseph's as green as we can possibly be!!

### Phillip Williams

In relation to our Eco Council, we had a visitor to school last month to help us conduct a whole school 'Eco-audit'. Mr Phillip Williams worked with children in Year 5 to provide us with a very interesting overview of how 'eco-friendly' St. Joseph's is. Whilst we did very well overall, we realise that we can do even more to help our planet...and rest assured that we will be in the weeks and months to come!

### PSCHE Week

A fortnight ago we held our termly PSCHE Week throughout the school. All classes undertook a range of Literacy based activities related to the topic 'Knowing Me' and the teachers were very pleased with the work that the children completed during the week.

### Garden Morning

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October we held a Gardening Morning to help prepare the School Garden for the forthcoming winter months. As always, this was a very rewarding and enjoyable morning for those involved, although it is rather disappointing that we do not appear to have any 'fresh' volunteers coming forward to help. Our School Garden is a wonderful feature of our school and thanks to the dedication of a few members of the school community it is a haven for our children to enjoy. In addition to the garden, we now also have a Nature Walk for the children to use at break-times, and lots of hard work has gone into preparing this feature. Whilst

the Nature Walk is still in its infancy, our School Garden is a testament to what can be achieved over a period of time.

### School Bank

Thanks to the sterling (excuse the pun!!) work of Mrs Bonsignore and Mrs Angelides, our School Bank is now fully operational and the children in Years 5 and 6 are in the process of opening accounts. The 'staff' of the bank had to undergo a rigorous interview and subsequent training to ensure that they could cope with the demands of the various roles that they now undertake. What a marvellous opportunity this is for our children to develop such life skills and appreciate the need for economic well-being in the future. Many thanks to HSBC, and particularly Mrs Bonsignore, for helping this project to come to fruition.

### PFA update

We look forward to the Christmas Fayre on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November from 1pm to 3pm. The children will be running little craft stalls and lots of exciting things are planned including, I'm sure, a visit to Fr. Christmas himself!!! The PFA AGM is now on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 7:30pm. You are all very welcome to attend and show your support for the hard work and efforts that are so beneficial to our children and their school.

### **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.

## Book Week

This week we are holding a Book Week at school. Miss Todd and Mrs Angelides began the week with a lovely assembly and during the course of the week the children have been undertaking a variety of book-related activities in class during Literacy lessons.

## PE

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.

## 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.

### Class Visits

Several classes have been making the most of the last of the summer sunshine in recent weeks as they have been on class visits. Year 4 enjoyed a magical 'Tudor' day at Hampton Court, Year 3 had a wonderful day out in London as they visited Westminster Abbey and the London Aquarium (and had a lovely walk over the River Thames!), and last Friday, Year 5 enjoyed a bracing (but educational!) day at the Thames Barrier. Next week, Year 6 are off to enjoy a day at Kew Gardens to support work being done in Science and Literacy...hopefully they will send us a card!!

### PCSO Visit

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October two Police Officers visited St. Joseph's....but don't worry...we had invited them!! Each class had a session in the school hall in which they were told a little bit about the role of the police in our community and how important it is for us all to ensure that we are aware of what to do in certain situations. The children thoroughly enjoyed the talks and the officers were full of praise for how well the children responded to the sessions and how well they behaved...model citizens!!



### School Photographer

The school photographer will be visiting school on the morning of Thursday 5th November to take individual and family group photographs. We ask that your child/children come to school looking very smart on that day as they usually do.

### The Presence of Black People in Britain Display

During the fortnight after half-term we have been fortunate enough to secure a wonderful display from the Schools Library Service on the theme of 'The Presence of Black People in Britain'. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the significant contribution that the black population have made to our country in the last 200 years and each class will have the opportunity to visit the display during the fortnight and complete some follow up work in class.

In addition to this, Year 6 will present their class assembly on this theme on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

### Anti-Bullying Week

This year's Anti-Bullying Week takes place between Monday 16th November and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November. The theme for this week is 'Cyberbullying' and the aims of the campaign are to:

- ✓ Encourage schools to tackle cyberbullying and help children understand what it is and how to stop it.
- ✓ Highlight the general issue of bullying and how to prevent it.

At St. Joseph's we have zero tolerance of bullying in any shape or form and we fully support the Anti-Bullying Week initiative and will use this week to focus on the above issues at an appropriate level.

### Walk to School Week

Last week, you received information regarding 'Walk to School Week', a Local Authority initiative which we always embrace since it contains so many positive messages, including health and fitness and eco-sustainability. Well done to all of those children who took part in any shape or form...you and the environment will reap the rewards of your efforts!

### Asian Dance Workshop

On Tuesday 6th October we held an Asian Dance Workshop in School. All of the classes had an invigorating session of Asian dance in the school hall and great fun was had by all! It is marvellous for us to be able to celebrate the wonderful range of cultures which are evident in our increasingly multi-cultural society and we feel that experiences like this are exceptionally valuable.

### Sports Update

Last week our 7-a-side football team took part in a tournament at Burleigh School. Considering that this was their first 'outing' our boys from Years 5 and 6 performed very well. A victory over Millbrook meant that, despite losing to Fairfields and St. Clements, the team progressed to the semi-final of the Plate Competition where they lost 3-0 to Burleigh 'A'. What made their achievement all the more commendable was the fact that the team was composed largely of Year 5 boys due to the small number of boys in Year 6...clearly our 'youth policy' will pay dividends next season...or even this!! We will notify you of the results of forthcoming fixtures against Hurst Drive and Millbrook in next month's newsletter.

### Sports For Schools

What a wonderful morning we had a couple of weeks ago when Team UK gymnast Danny Lawrence visited us as part of a sponsored event that all the children took part in. Danny is hoping to represent the UK at the next Commonwealth Games in India in 2010 and subsequently at the 2012 Olympics and has promised to return to St. Joseph's to show us his medals if he wins!! As well as being a truly inspirational morning, we...or should I say 'you' managed to raise over £1500, 60% of which goes to the school. Well done, one and all!

### Open Morning for New Parents

This will take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 9:15am in the School Hall.