

St. Joseph's Catholic
Primary School
January 2010



Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.....
and it certainly did!!!

Term Dates

Spring Term 2010

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

Autumn Term dates for
2010 will be printed in the February newsletter

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new term and a very happy New Year to each of you. I hope you all had a very enjoyable Christmas, celebrating the festive season with your families.

It is lovely to see the children come back full of excitement about the special times they had shared during their Christmas holiday. They all look refreshed and ready for a new year and a new term.

I wish you all a very happy New Year and hope 2010 will be a very successful one for your child/children and all at St. Joseph's School.

New Beginnings

We welcome all our new children into Reception this term. I am sure they will settle in quickly and it won't be long before they feel very at home at St. Joseph's.

Tia Charlery
Demi Glynn
David Lavelle
Giovanni Pisaturo
Broghan Tohill
Elliot Warby

Mija Derevianka
Cerys Joyce
Sean Murphy
Lucas Randall
Whitney Udigwe

We also extend a very warm welcome to all our new children who begin nursery this term. They look really smart in their lovely bright uniform and we are sure they will settle in quickly and be very happy indeed, as valued members of our school community.

Could I please take this opportunity to remind you that it is indeed a new term, a new year and the holidays are over. It is vital that your child/children get to bed at a reasonable hour in order to be alert and ready to give of their best. Each day at St. Joseph's is full of new experiences and opportunities and it is important that our children seize them!!!

Snow Alert!

As you well know, due to the severe weather that we experienced during the last few weeks the school closed early on Wednesday 6th January and subsequently remained closed for the following two days. Such decisions are not taken lightly and are made with the safety of our children and you, their parents, in mind. The decision to remain closed was I feel fully vindicated due to the extremely cold temperatures on Thursday and Friday which made the surrounding roads and pathways quite treacherous. As you were informed last term, if the school is going to be closed due to severe weather, you can find this information on www.hertsdirect.org and via the school website (www.stjosephsherts.org.uk). In addition to this, if possible, a message will be left on the school's answering machine, but this is only possible if we are aware that the school will be closed the next day before the end of the current school day. However, if you access the aforementioned websites this is the quickest and most efficient way of obtaining the required information.

Welcome Assembly

The Welcome Assembly for the new children in Reception will take place on Friday 29th January at 9:10a.m. All new Reception parents are welcome to attend, along with year 6 'Buddy' parents.

Parish Celebration

Our Parish celebrates the 150th anniversary of the first Mass in Waltham Cross "Mission" (as it was then called) on Saturday 6th February 2010.

Archbishop Vincent Nichols will be coming to join in this celebration. The Mass will be at 6:30p.m. and will be followed by refreshments.

A book giving the history of the Parish over the past 150 years has been published and will be on sale, price £5

A Blessing for the New Year

For this New Year, Lord, I pray:

May your love
Dwell in our hearts,
May your joy
Shine in our minds,

May your peace
Abide in our lives,
In our homes,
In our families,
In our workplace,
Everywhere!

That your kingdom may come
A little closer to us all
And our world will be a better place.

Amen

School Mural

As you may know, we are very lucky to have our very own 'artist in residence' - Mrs Marilyn Andretti — who works with us on a regular basis on a variety of projects. This term Marilyn will be working with some of the classes on exciting new projects for our nature trail. We want it to be fully operational by the Spring so that all the children can enjoy it.

Dinner Information

If you wish your child to change from packed lunch to school dinners (or vice versa) could you please give the school office six weeks notice so that the change can be processed by Herts Catering. No changes will be allowed to take place without this notice.

Sports Clubs

Weather permitting, Netball and Football practices will recommence this week as previously (Netball - Tuesday; Football - Thursday) These clubs will finish at 4:20pm until half-term, and then 4:30pm thereafter. If your child attends these clubs, please ensure that you are prompt in collecting them once the club has finished. If you wish your child to make their own way home, written consent must be sent to the appropriate teacher. Also, if you have arranged for another parent to collect your child, could you also let the class teacher know in advance.

