



"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,

As I write this letter, the last rehearsal for our Christmas Around the World is in full swing! The singing sounds amazing with so many different songs from around the world. The Nursery children performed the first of the school Nativities, followed by KS1 and Reception's. The children all performed so well. A huge thank you to all the staff for their hard work and perseverance!

Enrichment Opportunities

We have been carefully planning the personal development of our children from Nursery through to Year 6, this includes all the opportunities that we wish to offer our children to give them skills and experiences that will support them in later life. One of these areas is to give every child the opportunity to play a musical instrument. With this in mind, Year 5 will have the opportunity to play the clarinet. Mrs Glover's class has learnt various tunes over the last term, and we look forward to hearing Mrs Batty's class at the end of next term. Well done Year 5.

Year 3 have visited the cinema for National Film Week, Year 2 enjoyed bridge builders Christmas Journey and Year 5 have completed a Science, Technology Engineering, Maths (STEM) project with it culminating in a trip to Sartorius Stedim, Royston.

Sports

We have had yet another successful term of sporting opportunities for the children, including some of our Year 6 participating in an indoor rowing competition. The boys' football team entered the Annual Autumn Tournament. They finished top of the group in the preliminaries and have been unbeaten after 7 games. They have again been placed in division one this season.

The girls' football team have also played in the autumn tournament, playing in division one (which we have won for the past two years!).

We have been represented at the Stevenage Basketball Festival and Cross-Country Festival, with the cross-country team gaining medals for both Year 6 boys' and Year 5 girls' and individual medals for 1st and 2nd place. Medal winners will go forward to the County Cross Country Championships next term.

All the children in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 5 have enjoyed some Ultimate Frisbee sessions. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had a taster tennis session. There will be a



chance for some of our children to experience curling, lacrosse, Quidditch and skateboarding booked for later this academic year.

PSA

I must thank the PSA for all their continued commitment and hard work. Most recently the funds have enabled us to have a beautiful library for the younger children and some amazing seating LOTS of new books for the junior library. This has had a huge impact on the children's enthusiasm for reading. I am currently in discussions with companies regarding the early years outdoor learning space.

Although the PSA raises much needed funding, it also provides opportunities for us to come together as a community. I would like to thank everyone that helps support these events - Thank you.

Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust Conversion/ (DoWAT)

As you will be aware, all Catholic Schools have been ordered by the Bishops to join an Academy Trust. We are well on the journey towards joining DoWAT. This is the academy trust that many of our local catholic schools have joined, including The Saint John Henry Newman School. We are currently working with solicitors, Westminster Diocese, local authority and DoWAT to finalise the conversion. We are aiming for the start of the summer term. I will let you know more once a date has been confirmed.

Curriculum

Thank you to all those who attended the Phonics Parents Session, open morning and parent consultations. It was great to see so many of you there. We continue to review and develop our curriculum, so it is right for our children. We are currently working with the NCETM (National centre of Excellence in the teaching of Mathematics and CLPE (Centre for literacy in primary excellence) to ensure we have the most relevant, up to date and research driven resources and teaching. Please do keep looking at the school website for our Pupil Posts, they give you a clear insight into all the great things happening in school. A link can be found on the front page of our website or at [PI - News & Letters 2](#).

Data

Although data is certainly not the most important part of a school, I wanted to share with you the data for this year. [SI - Inspection Documents](#) This has been validated by the DFE and I am proud of all the teachers hard work and dedication, they are certainly going the extra mile!

Wishing you all a peaceful and merry Christmas.

Kind regards



Mrs Whitty
Headteacher



Christmas Prayer

Guiding Star

Lord, the sight of the guiding star,
brought hope, courage and joy
to those who had journeyed to find you.
When our journey seems long,
when hope seems far away,
when our courage is failing
fill us with faith and trust;
shine your light on our fears,
lift our hearts with your joy.
Help us to recognise you
in our brothers and sisters
throughout the world;
show us how we can work together
so that we may all come to share in the life
promised to us by Jesus,
the Saviour of us all.

Amen.



CAFOD

Dates for Spring Term

6 th January	Children return to school
10 th January - 9.30	Yr 6 Mass at St Joseph's
13 th January	After school clubs resume
17 th January - 9.30	Yr 5 Mass at St Joseph's
24 th January	Yr6 Assembly
24 th January	Launch Year of Hope
27 th January	Yr4 wellbeing workshops (PE Kits)
31 st January	Yr4 Mass at St Joseph's Yr3 Assembly
7 th February	Yr3 Mass at St Joseph's
14 th February	Y2 Mass at St Joseph's Yr1 Stein Assembly Break up for half term
24 th February	Children return to school
28 th February	Y1 Mass at St Joseph's
3 rd March	Drama workshops (Recp., Yr1 & 2)
4 th March	Yr3 light and dark workshop
7 th March	Yr 6 Mass at St Joseph's Yr1 Mistral Assembly
13 th March	Reconciliation (in school) Yrs 4, 5 and 6
14 th March	Yr 5 Assembly



17 th – 19 th March	Be Spirited for pupils
21 st March	Open Morning (8.30 doors open – all parents welcome)
24 th & 25 th March	Parent Consultations
28 th March	Yr2 Assembly
1 st April	Nursery/Reception Bubble workshop
	Yr5 K-Nex challenge
2 nd April	Yr1 senses workshop
3 rd April	Easter Reflection – for pupils
4 th April	Term Ends 2pm
22 nd April	Return for Summer Term

