

'Inspired to be our best'



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame

Newsletter

7 June 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a good half term and enjoyed the beautiful weather. Ascension Day fell on the Thursday of half term – when we celebrate the ascension of Jesus to heaven. This coming Sunday is Pentecost – the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. It is also the day when some of our year 6 pupils will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. It will be at the 11am Mass this Sunday 9th June and we wish them a wonderful celebration.

The final term of this academic year has started well, children are happily settled back into school and we welcome 5 new pupils to our school. It is the time of year when we notice how the children have grown and are looking like they are ready to progress to the next year! Year 6 pupils have started their transition work as they prepare for the move to secondary school and teachers have started report writing.

We have a fun filled term ahead and we look forward to working with you.

Warm wishes

Jess Tweedie
Principal



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Fencing and Lighting Work

Work on finalising the fencing and lighting project is almost completed (we now have a specification drawn up and are just finalising costs). This work is due to take place during the summer holidays to avoid disruption to the school.

Playground Refurbishment

We now also have a draft specification for the drainage works and over half term started collecting the three quotations required. We are now extremely hopeful that this work can be completed over the summer, including the resurfacing of the playground. We are still waiting for costs so that we can plan for the stages of work and, as soon as we have this, we will share the scope of work. We are actively planning for a 'morning mile' loop in the playground. Please watch this space!

I would like to say a special thanks to Mrs Sproat who came in to support me during half term in pushing both these projects forwards and to the Resources Committee of our governing body who came in on a Sunday to review both the proposals.

Lunch times

We are now opening the whole playground at lunchtimes (through to the church carpark) and have purchased new equipment – basketball hoops, ping pong tables and other equipment to support play opportunities for all pupils. These have just arrived and will be put out next week. Thank you to Mr Sharman who very kindly volunteered to unpack the boxes and put together the equipment.

Chess

We are very excited to be working with the CSC (Chess in Schools and Communities) this half term in Years 4 and 5. Chess has been shown to help children think logically and solve problems; develop sportsmanship and resilience; teach children to plan ahead and to take responsibility for their actions. We have a chess tutor coming in to work with the classes and are extremely excited by this opportunity to develop our curriculum in new and inspiring ways.

Swimming

Well done to the swimming team who represented our school and came joint first with St Andrews. We are extremely proud of you and your fantastic sportsmanship!

Summer Fete and School Mufti Day

Our Summer Fete, held as a joint Parish event, is on the 6th July 11.30am-3pm. Hopefully you have seen the beautiful posters around school! There will be a mufti day on Friday 14 June in aid of the Fete. Children may wear their own clothes in return for a donation of the following;

- bottles (wine, soft drinks etc.)
- other **new** items for an adult tombola,
- glass jars filled with small items for the jar tombola,
- good quality books for a children's book stall.

If you have any questions, please ask your Class rep, a member of the Friends, Ginevra or Claire.

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Thank you in advance for your support of this event, it is a fantastic fundraiser for our school and in past years we have been blessed with beautiful weather!

Ginevra Sproat and Claire Harris

Sun Safety

We have sent home a sun safety letter and leaflet today, highlighting the dangers of UV and encouraging pupils to '*Slip, Slop, Slap*'. I have three Sun Safety Monitors who have volunteered to monitor and display daily UV levels, and will be working to ensure that all pupils and staff enjoy the summer sun safely. Please read our agreement below:

Sun Safety Agreement

The school will monitor and review the effectiveness of this Agreement. It will be updated on an annual basis.

Sun Screen

1. We ask parents/carers to teach their children how to independently apply sunscreen and assistance at school will be provided only where necessary, unless instructed otherwise by the parent/carer.
2. On moderate to high UV days we ask parents/carers to send their children to school with sunscreen already applied (<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/uv-index-forecast>).
3. We actively encourage pupils to apply sunscreen when UV levels reach 3 or above before extended periods outdoors.

