

St. Joseph's Catholic
Primary School
November 2009

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2009

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

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

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

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Dear Parents,

November already - where does the term go? Before we know it we will be in the full throes of Christmas festivities. I even caught Mr Gorton practising his carols recently in his office - more practise needed I feel... but at least there are another six weeks to go!!!!

This month's newsletter is filled with events and dates for future weeks - so get those diaries out and filled!

Remembrance Service

There will be a remembrance prayer service in the school hall on Thursday 12th November at 3:00p.m. It is at this time we remember all the deceased members of our school community, especially Mr Pickin. We would like to take this opportunity to share our condolences with Mrs Pickin, Joseph and Thomas and the extended family at this very sad time. We also remember in our prayers Sorocchi Ezeakachi, Mr Maguire and Mrs Price Rees. May they all rest in peace.

Sunday 29th November - Christmas Fayre

This year the Christmas Fayre is taking place on Sunday 29th November from 1-3p.m. The PTA have been very busy organising the event and each class have been busy creating some marvellous Christmas treats for you to buy! From recent meetings it appears that this year will be a real bobbydazzler in terms of stalls and entertainment. Such events fund the wonderful resources that benefit our school so much. We look forward to seeing you on the day.

PTA AGM

On Thursday 22nd October the PTA held their annual general meeting. This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the terrific work that the PTA do to raise funds for our children through a whole range of events and activities. Many thanks to the PTA for their dedication and support throughout the year and we wish them continued success in the future, which of course depends on the support of the whole parent body.

Other Faiths Week

This week the children enjoyed a week in which they undertook a variety of lessons on the theme of Judaism and the Jewish Faith. At St. Joseph's we feel that it is vital that we provide our children with a good understanding of other faiths so that they can appreciate the beliefs and traditions of others in the community.

SATS Week

Although we are only in November, I would like to take this opportunity to give you a reminder that the National Curriculum tests for Year 6 are due to take place in the week commencing Monday 10th May 2010. A full timetable will be sent out to Year 6 parents closer to the time of the tests. Of course, it is vital that all Year 6 children are present during the week of the tests, but of equal importance is good attendance in the weeks and months leading up to the week of the tests. It is pleasing to note that many Year 6 children currently have excellent attendance and we hope that this continues throughout the year.

Parent Consultations

It was good to see so many of you at the recent parent consultations. It is important to build up good lines of communication between school and home so that any issues or areas for development are recognised and supported early on. If you missed these meetings then please make an appointment to see the class teacher as soon as possible this term.

End of Term Mass

On Friday 18th December there will be an End of Term Mass in the School Hall at 9:15am which you are all very welcome to attend.

Children to finish early at 2:00pm on this day.

Christmas Post Box

Last year we started a new initiative whereby we asked the children to only use the Christmas Post Box to send cards to their whole class and members of staff and not to individual children since the distribution of cards was becoming increasingly difficult. We would like to continue this approach this year to enable our 'postal staff' to cope with the collation and delivery of cards.....as long as they don't decide to take industrial action! If children wish to send cards to other children individually then this should be done by hand.

Orchestra Assembly

As always, our School Orchestra have been working very hard in the weekly early morning sessions with Mr Kinton and Miss Gunn and we will have the opportunity to see (or should that be hear?!) the fruits of their efforts at a special Orchestra Assembly on Thursday 3rd December at 9:30 am. Parents of those children are invited to attend...as indeed are any other music-loving parents! We look forward to another musical treat from our gifted musicians!

Wednesday 16th December - School Christmas Dinner!

Children will finish early on this day at 2:00pm

Please note that if your child currently takes packed lunch, they can be included in school dinners for this week so that they can have Christmas dinner together.

There will be no afternoon Nursery on this day.

Charity Update

On Friday 27th November, Year 5 will be holding their 'Action Aid' charity fundraising event. Further details of this will follow in due course.

School Bank

Our School Bank is now 'up and running' (to use a financial term!) and is proving a great success with those children who have already opened accounts. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to develop a fuller understanding of the importance of economic well-being and we thank Mrs Bonsignore, Mrs Angelides and our Year 6 Bankers for their hard work in ensuring the smooth running of the St. Joseph's branch of HSBC!

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. If the holiday leave request exceeds three days then you will be asked to meet with myself or Mr Gorton to discuss this.

