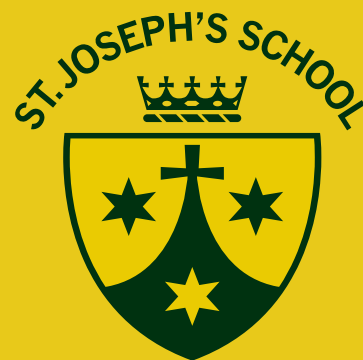


Newsletter



Governing Body of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Chalfont St. Peter

Dear Parents, Staff and Children

Happy Christmas to you all from all of the Governors of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School! 2011 has flown by in a whirlwind and at this time of year it is good to look back at the successes of the school community and also at the challenges we have faced and the lessons we learnt from them.

Around the school there have been many aesthetical changes, which have improved the look and feel of the school. The highlights include new signage around the school, security, a new school reception and the new school uniform. Before the year is out we will have launched the new school website and have a new prospectus. It has been a year of 'News' at St. Joseph's and let's hope 2012 brings us all a Happy New Year.

Standards

Improvements in educational standards have continued to be the focus for the Headmaster and his Senior Leadership Team. They wish to build on the Key Stage 2 results from last summer, especially the Maths results which were well above the national average. This term has seen the successful introduction of whole class teaching, and the Head and Subject Co-ordinators have been monitoring the lesson planning to make sure there is effective differentiation. The Literacy Co-ordinators have worked together on presenting a family literacy programme that was open to all parents.

School Curriculum

Although the key focus has and always should be on Numeracy Maths and Literacy, it is important that we give our children a rounded and interesting education.

In November we celebrated a Diversity Week. Activities included African Drumming, Japanese Dance and Origami, identifying the country of origin of parents and grandparents, counting to 10 in Russian, Arabic, Malay, French and Spanish and experiencing food from different countries around the world.

Children gained a better geographical knowledge together with an understanding that we should celebrate diversity and the variety of cultures in the world.

Years 1, 3 and 5 enjoyed educational visits.

School Uniform

The new school uniform has been embraced by both pupils and parents and has proved a great success. I think you will agree with me when I say that the children look fantastic and are a credit to the school.

FOSJS

As always the FOSJS continue to perform outstanding work on behalf of the school and the Governing body would like to take this opportunity to thank them publicly for all their support. Many of the changes witnessed around the school this year couldn't have happened without the unwavering support of the friends. **Thank you one and all.**



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Priory Road, Chalfont St. Peter

Buckinghamshire, SL9 8SB

T: 01753 887743

E: office@st-josephsprimary.bucks.sch.uk

www.st-josephsprimary.bucks.sch.uk



The Hub Kitchen

The Hub Kitchen continues its sterling work, and is now delivering hot meals to other schools in the area as well as providing our children with delicious and nutritious lunch options every day.

There have been a number of days this term when parents were invited in to enjoy the delights offered by the kitchen. The children also had a special Christmas feast on Wednesday 14 December.

Parent survey

Families of about 30% of the children completed the Governors' parent survey in July 2011. The Governors and the Senior Leadership Team are grateful for this; there will be an annual survey to allow us to monitor progress. Parents completed a questionnaire and provided a number of helpful comments which have been reviewed by the Governors and the Senior Leadership Team.

Parents agreed strongly that the children enjoy the school experience and that there is a positive and welcoming culture at St. Joseph's. The overwhelming view was that teaching is of a high standard and is progressive. Parents also believed that the school supports a healthy lifestyle. The message was that the school is on the right track.

Parents however felt that there could be improvements in communications, in particular about the progress of their children individually. They also felt that more information could be given about the type of support that parents might give their children at home. There was some uncertainty about the school's bullying strategy.

The Senior Leadership Team has taken these matters into account in determining our strategies for this term, including the Key Stage presentations that the Headmaster and the Senior Leadership Team members carried out before Half Term.

Partnerships

Saumya Jacob our Pastoral Youth Worker introduced herself to the children in assembly and has started a Prayer Club.

We continue our involvement with the Bucks Catholic Schools Partnership and have a planned series of activities including a Speech Competition and Sports activities.

Emails to parents and staff

The school office will continue to use the book bags where appropriate, and copies of all newsletters are available in the office. However, online really is the easiest and most cost effective way for the school to keep you informed. Please email mp@inboxwarriors.co.uk if you would like to be, but are not yet, on the email distribution list.

School staff

We are sad to see Mr Pat Maloney leave the school at the end of the term. Mr Maloney is being seconded into a Head Teacher role and we wish him every success. Mr Maloney has provided the school with many years of great service and we thank him for everything he has done for the school and our children.

Best regards

John Wroe

Chair of Governors

The Governing Body of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School:

Mr Ryan, John Wroe, Doreen Woakes, Vicki Aldred, Mary Bennett, Andrew Derry, Debbie Dry, Giles Giggins, John Hamilton-Cox, Mary Herbert, John Holroyd, Fr John McGowan, Helena McVeigh, Kevin Murphy, Mike Parry, Richard Payne, Debra Riley, Adrian Walsh and Clare Latham (Clerk to the Governing Body).

