

# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

April 2010



Let the resurrection joy lift us from loneliness and  
weakness and despair, to strength and beauty and  
happiness.

Floyd W. Tomkins

## Term Dates

### Summer Term 2010

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

### Autumn Term 2010

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September school closed for INSET Day  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September school closed for INSET Day  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September first day of the Autumn Term  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December last day of the Autumn Term – school closes  
2:00p.m  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October school closes normal time for half term  
(Half Term Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October)  
Return Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010

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,

I hope you all enjoyed a lovely Easter Break with your children. We are now back into the final term of the School Year—where does the time go? What lovely weather we are having at the moment—giving us the opportunity to use our beautiful school grounds to greater effect!

The Summer Term is always a very busy one and so I am including some dates for May and June so you can get them into your diaries early!!!

### Easter Breakfast

Last Tuesday the children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 enjoyed a marvellous Easter Breakfast celebration in which they gave thanks for the wonder of the risen Jesus at Easter. The children looked splendid in their Easter bonnets and they certainly enjoyed the festivities. Many thanks to all of those people who played some part in organising the event and helping it to run so smoothly. Thank you to all of you who were able to attend and share in the lovely celebration.

### Polling Day—School Closure

Please note that school will be closed on Thursday 6th May since the school is being used as a Polling Station for the election. In addition to this, Bank Holiday Monday is on Monday 3rd May 2010.

### Lenten Collections

As always, the annual Lenten collection for the Westminster Catholic Children's Society was very well supported and Mrs Aylott has been very busy (even more so than usual!) in the last few weeks counting all of those coins that were crammed into the boxes. This is a marvellous way to encourage our children to think about those less fortunate than themselves and do a little something to help them.

### Year 4 'Loft' Visit

On Monday 17th/Tuesday 18th May, many children from Year 4 are going on a one night residential visit to 'The Loft' at the SPEC Centre, London Colney. This will be a marvellous opportunity for reflection and team-building and the children will have a wonderful time, I'm sure. In our next newsletter we will ask a few of the Y4 children to tell you exactly what they did during their visit....I can't wait to hear all about it!

### Voucher Schemes!

As you know, at present we are currently collecting vouchers from both Tesco's and Sainsbury's. We continue to receive hundreds of vouchers for both schemes on a daily basis which we will be able to use to acquire lots of new and exciting equipment for our children to use and enjoy. As the old saying goes....'Spend! Spend! Spend!' And then 'Send!! Send!! Send!!'

### Key Stage 1 Production

The children in Years 1 and 2 performed a wonderful production of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. As always, the production was of an exceptionally high standard with all of the children involved...quite a feat for Years 1 and 2!! Many thanks to Miss Corrigan, Mrs Angelides and Miss Gunn for their hard work and creativity in organising such a memorable performance.

### Orchestra Assembly

On the last day in March we enjoyed another marvellous Orchestra Assembly in the School Hall. These assemblies afford us the opportunity to enjoy the plethora of musical talents within our school and they are a splendid way of encouraging other children to take up an instrument and enjoy the satisfaction that musicianship can bring. It was also wonderful to have the School Choir perform a few songs - they were excellent!! Many thanks to Miss Gunn and Mr Kinton who continue to give of their time and talents so freely to nurture the children's musical talents.

### Summer Uniform

It is lovely to see the children back in their Summer uniforms...let us hope that we have a summer to do them justice.

However, there are a couple of things that I would like to remind you about concerning summer uniform. Firstly, boys should not wear high-necked T-shirts under their polo shirts. Vests are fine but the T-shirts do make their uniforms look rather untidy. Secondly, no white plimsolls are permitted, only the regulation black. Girls can wear white shoes or sandals (which can be open-toed) but white trainers are not permitted. In addition to this, can I please remind you that only stud earrings are allowed for the girls, no loops or hoops.

### School Field/Garden After School

Could I take this opportunity to remind parents that children are not permitted in the school garden or on the school field after school has ended unless they are taking part in practices. Your children are not supervised during this time and we ask parents to make sure they remain with you at all times. Please remember that the garden and field are strictly out of bounds at this time.

### Growing Club

Our Year 4 'Growing Club' is progressing very well indeed, and already we have various crops sprouting (please excuse the pun!!) in the raised beds adjacent to the Junior playground. Many thanks to Mrs Baker, Mrs Aylott and Lee (our visiting 'expert'!) who work with the children on a weekly basis to help them plant the various crops and nurture them. As mentioned previously, on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2010 the harvested vegetables will be entered into a competition to be staged in Cedars Park involving other local primary schools. What a great day this promises to be for many reasons!!

### School Garden

Spring has sprung and Summer is now threatening to 'put in an appearance' at the moment! This of course means that our thoughts once again turn to our fabulous School Garden and the joys that it holds....one of those being its maintenance!! With this in mind, we will be holding a gardening morning on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May (9am—12 noon)...all volunteers more than welcome...and no expertise required...just barrow-loads of enthusiasm!!!

