



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter Autumn 27th September 2017

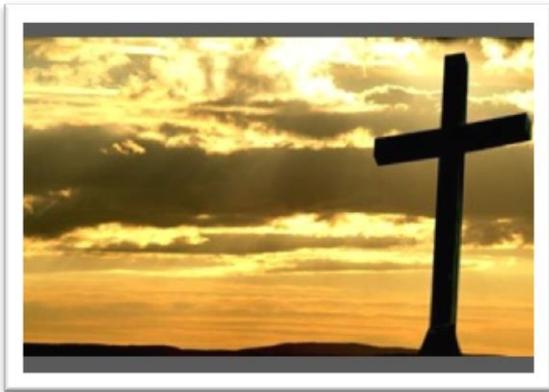
Dear Parents,

I can hardly believe that we are already in the third full week of school after the long summer holidays; which is now a fast fading memory. The children have arrived back in school refreshed and looking much taller and have begun the new school year with such enthusiasm and vigour. The atmosphere in school is purposeful and focussed and the children are working extremely hard.

On Tuesday night we had our welcome parents meeting and I hope that everyone who attended enjoyed learning about your child's curriculum as well as general class routines and year group expectations. We will put all the Power Points used in the class presentations on the Partnership website so they can be viewed by parents who were unable to attend.

In Mrs Kemble's welcome speech she emphasised your role as parents as your child's primary educators and that we welcome and actively encourage participation in your child's learning so we can create a partnership that we will ensure the best outcomes for your child. We try to ensure that we offer a range of learning experiences so each child develops and blossoms at their own pace and their individual talents are nurtured.

Faith Life



We have had our first school Mass of the year. This was well attended by the parishioners of St. John parish and they enjoyed refreshments after mass provided by the school PTA. I appreciate that parents are extremely busy and many of you work, but it would be nice to see those of you who can come at mass to offer your support to the school community through pray and participation and to get to know some of the parishioners. This will build the whole school and parish community so we can offer mutual support. Father Brett's gave a rallying sermon and he encouraged the children to be beacons of their faith by being loving and considerate. The next school mass will be held on 10th October 9.30am and will be a celebration of God's harvest.



The year 5 children joined all the other school in the East Anglian Diocese for a celebratory Mass with Bishop Alan Hope. It was a moving service, the music was beautiful and there were approximately 700 children and accompanying staff. Our children behaved impeccably during the service and then enjoyed a lunch provided by the cathedral. It was so affirming to know that we are part of a larger community of schools and that we can all come together to celebrate our faith. At the end of the service all the school were presented with a special plaque to proudly display in their schools. A special thank you to Mr Bracher one of our school governors who kindly accepted to accompany us on the trip.



We have launched the Mini Vinnie's group in school. There was a great deal of interest from the children; especially the younger ones, but we now have 26 children across the school who would like to commit to becoming a Mini Vinnie. The parents of the children who have requested to join will be receiving an information sheet about the organisation; and a permission slip that needs to be signed and returned to school before the children are enrolled. Once enrolled the children will receive a badge and certificate which will be presented during Monday assembly next week.

The children have to be 7+ and commit to attending one meeting a week held on Monday lunch time at 12.30. The children will have early lunch passes to ensure they have plenty of time to eat their lunch.



We would like to continue our support for the storehouse food bank to ensure that people in our immediate community are not going hungry. To do this the **House Captains will be collecting store cupboard food during registration time daily until the 10th October, which is the day of our harvest mass.**

They will then pack up the food and it will be collected by the food bank ready for distribution. Last year we collected a whole trolley full of food, so this year we hope that we can match or exceed this.



This year Cafod family fast day is on **6th October** and their theme is wear something bright for El Salvador. The fundraising will contribute to the purchasing of seeds and equipment so that communities can become sustainable. The children are really eager to be involved but we are conscious that the day coincides with the already planned harvest house collections. **So we have decided to go ahead and the children can come into school in bright clothes and bring in a small donation of your discretion. Every little helps!**

At the beginning of each academic year the children vote to elect their representatives for the school council. The council meets between 3 and 4 times a term and the agenda for each meeting is created by the children through their request boxes. These meetings have minutes that are sent to each class and the representatives' feedback. The meetings give the children a voice and provide an idea opportunity for them to be involved in making decisions and influencing what goes on in school.

