

# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

May 2010



Our new Nature Trail provides our children with the perfect place to sit and chat with their friends.

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Dear Parents,

With the welcome arrival of the warmer weather (and hopefully it will remain with us for some time!) the children now have the opportunity to enjoy some of their learning outside the confines of the classroom. It is super to see the children enjoy the wonderful areas around the school. Our garden and nature trail are very popular places, and together with the chalet, the children have lovely places to enjoy being with their friends. In addition to this, I'm sure that you will notice the work that has been taking place in the Foundation Stage this week. The area outside the Reception class has been cleared and a new safer surface laid, several dead/dying trees have been removed and a large castle is currently being built on top of a large mound which will take pride of place in a newly extended Foundation Stage area. These further improvements to our school grounds can only serve to provide our children with an even more extensive educational experience. We look forward to a very productive few weeks towards the end of term. There are many events happening at this time of year and we hope to keep you informed of them all!

### Holy Communion

We are happy to see our Year 3 children celebrate their First Holy Communion this month. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers at this time as we know these occasions are very special for both the children and their families.

### Year 5 Visit

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, Year 5 will be visiting St. Mary's School, Bishops Stortford for a day focussing on the Performing Arts. This will be a wonderful experience to perform in a theatre with drama specialists and enjoy the opportunity to be in a secondary school setting for the day.

### New Parent Evenings

There will be a meeting for Parents with children new to Reception (September 2010 and January 2011 ).

This will take place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 7:00p.m. It will be a chance for new parents to hear about the school, tour the building and see the facilities. They will also have the opportunity to meet our Early Years Team and hopefully any questions they have will be answered!

A meeting for Parents with children new to Nursery will take place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 7:00p.m.

These meetings will not take the same format so it is important that Parents attend the one pertinent to their child. **No children are permitted to either of these meetings.**

### Isle of Wight Residential Trip

The children in Year 6 are now looking forward to their residential trip to the Isle of Wight (5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> July 2010) and I'm sure that they will be doing a lot of work in class in the weeks to come on the various places of interest that they will be visiting during their stay. A meeting has been arranged for 7:00pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010 for Year 6 parents concerning the trip. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please see either Miss Puccio or Mr Gorton at your earliest convenience. Please note that children are not allowed to attend this meeting.

## Summer Craft Fayre - Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June

Can you believe it...our Summer Fete is almost here once again!!! This is always a marvellous event and this year promises to be no different! It is a wonderful opportunity for us all to show our support for the PFA and all of the hard work that they do during the course of the year to raise money for the benefit of our children and I know that they are currently working harder than ever to make the Fete even more successful than usual this year. It is wonderful to have such a supportive parent body who give so freely of their time to raise funds for all of the children at St. Joseph's and I know that you will show your appreciation for their sterling work by turning up in droves on the day...come rain or shine!! We look forward to seeing you there...in the sunshine...or in your waterproofs!

Also, a reminder that the PTA are organising a 'Pamper Night' on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June. Further details about this event will be circulated by the PTA in the near future.

## Whole School Mass

We will be having a Mass on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate Mary - Mother of God during this month of May. The Mass will take place at 9:15am in the School Hall. You are all very welcome to attend.

## District Sports

As you will know, we have now started training for the District Sports which take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. It is wonderful to see so many children attending these practices and although only a few can be chosen to make the actual team, we consider all of these children to be members of our 'squad'. Thank you to all of those adults who help with these practices on a weekly basis.

### Home-School Agreements

Could I please remind all parents to read, sign and return the home School agreements that have recently been sent to each home. An additional statement relating to internet safety has been incorporated and it is important that you read through this document and discuss pupil responsibilities with your child.

### Voucher Schemes!

Many thanks for the wonderful amount of vouchers that we have received for both the Tesco's and Sainsbury's schemes. At our last count we are well on target to achieve our highest totals ever!! If you still have any Tesco vouchers at home could you please send them in before Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May since this will be when we make the final count before our vouchers are collected.