### Sports Update

Although the football and netball seasons have now come to an end, we still have plenty to look forward to on the sporting front...and I'm not talking about the World Cup either!! As well as practices for the forthcoming District Sports which are being held at the Picketts Lock Stadium on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010, there are lots of other sporting events taking place in the days and weeks to come. Today, our Year 4 children were involved in a Gaelic Football afternoon with Millbrook School, and I'm sure that a good time was had by all! On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May, a group of runners from Years 5 and 6 will be taking part in the local schools Cross Country event and on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May our Tag Rugby team will scrum down in a tournament being held at Burleigh School...although there are no scrums! We will let you know how both of these teams fared in the May newsletter.

### District Sports

You will have received notification of a slight change of dates for District Sports practices for two classes due to a 'clash' with Tri-Golf for Year 3 on Tuesdays. Just to confirm, the practices will take place on a weekly basis for the next six weeks as follows:

Tuesdays - Years 4 and 6

Thursdays - Years 3 and 5

### Walk To School Week

'Walk To School' Week will take place during the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May. The theme for the event this year is 'Walk Your Way' and focuses on helping children to build up independence and confidence in finding their own way to school. All children will receive a leaflet to read with parents, a sticker and a diary.

### Sports Connections Sponsored Event

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2010, we held a special assembly in school to promote our forthcoming 'Pro Kick Schools Challenge' event. The assembly was led by Junior McDougald, a former professional footballer (once with Spurs no less!!) who explained how the event will help both the school and less privileged children through the 'Coaching For Hope' charity. The event was scheduled to take place next Friday but due to a 'double booking' we have been asked to re-arrange it for Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010. Please remember to make sure that your child brings their sponsorship form with them on the day (if not before!). Further information about the event can be found in the letter sent out on Monday. If for any reason you still haven't received this letter, please call in at the School Office to collect a copy.

### School Nurse

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010, the School Nurse will be visiting to take the heights and weights of the children in the January intake into Reception.

### Easter Egg Hunt

On Friday 23rd April 2010, a group of children from year 6 organised an 'Easter Egg Hunt' for all classes throughout the school. Overall, £35.45 was raised and the children had an 'egg-cellent' time searching for the eggs which had been hidden in some 'cracking' places! Please excuse the bad yolks!!

### Lowewood Museum

On Thursday 22nd April 2010, Mr Neil Robbins and Mr Peter Wells from the Lowewood Museum in Broxbourne visited St. Joseph's to discuss an art project that the school will be involved in during the coming weeks. This involves some of our children working on a large mural which, when completed, will take pride of place in Cedars Park. It is really exciting to be involved in community projects such as this and those children who are involved in creating the mural will be able to 'show off' their creation to future generations as they enjoy days out in the park!

### Charles Walker Visit

Today, we were privileged to welcome back Mr Charles Walker to St. Joseph's for the second time in a matter of weeks. As you well know, this is an exceptionally busy time for Mr Walker (see Polling Day - School Closure!!) but he was keen to make room in his hectic schedule to come in to see our most recent Key Stage 2 communal displays which focus on the four main political parties and parliament in the lead up to the General Election on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Mr Walker heard about the displays whilst visiting households in the local area as part of his election campaign and rang school the very next day to ask if he could come along to see the work that the children had been doing. I'm sure that Mr Walker liked all of the displays equally....I'm sure that this is the politically correct thing to do!! We extend a sincere thanks to Mr Walker for his interest and it goes without saying that we look forward to him visiting our school in the future...in whatever capacity!

### Year 5 Performing Arts Day

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010, the children in Year 5 will be visiting St. Mary's (Bishop's Stortford) to take part in a 'Performing Arts Day'. These days are always great fun and also provide the children with the opportunity to experience the atmosphere of a secondary school at first hand.

### Key Stage 2 SATs

The SATs tests for children in Year 6 will take place from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010. This will involve a variety of tests in Mathematics and Literacy. There are no tests for Science this year. All of the children have been working extremely hard in preparation for these tests and we wish them all of the luck that they deserve (not that they will need any of course!!) during the course of the week. Can I please remind Year 6 parents how important it is for the children to be in school to sit the tests that week. And of course, as well as lots of revision...they also need lots of sleep so that they are at their 'freshest' when undertaking the tests!

### Date Reminders

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May - Year 1 Prayer Service (3:00pm)

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May - Year 2 Assembly (9:15am)

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May - Whole School Mass in honour of Mary (TBC)

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May - Nursery Assembly (9:15am)

- Year 6 Action Aid Day
- End of Half Term (school re-opens on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010)



Hopefully, the Easter Bunny visited you all during the holidays!!