Eco Council

Our eco-council received some very good news before the end of last term. They have been working very hard and were rewarded with a bronze certificate! This is the first step towards achieving 'Green Flag Status', demonstrating that we are a truly eco-friendly school. Congratulations to our 'Eco-Council', and indeed all of Year 5, on their achievement and their continued efforts towards the final accolade!

Internet Awareness Safety Talk

On Thursday 21st January 2010 we will be hosting an Internet Awareness Safety Talk at St. Joseph's between 7:00pm and 8:00pm. Sarah Meadows, a member of the Local Authority advisory team will be delivering the talk which should be of great interest in light of the ever increasing number of Internet based social sites which children can now readily access. The evening is being organised through the CHEXS consortium and I strongly urge as many of you as possible to attend to develop your understanding of the issues related to our children's use of the Internet. If you do wish to attend please complete the flyer that will be coming out later this week and return it to school as soon as possible. This event is open to parents from other schools in the local area and since places are limited I would urge you to return these forms post haste!

School Health

Year 6 children will have height and weight checks carried out on Friday 12th February by the School Health Team.

Reminders!

Just a few reminders as we begin the new year and new term. School starts at 8:50a.m. and all children need to be in the playground at this time to be brought into class by their teacher. Latecomers should report to the School Office where their late mark will be recorded before they go to class. Please remember that, for health and safety reasons, the school gates onto the junior playground are locked promptly at 8:50am.

Also I would like to remind new parents that parking in the school car park is strictly forbidden, unless prior approval has been given for whatever reason. Furthermore, parking at the entrance to the school and in front of our neighbours' driveways is not permitted for obvious reasons.

Finally, may I ask you all to ensure that your children are

appropriately supervised at the end of the school day. They should not be allowed to run around the playground or use any of the equipment available to them at other times of the day, including the chalet, the nature walk, the school garden or the table-tennis table. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Below is a list of celebrations/events for this term.

Friday 22nd January	Year 4 Class Assembly	9:15a.m. in the School Hall
Thursday 4 th February - Thursday 11 th February	Book Week begins	School Hall 3:20p.m. - 4p.m.
Thursday 11th February	Year 5 Class Mass	2:45p.m. - School Hall
Friday 12 th February	Year 3 Class Assembly	9:15a.m. - School Hall
Tuesday 23rd February	Nursery a.m and p.m. Prayer Services	9:15a.m. - Nursery 3:00p.m. - Nursery
Wednesday 24 th February	Open Evening in School to share our progress in ICT	6 p.m. in the School Hall
Tuesday 2 nd March	Reception Prayer Service	3:00p.m. in Reception Class
Friday 12 th March	'Mother's Day' afternoon tea	2:30p.m. in the School Hall
Friday 19th March	Mass to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph	9:15a.m. - School Hall

We are always delighted to see the number of parents who turn up to these celebrations.

During the season of Lent, Fr. John will hear confessions from children in Key Stage 2 who wish to attend. These will take place on Friday 26th February, Friday 5th March and Friday 26th March.

Book Fair

We have another Book Fair in school beginning on Thursday 4th February and running until February 11th. As usual, the Book Fair will be open after school for half an hour every day and the children will also be given the opportunity to visit with their classes on designated days at lunchtime.

As you may know, the more books that you buy, the more books that we receive to supplement the books that we already have in our school library. The Book Fair will be open during lunchtimes for specific classes (the children will be informed of 'their day' closer to the event) and after school every day. As you well know, reading is so important in ensuring that your child reaches their full potential in all areas of the curriculum...and of course it's great fun too!! We look forward to seeing you during the course of the week...feel free to pop in more than once if you like...you could pick up a bargain...or even two!!

Parent Consultations

You will receive your child's annual report on Wednesday 24th March 2010. Following this, you will have the opportunity to discuss the report with the class teacher on Wednesday 31st March. These consultations will follow the usual procedure and appointments can be made in the usual way from Friday 26th March 2010.

These will take place in the School Hall.

Techno Bases

We are delighted that our recently designed 'techno bases' in Years 4, 5 and 6 are now completed and in full use. They are a wonderful addition to our already excellent ICT resources. Such areas allow the children the opportunity to undertake ICT tasks throughout lesson time, in addition to using the ICT suite and the laptops.