



*"We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn, love and grow together"*

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Dear Parents and carers,

Well, what a busy Autumn Term we have had! A visit from Ofsted, Class Assemblies, Open Morning, Whole school Diversity Display, Y2 to Y6 school mass, Reconciliation for Years 4 to 6, Nativities, Christmas in Song and a New Headteacher appointment to name but a few of the events this term. The sense of community continues to grow. Events have been so well supported by families and there is certainly a happy, community feel around the school.

#### **PSA**

I must thank the PSA for all their commitment, enthusiasm and drive. They are always looking for new opportunities to raise funds for our children and have already raised over £7,000. Not only do the PSA raise much needed funding but these events also create additional opportunities to bring families together. Please do get involved if you have a little time to spare.

#### **Library**

As you may be aware, St Joseph's workshop (The outbuilding on the infant playground) will become a EYFS / KS1 library. We are grateful to all our families for supporting the PSA in raising the funds. We will keep you updated as it starts to take shape!

#### **Achievements**

We all know our children are the best (not biased in any way!) Every child at SVP has excelled in their own way and we are all so proud of each one of them. However, I felt it appropriate to mention a few children for their specific achievements:

- Kimberley Pullenger, for participating in the British Marathon Championship for roller-skating.
- Isaac Baker, for winning the Stevenage Old Town art competition which resulted in him turning on the Stevenage Christmas lights.
- Elvie Sands for her Irish dancing. She participated at the Irish Opens coming 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Open Championships.

Thank you to all the children who have stood up and shared their achievements in the weekly Thursday School Assembly.

#### **School Sporting Achievements**

Girls' football Team won the Stevenage Autumn Tournament.

The Basketball Team came runners up losing in the last second of extra time.

The Cross Country Team came runners up and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Individuals placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Boys' football Team won 5 – 0

Netball Team won 14- 0

The children have worked incredibly hard. They are rising to the expectations of our curriculum and enjoying the challenges they are set. Their good behaviour and the respect they show towards one another is often positively commented on by the many visitors to our school.



I must thank all the governors and staff for working tirelessly to ensure the children are happy, safe and are provided with the best opportunities for their education. We have an amazing team that go over and above what is expected of them.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful, happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year.

Alexandra Whitty



Headteacher

### **A Christmas Prayer**

*Lord, bless everyone in our school community this Christmas. May our hearts be filled with joy and excitement as we spend time with family and friends. Help us to remember that the greatest gift is not found in wrapped presents, but in the precious gift of Jesus.*

*Amen.*

### **Dates for Spring Term**

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Spring Term starts
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Y5 Drumming workshops start (weekly curriculum activity)
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	9:30am Y6 Mass at the Church
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	2:30pm Phonics Meeting Rec & Y1 Parents (all welcome if you feel your child will benefit)
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	9:30am Y5 Mass at the Church
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	9:30am Y4 Mass at the Church
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	2:30pm Y1 Mistral Class Assembly
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Ash Wednesday service in school (pupils only)
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	9:30am Y3 Mass at the Church
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	2:30pm Y1 Stein Class Assembly
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	3:15pm Break up for Half Term
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February	Drama workshops in school Nursery, Reception and Y1
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Back to school
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	9:30 am Y2 Mass at the Church
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Reconciliation Y4,5,6
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	2:30pm Y2 Pasteur & More Assembly
W/C Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Be Spirited Activities for children in school
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	8:40am – 9:20am Open Morning for Parents to share children’s work
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	3:30pm- 7:30pm Parent Consultations
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	3:30pm – 5:30pm Parent Consultations
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Week Service (Pupils only)
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	2:00pm End of Spring Term
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Summer Term Begins



