

'Inspired to be our best'



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame

Newsletter

28 June 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Sunday we celebrated our second Sacramental Mass this year, the First Holy Communion Mass. It was a lovely celebration and a big thank you to all the families, staff and parish for supporting our pupils as they made this Sacrament. The children then came down for a lovely First Communion breakfast in the hall – hosted by families of children who celebrated last year. It was an extremely special event. Thank you.

We are powering towards the end of the academic year. Teachers are busy writing reports, national tests and moderations are completed and assessments are in. I am extremely proud of the work children and teachers have put in for our internal and national assessments. We look forward to sharing our reports and our national data with you; however, I am excited by the initial results, particularly the percentages of learners operating at greater depth in each year group. Reading and Maths continue to be a particular strength of the school, but we are making progress with Writing.

Finally, I think we should celebrate that our school has been awarded the **'Schools Gold Mark'** award for PE provision at our school. A big vote of thanks goes to Miss Cox for her dedication to PE at our school and ensuring that our provision is broad, varied and has a progression and depth to it.

Warm wishes

Jess Tweedie
Principal



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School Fete

Only 8 days until our summer fete - a lovely church and school event. **Please bring in donations of uniform, toys, books, soft toys plus filled glass jars, items for adult tombola and cake.** We will have a cafe in the church hall and a bar and BBQ on the field. Tickets for the street dance workshop will be on sale in the playground next week, spaces are limited. Magic shows to be confirmed. There will be an amazing Irish Dancing performance at 2.15 to give our fete a fitting finale.

Friends of St Joseph's

It was the Friends of St Joseph's meeting last night and it was great to be discussing what the future looks like for the playground areas thanks to the fundraising which got the ball rolling with surveys. Without it, the project could have been stalled indefinitely! Not only that, there have been contributions this year to the following: workshops, trips, theatrical performances, classroom screens, library books, greening the classrooms and more. Every child in the school will have benefitted. But it was also clear that to keep the fundraising level up, new energy and greater participation is needed.

The Friends is not a time-consuming commitment if people each offer to support just one event a year in some capacity. You could be an amazing compere, a super project manager or a real people person who can rally the troops to run a bar or sell tickets in the playground – you are needed!! Most events need just two or three people to organise the key elements of an event. **The annual Christmas Fayre is looking for a new organising team.** Please consider what you and maybe a couple of parent friends could offer. **Co-chair position open** – this is primarily an administration role, working alongside Catherine and Lynette. It involves mainly email communication with the other members and liaising with event organisers and the school. It could be one or two willing people. Please come forward with any offers of help by emailing lbretherton@motorlux.co.uk

Sun Safety

Just a reminder that children need to bring in hats and wear sun cream as the weather heats up. UV levels were at a high 8 this Thursday and Friday. Children are kept in the shade over lunch if they have not got a hat on. It is preferable that they have a broad brimmed hat as it covers the neck as well.

Sports Week

As we celebrate our Gold award for PE, can we just remind people that sports week is coming up soon and a letter detailing the timetable and expectations has been sent out by Miss Cox.



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Results!

As you will be well aware, our school achieves over double the National average for reaching a higher standard in Reading, Writing and Maths at KS2 SATs. From looking at our teacher assessments, this year promises to be no different. We are so proud of our pupils and all the work and effort they have put into their work both in class and with our national assessments. We are looking forward to sharing the National results with you when we receive them in early July, and the class results will be shared in our Summer Report Card.

Playground Works

We are in the final stages of agreeing our drainage plan and scope of work for this summer and securing a contractor. As you can appreciate the process has been necessarily thorough. By the end of the summer holiday we hope to have the drainage works completed, a secure and safe surface on the playground and the area (where the current fort and staging area is) levelled and prepped for climbing frames. The drawings for this are on the hall windows (and outside EYU) for you to look at. We would like to say a big thank you to the Friends of St Joseph's who helped kick start this whole process by paying for the surveys and drawings.

Fencing and Site Security Works

We have moved very quickly now that we have secured funding. We have booked the company to come and complete the works over the summer holiday. This includes new lighting around the building and along the paths (plus the staff carpark); new fencing for virtually the whole perimeter fence; and extension of the tarmac outside of EYU for trikes and scooters; and new paths around the field – these will allow for a running loop for the children and will also form a new entrance to the school from the car park. The scope of this work is displayed on the hall windows (and outside EYU).

After School Clubs for Next Year

We are changing the range of after school clubs we offer to our pupils. If you have any ideas of any other clubs – please let us know, and for the moment these are the ones we are hoping to offer:

For both KS1 and KS2 – Irish Dance, Modern Dance, French, Chess and Woodwork

KS2 Only – French, PE clubs (variable each term), Ping-Pong, UKS2 Fun Club and School Choir

We are actively looking at a gardening club and a coding club.



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Changes to PPA

Every week teachers meet in departments to assess and plan for our broad and relevant curriculum. For next year, whilst the teachers are busy with this, we have planned for an exciting range of curriculum activities for the pupils to be participating in.

In KS2 it includes chess lessons, Global Citizenship (including establishing our link with a school in Malawi), touch typing (which is also a spelling programme), internet safety, French and Forest School. This will be done on a rotational basis in blocks of 6 weeks - two activities per afternoon.

In KS1 they will be covering Music, Woodwork and PE during these sessions – we are hoping to finalise having ping-pong for the first term (great for hand: eye coordination!). And in EYU they will be having their Forest School session on a rotational basis during this time.

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.

Friday 5 July	Breakfast Club and French Club sharing work during Whole School Assembly 9am.
Friday 5 July	Lord Williams's Transition Day
Friday 5 July	Library Challenge Assembly (no sharing assembly today)
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
Monday 15 July	In-School Transition Day
Tuesday 16 July	EYU trip to Mead Open Farm
Tuesday 16 July	Leavers Assembly 2pm
Wednesday 17 July	Year 6 Leavers Mass 9.15am
Friday 19 July	Term finishes 1.30pm

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