



**30<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

[www.stjosephcrayford.org.uk](http://www.stjosephcrayford.org.uk)

Dear Parents,

It's been a busy but very rewarding first month as Head Teacher of St. Joseph's. Many thanks to all the parents who attended our first coffee morning, it was a pleasure to meet so many of you and over the next year we will progress many of the good ideas that were put forward.

The dates below cover the important events in the school's calendar for the Autumn Term. You will also find all newsletters on St. Joseph's website.

<b>DIARY OF EVENTS – AUTUMN 2011</b>	
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
22 <sup>nd</sup> September to 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Open Days/Evenings for Secondary Schools Parents of pupils in Year 6 need to consult the 'Admission to Secondary Schools in Bexley' which was distributed in July for the times of the secondary schools' open days/evenings
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Children are invited to bring in 'Harvest Food' – non perishable items. These are being donated to the Salvation Army
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Teddy Bears Picnic for the Reception class – parents are invited
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Assembly for the whole school – unfortunately we are unable to accommodate parents due to building works
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am Year 5 and 2 Class Mass - parents invited
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	School Council meeting
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Bexley Selection Test results posted by first class post to parents
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am Year 6 Class Assembly – parents invited  Last day for ordering children's Christmas card designs
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am Fr Ryan to visit Reception Class
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Kent Selection Test results posted by first class post to parents  Other faith week - Judaism
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am Mrs Goldberg visiting school to talk to years 1 to 6
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Reception class autumn walk
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am Year 5 Class Assembly – parents invited

Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	<p>Last day for Year 6 parents to submit Common Application Forms (CAFs) into school for us to forward to the Local Authority. Closing date for Supplementary Forms to be returned to St Catherine's Catholic Girls School.</p> <p>9.15am Years 1 &amp; 6 class mass – parents invited.</p>
	<b>HALF TERM – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October</b>
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Staff training day – school closed</b></p> <p>Final closing date for CAF's (re secondary transfer) to be submitted, either on line or paper. Closing date for supplementary forms to be returned to St Columba's Catholic Boys School, Haberdashers' Aske's Crayford Academy and Trinity CE School Belvedere. <b>Late submission of CAFs and supplementary forms will seriously jeopardise your chance of securing the school of your choice.</b></p>
	<b>NOVEMBER</b>
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Children return to school
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<p>Whole school assembly – WW1, children are invited to bring any WW1 artifacts into school for Show &amp; Tell – unfortunately due to space restrictions parents are not invited</p> <p>William 'Chalky' White musical performed by Year 6 to the school</p> <p>William 'Chalky' White musical performed by Year 6 to parents at Hall Place in the Great Hall. Children are to be dropped off at 5.30 pm to get ready. Performance to parents at 6.30 pm.</p>
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	<p>9.15am Year 3 &amp; 4 class mass – parents invited</p> <p>Deadline for Love in a Box to be returned</p>
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 visit Westminster Abbey
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Year 2 visit the National Army Museum</p> <p>3.30 to 5pm after school reading club starts</p>
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Year 4 class assembly – parents invited
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Remembrance Day</p> <p>The 11.11.11 William 'Chalky' White Memorial Service, joint Roman Catholic &amp; Anglican service, at St Paulinus Church led by Year 6 from St Joseph's and St Paulinus CE Primary School. Parents of Year 6 are invited to attend.</p> <p>Remembrance Day – there will be a minutes silence in both playgrounds at 11.00 am.</p>
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	<p>School Council Meeting</p> <p><b>Parents Open Evening – appointments to be sent out two weeks in advance (3.30 to 6.30pm)</b></p>

Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	After school reading club (3.30 to 5pm) <b>Parents Open Evening – appointments to be sent out two weeks in advance (3.30 to 6.30pm)</b>
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Open Morning for Sept. 2012 intake (9.30 to 12.00) Year 3 visiting Hall Place on the theme of Tudors
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Health Awareness Workshop (2 to 3pm) parents invited to book through the school office. Details on Parents Notice Board
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	After school reading club (3.30 to 5pm)
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 class assembly – parents invited Year 5 visiting The National Gallery, theme of ‘Greek Myths’
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Create Inn Pottery for Year 1
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	‘School Health’ height and weight measurements for Reception and Year 6 School Council Meeting
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Foreman, the author of ‘War Game’ visits the reading club (3.30 to 5pm)
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Non Uniform Day to support the Christmas Bazaar (bring a bottle)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 and 6 carol singing in Bexleyheath Children asked to bring in mince pies for after church service tea.
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Years R, 1 and 2 Christmas Nativity – to be held in St Mary of the Cray Church (2pm) – all parents welcome
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	St Mary of the Cray Christmas Bazaar
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am Whole School Mass in church. Coffee and mince pies for parents and parishioners in the church hall
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Snow Queen Theatre Production – Years 1 to 6
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	School Christmas Dinner School Disco/Father Christmas Choir singing at Mayors Carol Service at Haberdashers’ Aske’s (7.30pm)
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Children break up for Christmas Holidays
<b>Christmas Holiday from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	
<b>JANUARY</b>	
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Children to return to school</b>