Book Week

Before half term we celebrated St. Joseph's Book Week. The week began in fine style with a whole school assembly led by Miss Todd and Mrs Angelides with children from various classes sharing their favourite books and characters. During the course of the week all classes undertook a variety of 'book based' activities as part of their Literacy lessons and a great deal of enjoyment was had by all...as well as lots of learning too. In this age of increasingly hi-tech gadgetry, we should not forget the wonder and joy that reading a good book can bring!!

Sport

At present there are a wide variety of after school sports clubs taking place after school for various classes. These include Netball and Football which will now finish at 4:20pm rather than 4:30pm. Both of these teams have several fixtures lined up in the coming weeks and those children who are selected to represent the school will be notified.

Open Morning for New Parents

This took place on Tuesday 3rd November and those prospective (and current!) parents who attended were extremely impressed by what they saw. It is on occasions such as these that we remember what a wonderful school we have, both in terms of the fabulous learning environment and the marvellous children who make St. Joseph's such a special place. A further meeting has been planned for Wednesday 25th November to facilitate parents who were unable to attend. This will take place at 9:15a.m. in the school hall.

Asian Dance Workshop

As mentioned in the October newsletter, our Asian Dance Workshop day was a great success. However, unfortunately we did not receive remuneration for the event in terms of the requested voluntary contributions from parents. The school provides a range of outside guest speakers/theatre groups/music and dance groups but we are unable to fund so many wonderful educational opportunities without the support of parental contributions. As a result of this a future 'African Drumming' Workshop has been cancelled for the time being.

School Photographer

The school photographer was in school last week and took individual and family group portraits of all the children in the school....and he did say that we have the most handsome boys and pretty girls in the whole of Hertfordshire...and probably beyond! The proofs will be sent out to you in the usual packs along with payment details/methods. Please note that all orders must be accompanied by the appropriate payment otherwise the order cannot be processed.

Parking

Unfortunately, parking has once again become a major issue around the school. In recent weeks there have been two 'near miss' incidents reported to the School Office by two parents who had to make emergency stops/take preventative action in order to avoid hitting children who had either ran out into the road or tried to cross in congested areas. Can I please ask all parents to be extremely vigilant about crossing their children over the road, especially at the Trinity Lane entrance. Could all parents who bring their children to school by car ensure that they park only in designated areas. Under no circumstances should children be 'dropped' at the gate in the middle of the road or be left to cross unaccompanied between parked cars.

For the safety of our children, any vehicle seen parked illegally or dangerously will be reported to the police.

Could I also take this opportunity to remind you that, unless by prior appointment, the school car park should not be used by parents.

Class Visits

As you can see from our front/rear cover photographs, our eldest pupils have been out enjoying wonderful educational experiences in London in recent weeks...despite the Autumn weather! Well done to all of these children for representing the school so well during their outings.

The Presence of Black People in Britain Display

During the last fortnight the school has housed a large display from the Schools Library Service on the theme of 'The Presence of Black People in Britain'. This has been a marvellous opportunity for our children, especially those in Key Stage 2 to celebrate the contribution made by these people to the UK in the last 200 years in a wide variety of areas. This will culminate in Year 6's Class assembly next week (Friday 20th November).

Advent Assembly

We will be having an assembly to mark the beginning of the Advent season. This will take place on Tuesday 1st December at 9:15a.m. in the School Hall. Year 6 will be leading this assembly by dressing our Christmas Tree. All parents are welcome to attend this assembly.

Year 6 Trip - Young Mariners Base

On Friday 13th November Year 6 are going to the Young Mariners base in Cheshunt for the annual 'Crucial Crew' event. This is always a highly enjoyable and extremely beneficial morning during which the children are presented with a variety of scenarios and activities aimed at developing their citizenship skills and enabling them to make appropriate choices in later life.

Fire Service

Recently, the Fire Service paid a visit to the school to talk to the children in the Foundation Stage about the importance of Fire safety/prevention. As well as learning a great deal about how to prevent fires and what to do in the event of a fire, the children also got the opportunity to actually go on the Fire Engine itself...what a treat! A return visit for the children in Years 1 and 2 is planned for next Monday. Thank you to Mrs Reynolds for organising these visits.

