

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

February 2011



Year 1 had a fabulous time at the Toy Museum in
Bethnal Green...and Miss Alexiou said it was
very educational too!

Term Dates

Spring Term 2011

Friday 15th April – last day of Spring Term – School closes at 1:30pm

Friday 18th February – School closes for Half Term

(Half Term – Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February)

Return – Monday 28th February

Monday 21st March – School closed for INSET Day

Summer Term 2011

Monday 2nd May – School closed for May Bank Holiday

Thursday 5th May – School closed for Local Election

Tuesday 3rd May – First day of Summer Term

Friday 22nd July – last day of Summer Term – School closes at 1:30pm

Thursday 23rd June – School closed for INSET Day

Friday 24th June – School closed for INSET Day

Monday 25th July – School closed for INSET Day

Tuesday 26th July – School closed for Occasional Day

Friday 27th May – School closes for Half Term

(Half Term – Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June)

Return – Monday 6th June 2011

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Dear Parents,

Can you believe that it is nearly half term? Where does the time go? This half term has seemed to go even faster for me. As you know, my National Leader in Education status has resulted in me supporting a school in Stevenage for three days a week. So far this has been a very rewarding experience. I have enjoyed the opportunity of sharing ideas between both schools and feel that both have benefited from the experience through sharing good practice and working together on various projects. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable half term and I look forward to seeing you all at the Parent Consultations in April.

Buddy Assembly

I hope those of you who were able to attend our 'Buddy' Assembly enjoyed the opportunity to see your child/children formally welcomed into our school community. The new Reception children were introduced and welcomed by the other children in the school. We feel that the Buddy system has been a great success. The younger children have so enjoyed having an older 'Buddy' to chat with and the older children seem to have taken on the responsible role very well indeed.

Mother's Day Treat

On Friday 1st April there will be a 'Mother's Day Afternoon Tea' in the School Hall from 3:00pm where any mums, aunts or grandmas can come and enjoy a bit of pampering and a little chat. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible for this special treat!

Y6 Sainsbury's Road Safety Visit

On Wednesday 9th February the school was visited by representatives from Sainsbury's to discuss the issue of Road Safety with our Year 6 children. This was an invaluable opportunity for the children to be reminded of the dangers of not being sensible when crossing roads and they were given lots of good advice on how to keep themselves safe when doing so. It is as our children get older and have more freedom/are trusted to go to/from various places on their own that they need to take more responsibility for their own safety. Many thanks to Peter Maiden from CHEXS for organising this visit.

Reports and Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations for this term will take place on Thursday 14th April 2011. The school will close at 1 pm on this day. The consultations will run from 1:30pm - 4:00pm and 4:30pm - 6:30pm in the School Hall. Appointments can be made in the usual way from Friday 8th April. You will have received your child's report prior to the consultations and will be able to discuss the content of the report with the teacher during your appointment.

The class teachers really welcome these opportunities to discuss your child's progress and the report and we find that these 'discussions' are mutually beneficial. Due to the nature of these consultations it is important that the time slots are adhered to and we ask for your co-operation in this matter.

St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's Day Celebration

On Thursday 17th March there will be a whole school Mass to celebrate the feast days of St. Joseph and St. Patrick. You are all very welcome to attend. Mass will begin at 9:15am in the School Hall and there will be refreshments served following the celebration.

Sports Update

Our football and netball teams have been training hard during the last few weeks in preparation for their remaining league games and various tournaments in which they will participate in the coming weeks.

Recently, the netball team have played matches against Brookland School, Downfield School and Millbrook School.

After a splendid 15-3 victory over Brookland School, the netball team then went on to beat Downfield 13-0! Well done, team!! In their next game against Millbrook School they fought very hard against a very strong Millbrook team, eventually losing 6-2.

Whilst not having quite as much success, our football team have been playing very well, and despite a heavy loss to Holy Trinity, the whole team played with great determination and displayed great team spirit. In their next game against Churchfield School, the team lost 3-0, but once again showed great resolve and considerable individual skill.

After the Easter break we will once again begin training/practices for the District Sports. Having regained two of the three trophies on offer last year, we will be going for the clean sweep this year. Further details of practices will be available in the March newsletter.

PCSO Visit

On Tuesday 8th February, our new PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) Mrs Anita King visited the school to talk to the children in different Key Stages on various issues such as 'Stranger Danger' and 'Internet Safety'. We are very fortunate to be able to welcome 'experts' like Mrs King into our school to share their knowledge with the children and provide them with good advice on how to remain safe.

Masai Cultural Workshop

On Wednesday 19th January the whole school was treated to a marvellous assembly by a visiting Masai Cultural Group. The children (and staff!!) thoroughly enjoyed the assembly and Year 5 were then fortunate enough to take part in a workshop for the remainder of the morning during which they clearly had a ball!

'I had a wonderful day and learnt a lot about African culture. I would love to do it again!' Eleanor Hayes

'It was an amazing morning and all of the children in Year 5 found it very interesting indeed! We all really enjoyed performing our dance for the other children'

George Ezekiel

Many thanks to Mr Paul Lynch from St. Mary's (Bishops' Stortford) for organising this event for us.

