

St. Joseph's Catholic
Primary School

December 2009



May this Advent season be a special one as we all
prepare fully to celebrate the true meaning of
Christmas.

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

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

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Dear Parents,

Can you believe it...Christmas is now just a matter of days away...and there is still so much to do/happen as you will see from this newsletter!

It is incredible to think that another year has passed and we are now looking forward to 2010....was it really 10 years ago that we celebrated the Millennium?! Since time appears to be flying, all that it can mean is that we are all having so much fun!

Of course, whilst we have been busily preparing for Christmas in school, it is important to remember that as well as singing carols, putting on productions and having parties, we should also be preparing in our hearts and minds to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. This is something that I feel we (both in school and at home) do very well at St. Joseph's.

On looking through the children's RE books it is a joy to behold the wonderful work that all classes have been doing on their 'Preparations' topic in recent weeks. The true meaning of Advent is clear for all to see in the children's thoughts and reflections in their books and their work is a credit to both themselves and their teachers who prepare such marvellous activities for them to undertake during their RE lessons.

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.

Orchestra Assembly

As always, our School Orchestra did themselves extremely proud last Thursday when they performed for the whole school and their parents. Their achievements are a testament both to the hard work and dedication of Miss Gunn and Mr Kinton as well as their own talents.

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 at a cost of £1.80 for the day 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 held their 'Action Aid' charity fundraising event. A variety of chocolate delicacies were on offer and as you can imagine, there was a very long queue in the corridor outside the Resources Room during break-times!

Nursery Parties

These will take place on Thursday 17th December. I'm sure that all of the children will have a super time with lots of fun and food.....not to mention a special visit from Santa himself!

Open Morning for New Parents

Our second Open Morning for new parents took place on Wednesday 25th November and once again, 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.

ICT Open Evening

At 7:00pm on Thursday 21st January 2010 we are holding an ICT Open Evening in school to celebrate the award of the ICT Mark which we received in July 2009. As well as having the opportunity to see ICT in action in various areas around the school, we also have a guest speaker from Hertfordshire's ICT Advisory Team, Mrs Sarah Meadows, who will be giving a talk on Internet Safety and the use of ICT in schools. This should be a wonderful evening and we hope that as many of you as possible can join us to celebrate...and learn!

And Finally!

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all very much for your never ending support during this year. Thank you also for supporting the events organised by the PTA. What a wonderful success the Christmas Fayre was again, raising a considerable amount of money for our children. Your contributions and support for these events allow the school to provide outstanding resources and learning opportunities for your children which we would otherwise not be able to afford.

I am sure you would join me in thanking the staff of St. Joseph's for all their achievements this year. In addition to the normal working day, you can appreciate that many extra hours are spent behind the scenes preparing for performances and getting ready for this festive time. This is only possible through the hard work and commitment of a very dedicated team. A very big thank you to them all for what they contribute to St. Joseph's!

On behalf of the Governors, staff and children of St. Joseph's School, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas with every best wish for 2010!

Sports Update

Our Netball and Football teams have been busy in recent weeks and despite making a losing start to the season, both teams showed great promise and displayed excellent sportsmanship. The Netball team lost narrowly to both Millbrook School and Brookland School, 3-1 and 2-0 respectively. Similarly, the football team lost their first fixture 4-2 to Millbrook and subsequently lost 3-1 to St. Clements after going 1-0 up.

Due to ever shortening days, Netball and Football practices will not take place in the final week of term. Practices will resume in the second week of the Spring term as follows:

Netball - Tuesday 12th January 2010

Football - Thursday 14th January 2010

Green Day

On Wednesday 2nd December we held a 'Green Day' in school which was organised by Miss Aherne and the Eco-Council. The day began in tremendous fashion with a wonderful assembly which highlighted a variety of 'green' issues that the Eco-Council have been working on. The 'green' theme was followed up in class with children in different year groups undertaking various tasks related to global sustainability. Themed days such as this are a fabulous opportunity to extend the curriculum and provide our children with an insight into a variety of issues currently affecting our world. Thank you to Miss Aherne and the Eco-Council for their marvellous work during the last few months...I am sure that they will be rewarded with their 'Bronze Accreditation' shortly!