School Council

Noah Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florence • Taylor
Moses Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tilli • Norbert
Elijah Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arthur • Martha
Abraham Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katie Rich. • Leon
Solomon Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luca • Naomi
Samson Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freya • Lola

The first school council meeting will be held on Thursday 28th September at 12.30 pm

At the end of last term the House Captains for each house were voted in. The House Captains run regular meetings across the year and involve their house in charity, sporting and team events across the year. They also encourage good behaviour and team work amongst their teams. They are often asked to represent the school in giving tours and accompanying adults when there are events outside school. Being a House Captain is a responsible and prestigious role in school.

House Captains

Turner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katie R. • Tyler
Gainsborough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eva • Ella
Blake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isabella • Olive
Constable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prudence • Darcy H.

St Benedict's open school events



Mrs Green visited the school on the 20th September to talk to the children and then all the year 6 children visited our feeder school on the 22nd September for the day.

The school is holding two open school events the first on 3rd October in the evening and the second 4th October in the morning.

These events will provide parents with information about the school and to give the opportunity to see the school in action. I would strongly recommend parents of year 5 and year 6 to attend before making a final decision on the next school your child will go to.

Sporting News

The St Joseph's boy's football team played in a tournament at Thomas Gainsborough Academy on Tuesday. These tournaments are always challenging, but this year we got our best placing reaching the semi- finals. Mr L-S was really proud of the team's commitment and this time they got further than any other football tournament. Mr L-S was impressed by the shot stopping ability of Henry Bale and Lucas Well's attacking prowess.

The girl's football team have played with guts and determination on Wednesday. The first ever goal was scored by Darcy Hertz, we then went on to win the game 2-1 against St Gregory's with the other goal being scored by Mya Green. With our confidence sky high we went on to beat Nayland 5-0. Reaching the semi-final the game finished with a 0-0 score line against Waldingfield, but we lost in the penalty shootout. Mr L-S was proud of the team work the girls displayed and Naomi Clarke's non-stop running and commitment in mid-field support.

The next tournament is tag rugby festival at Ormiston Academy on the 17th October, 9.00-12.00. Parents are welcome to come along.



PTA News

The PTA have had their first meeting of the year at the Cock and Bell in Long Melford. They are a vital group within our school community who provide additional funds for lots of extras for the children as well as organising fun fund raising events that help cement our community. The next such event will be held on the 19th November and is a Town Treasure Hunt. Mr Message has coordinated these events before and has agreed to organise one for us. The hunt will start and finish at St Joseph's school on the 19th November at 11.00am. There will be a prize for the fastest team to complete the treasure hunt and a small prize for all the children who enter. The PTA will be providing refreshments on the day, hot chocolate, tea, coffee and cakes. The cost of entering a team will be £5.00. We hope as many families as possible will come along, to have fun but also to keep fit.

The December Advent Market will be held this year on **1st December** starting at 3.15pm straight after school on Friday evening, instead of a Saturday. They have acknowledged that Saturdays on the lead up to Christmas can be extremely busy and many families were finding it difficult to attend due to other commitments, so they are hoping a change of day will make the event more accessible to all our families.

Diary Dates

2nd - 9th October House Captains food cupboard collections for Store House food bank in Sudbury

3rd & 4th October open school events at St. Benedict's School

4th October Flu immunisation EYFS- Year 4 [nasal spray]

6th **October Non-school uniform for Cafod- Family Fast Day Wear bright clothes for El Salvador**

10th October Harvest Mass in school

12th October Parents Forum- please come along with any questions

12th October pm- Elijah's trip to the Water Meadows

17th October Tag- rugby festival 9am-12pm

Half Term week beginning 23rd October- 27th October

31st October- Mass in Church All Souls/ All Saints Day for children who have had their Holy Communion

Please ensure that all children are in correct winter uniform after the half term break. The weather will be getting colder so please make sure that your child has a coat in school and appropriate foot wear, not black lace up plimsolls but sturdy shoes.

A quote from Oscar Romero who worked tirelessly with the poor in El Salvador and spoke out about poverty and social injustice. He was assassinated while saying mass on March 24th 1980.

We must not seek the child Jesus in the pretty figures of our Christmas cribs. We must seek him among the undernourished children who have gone to bed at night with nothing to eat, among the poor newsboys who will sleep covered with newspapers in doorways.

Mrs AM Price

Head of School