Sun Hats and Clothing

1. We remind parents to ensure their child brings an appropriate sun hat to school/leaves their sun hat at school for use as required.
2. We encourage pupils to wear their sun hat when UV levels are high.
3. Baseball caps are not recommended as they expose the neck.
4. We use sun safe strategies to encourage pupils to cover up like '*No hat, play in the shade*'
5. We ensure pupils wear school and PE uniforms that keep shoulders covered. Vest/strappy tops are not school uniform and not allowed.

Shade

1. We currently provide shaded areas outdoors where pupils congregate for outdoor play, lessons and activities. This includes trees and/or purpose built shade structures.
2. We conduct shade assessments to consider future needs and are committed to investigating fundraising opportunities and improving shade solutions (such as gazebos for sports day).

Monitoring UV levels

1. We are committed to monitoring UV levels daily during warmer months to ensure appropriate sun safety measures are implemented when necessary – this will be recorded on the board daily.

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2. Children are tasked with being the UV monitor. We display the days UV level to engage the children and reinforce the importance of sun safety on a daily basis.

Staff Modelling Good Practice

1. We ask staff to role model good sun safety behaviours such as applying sunscreen and wearing a sun hat when UV levels are high.
2. We are committed to ensuring all staff are actively involved in the implementation of this Agreement and that they consider the UV forecast and sun protection/ control measures when planning outdoor activities or school trips.

Sun Safety Education

1. We are committed to educating all pupils annually on sun safety using comprehensive, curriculum linked lesson plans, activities and resources.

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Diary Dates

The list of dates below is not exhaustive – please look out for further letters and keep an eye on the calendar on the front page of the school website.

Sunday 9 June	Confirmations at 11.00 am
Monday 10 June	Year 3 and Year 4 Viking Longboat building
Tuesday 11 June	Thame Cricket Festival
Wednesday 12 June	School Nursing Team delivering PHSE to Year 5 and Year 6
Thursday 13 June	Year 1 and Year 2 visit to Thame Museum for toy handling session
Friday 14 June	Mufti Day in aid of the Summer Fete
Friday 14 June	EYU sharing work during Whole School Assembly 9am.
Friday 14 June	Year 3 and Year 5 swimming
Wednesday 19 June	Good Shepherd Mass, Headington 1pm
Thursday 20 June	First Holy Communion rehearsal 4.30pm – 5.30pm Church Hall
Friday 21 June	Year 3, Year 4 and After-School Club sharing work during Whole School Assembly 9am.
Friday 21 June	Year 3 and Year 5 swimming
Sunday 23 June	First Holy Communion at 11.00 am
Monday 24 June – Tuesday 25 June	Year 5/6 Production
Wednesday 26 June	Year 1 and Year 2 Science Oxford Balloon Rockets Workshop
Wednesday 26 June	Year 3 and Year 4 Football Tournament
Friday 28 June	Year 1 and Breakfast Club sharing work during Whole School Assembly 9am.
Friday 28 June	Year 3 and Year 5 swimming
Friday 5 July	Year 2, Year 5 and French Club sharing work during Whole School Assembly 9am.
Friday 5 July	Lord Williams's Transition Day
Friday 5 July	Music Afternoon 5pm – 6.15pm (children to be in school by 4.30pm)
Saturday 6 July	Summer Fete 11.30am – 3pm
Sunday 7 July	Church Choir Concert 2pm-4pm (children to be in Church by 1pm)
Monday 8 July – Friday 12 July	Sports Week
Monday 8 July	New starters September 2019 taster sessions
Wednesday 10 July	New starters September 2019 taster sessions
Friday 12 July	Sports day 9am – 11.30am (Southern Road Recreation Ground) followed by family picnic

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Monday 15 July	In-School Transition Day
Tuesday 16 July	EYU trip to Mead Open Farm
Wednesday 17 July	Year 6 Leavers Mass 9.15am