Nursery Parent Consultations

These will take place on Friday 11th December between 1:00pm and 7:00pm. Appointments can be made in the usual way from Monday 7th December.

Carol Singing

On Wednesday 9th December a group of children from Y5 will be visiting King Arthur Court Day Centre to sing carols for the elderly. Year 6 will also be helping to get us in the festive spirit on Friday 11th December when they do a 'double-header'! At 1:30pm they will be singing in the Pavilions Shopping Centre (outside WHSmiths) in Waltham Cross and your support would be greatly appreciated if you are doing a spot of Christmas shopping on the day. Following this, they will be whisked off to Emmanuel Lodge in Cheshunt to sing for the residents there. This link with our local community has been in place for many years now and both the children and the senior citizens alike derive a great deal of enjoyment from sharing the carols. Many thanks to Mr Kinton for his support on 'St. Joseph's Carols Tour 2009'!

School Bank

Our School Bank continues to go from strength to strength. Every week we are welcoming new customers...soon, we may have to extend our banking hours...or even open another branch!! Many thanks to our Year 6 bankers and Mrs Angelides and Mrs Bonsignore for their continued support...your work is a real 'investment' in our future workforce!

Foundation Stage Production

The Foundation Stage Christmas production took place on Tuesday 8th December at 2:00pm in the School Hall, and what a treat we were given by the youngest members of our school community. The children told the story of Christmas beautifully and they spoke out and sang with such confidence and clarity. Of course, such productions do not just 'materialise', and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Foundation Stage team (and Miss Gunn!) for their wonderful work in preparing the children so well in the last few weeks. Well done one and all!

Year 3/4 Production

The Year 3/4 Christmas Production takes place on Tuesday 15th December at 7:00pm in the school hall. May I please take this opportunity to remind you that no siblings who attend St. Joseph's are allowed to attend this performance.

Epiphany Mass

Although we are still awaiting Christmas, our thoughts are already looking ahead to the New Year, and in particular our Mass to celebrate the beginning of a new term. This will be a special 'Epiphany' Mass and will be on Friday 8th January 2010 and will begin at 9:15am in the School Hall. All parents are warmly invited to attend.

Festive Cheer!

Our Year 6 children will continue our Carol singing tradition in the School Garden. On Thursday 17th December they will be singing a host of carols—traditional and modern from 3:00pm onwards. The Eco-Council will be selling cups of hot chocolate to parents and friends to help them to stay warm!!! Please join us in the School Garden for what promises to be a very festive gathering...weather permitting!!

Parking Reminder

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.

Advent Assembly

On Tuesday 1st December we held an Advent assembly to mark the beginning of this very important season in the Church's year. It was wonderful to see so many parents at the assembly and as always, the children were beautifully behaved throughout.

Application Reminder

All applications for admission into the Nursery for 2010/2011 must be made by 11th December 2009. Applications for entry into Reception for 2010/2011 must be made by 29th January 2010. Any applications made after these dates will be considered as late.

Fire Service

On Wednesday 2nd December, the Fire Service paid a return visit to the school to talk to the children in Years 1 and 2 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! Thank you to Mrs Reynolds for organising these visits.

Remembrance Service

It was lovely to see so many of you attend our 'Remembrance' service last month. During this very reflective service, the children and adults present were given the opportunity to remember and pray for deceased friends and relatives as well as remembering the victims of various conflicts and wars.

Y2 Visit to the War Memorial

Recently, the children in Year 2 have had the opportunity to visit the War Memorial in Cheshunt as part of their current History topic. It is vitally important that we make our children aware of the sacrifices that so many people have made in service of their country.



Our Foundation Stage children from Nursery and Reception treated us all to a 'Christmas Sing Song' to really get us in the festive spirit.