Reception/Year 1 Multi-Skills Sessions

During the last 4-5 weeks, the children in Reception and Year 1 have been taking part in various 'Multi-Skills' activities on Friday mornings as part of their PE lessons. These sessions were organised by Miss Puccio through the A10 Sports Partnership and I know that both staff and children alike have benefited greatly from them.

Year 6 Action Aid Day

On Friday 28th January, Year 6 held a fundraising day to support their Action Aid child Farishta from Afghanistan. The day was a great success and altogether they raised £95.34 for Farishta and her community.

Year 1 Prayer Service and Year 4 Class Mass

Year 1 and Year 4 recently held class celebrations and I would just like to say a big 'Thank You' to all of those parents who attended and helped to make them such special occasions.

Payments to the School Office

On behalf of the office staff, could I please remind you that when making any payments to the School Office you should always place them in a sealed envelope which should be clearly marked with your child's name and class, the purpose of the payment, and the amount contained therein. As you can imagine, a considerable amount of money comes into the office on a daily basis and if the envelopes are not marked as requested, it can sometimes be very difficult to trace these payments. If writing a cheque, unless otherwise stated in a letter, the cheque should be made payable to St. Joseph's School. Thank you for your support in this matter.

New Projectors

Last week, all classes were fitted with brand new, 'state of the art' LED projectors. These projectors are guaranteed for 10 000 hours (that's quite a few lessons!) and the image that they produce is of an incredibly high quality which will never deteriorate. Many thanks to the PTA for agreeing to support us with this project...our children are very lucky indeed to have such wonderful facilities!

End of Term/Easter Break

School closes for the Easter break on Friday 15th April at 1:30pm. We return to school for the start of the Summer term on Tuesday 3rd May 2011.

Year 1 Trip to the Toy Museum

On Wednesday 9th February the children in Year 1 enjoyed a marvellous trip to the Toy Museum in Bethnal Green. As always, I cannot emphasise enough the value of class trips, both as an educational tool to support learning, and as an opportunity for our children to develop independence and confidence outside the confines of school. Many thanks to all of our Teaching Staff who put so much thought and effort into organising these invaluable experiences for our children.

Lion King Production

Preparations for the Year 2/3 'Lion King' production are now well underway. The children are working very hard to learn all of the songs in what promises to be a 'roaring' success!!!

Year 4 - Growing Club

Next month, the children in Year 4 will begin work on cultivating a whole range of vegetables in our school garden and the raised beds alongside Year 6 as part of the 'Growing Club'. This will culminate in the children in Year 4 attending a 'Farmer's Market' on Sunday 10th July 2011 at Cedar's park. Having taken part in this project for the last two years, I can honestly say that the children thoroughly enjoy taking part in the Growing Club and learn a great deal about how to grow vegetables...not something that is part of the National Curriculum. The children involved in the Growing Club should bring in some warm/old clothing on their assigned days since it can get rather messy...and a pair of wellies wouldn't go amiss either! I would like to thank Miss Rix, Mrs Aylott, Mrs Baker and our visiting expert Mr Burnett in advance for their help with this project. Having come second overall last year, we are now aiming for the ultimate accolade...no pressure!!!

New Website

Exciting news...after half term, we will be launching our newly revamped website! Having worked with a company on our previous website for the last couple of years, we felt that we wanted to have more ownership of our website so that we can keep it current and provide you with up-to-the-minute information on various events that happen in school on a daily basis. The website has been designed and constructed by a former St. Joseph's pupil, Fabrizio Lungo, who has done a marvellous job in creating what promises to be a highly engaging website. Further details of the new website address will be sent in a separate letter after half-term. Happy surfing!!

Nursery Prayer Services

Nursery Prayer Services will take place on Thursday 24th March 2011 at the following times:

Morning - 9:00am

Afternoon - 3:00pm

International Week

In the Summer term we will be holding an 'International Week' during the course of which the children will be involved in a variety of exciting activities related to the country from which their Action Aid child originates. If you would like to support your child in this at home, you could perhaps undertake some research on their country and help them gain a deeper insight into its culture and traditions.

In order to assist with this, the various countries being studied are as follows:

Nursery/Reception - India

Year 4 - Cambodia

Year 1 - Burundi

Year 5 - Brazil

Year 2 - Haiti

Year 6 - Afghanistan

Year 3 - Mozambique

Class teachers will also be sending out individual letters/homework related to this project closer to the time.

Tesco For Schools And Clubs

The 'Tesco for Schools and Clubs' scheme once again begins on Monday 28th February and runs through until Sunday 8th May. Over the course of the last few years we have been able to acquire a huge range of ICT resources for the school through this scheme thanks to your support. Last year was in fact a record breaking year in terms of the number of vouchers that you sent in....perhaps we could break the record again this year!!

Polling Day

School will be closed on Thursday 5th May 2011 since the premises are being used as a Polling Station for local elections.



“To love is to receive a glimpse of heaven”

Karen Sunde