### Lenten Collections

Please ensure that all remaining boxes are sent back into the school office as soon as possible. We would like to have the final figure and then we can send a cheque to the Westminster Catholic Children's Society. Many thanks to all of you who have already contributed to this very worthwhile charity.

### PSCHE Week

A special PSCH Week will be held in school next week (24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010). During the course of the week, the children will undertake a variety of Literacy based activities related to Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education. The theme for the week is 'Protecting the Environment' which is an issue close to all our hearts.

### Sun Awareness

Please remember to apply some sun protection cream to your children before they come out to school in the mornings on the days when the weather is likely to be hot. We recommend that children wear baseball caps and that they should be 'school' baseball caps.

### Sports Update

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May our Cross Country Team from Years 5 and 6 took part in an event at Cheshunt School. All of the boys and girls did extremely well, with special mention going to Rachel Dempsey who finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall and the girl's team which won the bronze medal...well done girls!!

At present, there are cricket practices taking place on a Wednesday after school for the children in Years 5 and 6 in preparation for several matches and a tournament which are scheduled for after half-term.

### Walk To School Week

Well done to those who took part in our 'Walk To School' Week from 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May. As always, this initiative is one which we fully support at St. Joseph's since not only does it raise awareness of environmental issues related to the emissions from all of the cars used to transport children to/from school, it also encourages the children to experience the value of a simple form of exercise.

### Secondary Visits

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 will be visiting their new secondary schools for a transition day.

### School Garden and Nature Trail

A few weeks ago, several members of staff and a couple of willing volunteers helped to prepare the School Garden and Nature Trail for the children to enjoy in the remaining weeks of the Summer term. Many thanks to the Gardening Committee for their continued support and hard work in making our school grounds a magical place.

## Year 4 Visit to 'The Loft'

This week, the majority of children in Year 4 enjoyed a marvellous residential visit to 'The Loft' at the All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney. They had a fabulous time and were full of stories about their adventures on their return. Not only was this a great opportunity for the group to reflect on a variety of issues, it also provided them with the chance to show how much they are maturing and developing their independence. Thank you to Mrs Reynolds, Miss Clark and Miss Todd for accompanying the children on the trip...they had a great (but tiring!) time too!!

Here are just a few of the comments made by the children on their return:

"I loved the campfire because we told jokes, had a competition and finished with a mouth-watering hot chocolate." Felicia

"My favourite thing was the clay pot making because it really relaxed me." Adam

"At The Loft we learnt about 'Giving and Forgiving', and how to share. We also did a puppet show which taught us how to treat each others." Hannah H

## Sports Day

Sports Day will take place on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July. As in previous years, the Infants Sports will take place in the morning (10:00am) and the Junior Sports will begin at 2:00pm. Please ensure that your child wears an appropriate coloured top to represent their house (Autumn House can wear orange or red).

### INSET Days

Please remember that school is closed on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June for an INSET day. In addition to this, our final INSET day for this academic year will be on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010. Please make a note of these dates.

### WOOFYT Workshop

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, the children in Years 5 and 6 had a wonderful time with the WOOFYT workshop....and what is a WOOFYT I hear you ask?!! Well WOOFYT stands for 'Wooden, One-octave, Organ For Young Technologists'. The children had a marvellous time finding out how sounds are made through the manipulation of air molecules...in simple terms that is!! Many thanks to Mr Jeremy Sampson from Hertfordshire Setpoint for bringing the WOOFYT to school and sharing its secrets with the children in Years 5 and 6.

### School Photographer

The School Photographer visited us on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May to take Class and Sports Team photographs. These will be sent out to you in due course along with details of how to order any sets of photographs that you would like to purchase.

## Use of School Field and Garden

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.

**Can I please remind all parents that scooters are NOT permitted on the school grounds at ANY time - before or after school.**

### Term Dates

#### Summer Term 2010

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

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010 - INSET Day - school closed

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

#### 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