### Open Evenings

A new format is being implemented for Parent's Open Evenings this academic year. The main open evenings will be in the autumn and spring terms with written reports sent out during the summer term. Appointments will be over two evenings from 3.30 to 6.30pm; these will be sent out in advance. We will do our best to give parents with more than one child appointments on the same night and within reasonable times of each other. Your child's workbooks will be available to look at before the appointment. Children from Year 3 upwards will be expected to attend the Autumn Open Evening with their parents. It would be appreciated if younger siblings are not brought into school. If you are unable to make your appointment you should contact the class teacher through the contact books.

**Parents Open Evenings this term are on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Appointments to follow.**

### New Reading Club

Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund the school is able to offer a reading project focussed around the book 'War Game' by Michael Foreman. This links with the current Year 6 project 'Chalky White', Crayford's Unknown Warrior, but is open to all Key Stage 2 children (Years 3 to 6).

Five sessions will run from 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm at school on the following days:-

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

The sessions are for **a child and their parent to attend together** and learn about World War I through the story. On the last session, Michael Foreman, will meet the reading group. We have places for 15 children and accompanying adults. As an extra incentive for complete attendance a prize of one family ticket (for 4) to watch a Chelsea FC football match at Stamford Bridge is available. All the names of the children who complete the project will be entered into the prize draw.

If you would like to take part in the club, please complete the tear-off slip below and return to the school office.

### School Uniform

The children look very smart in their uniform.

Clear school uniform rules are set down in the school prospectus (copy attached), this is also available to view on the school website. Rule breaking leads to frustration amongst other children and parents, and wastes valuable teaching time. Everyone's complete support in this matter is appreciated.

Earrings are not permitted to be worn in school. If you are having your child's ears pierced please do this at the beginning of the summer holidays, this gives enough time for the ear to heal so earrings can be removed when returning to school.



### **Absence and Sickness**

Please telephone the school office (Option 1) to report your child absent.

If your child is absent from school due to vomiting and/or diarrhoea they need to be kept at home for a full 48 hours from the last episode of vomiting/diarrhoea. This will help in reducing any spread of infection.

### **Year 2**

If you suspect your child may be displaying symptoms of the following, please could you notify the School Office immediately:-

Measles  
Mumps  
Rubella (German Measles)  
Chickenpox  
Slapped Cheek

### **Harvest Assembly**

Harvest Assembly will take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011. Unfortunately parents will be unable to attend this assembly due to lack of space in the hall. To support this we are asking for donations of any tinned and non-perishable items which will be collected by the Salvation Army who will then distribute to people in need. Please would you send in any donations week commencing Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011.

### **School Council Elections**

Congratulations to our newly elected School Council members. The elected children will meet monthly with Mrs Truss, to give their point of view and suggest ideas for school improvement.

### **Health Awareness**

You are invited to attend a free one hour Health Awareness for Families workshop to be held at St Joseph's on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011 between 2.00 pm and 3.00 pm. If you are interested in attending this course please would you complete and return the slip attached.

### **Primary Admissions 2012**

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008 they will be due to start school in the autumn of 2012. The Bexley Common Application Forms (CAF) are available from the school office. Supplementary Admission Forms will also be available either on line at the website address above or from the school office. The deadline for completion of the forms is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

### **Open Morning**

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 9.30am we have our open morning for prospective parents of children starting reception class in September 2012. Our Chair of Governors, Mr Tite and Mrs Sinclair will be speaking. Parents will be given the opportunity of having a tour of the school and visiting the reception class.



### **Love in a Box**

Following the success of previous years, St Joseph's is again taking part in the fundraising event for disadvantaged children in the world. A 'Love in a Box' leaflet is attached. Please note that the donation needed in order to send your shoe box overseas is £2.50 (per shoe box). Please put your donation in the pre-printed envelope supplied with the leaflets. We urge all families to take part in this exciting Christmas appeal. Boxes need to be back at school by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you in advance for your support.

### **Safeguarding Concerns**

Please be advised:-

*'We in St Joseph's Catholic Primary School are committed to practice, which protects children from harm. Staff and volunteers in this organisation accept and recognise our responsibility to develop awareness of the issues, which cause children harm.'* Our designated staff member for Safeguarding is Mrs Sinclair, Head Teacher, in her absence, Mrs Truss Deputy Head Teacher and in her absence, Mrs Edwards, Senior Teacher.

### **Friday Penance**

In response to The Bishops of England and Wales decision to restore the practice of abstaining from meat on Fridays, the school menus will offer a meat free option. Although strictly speaking 'children under fourteen years of age are not required to observe abstinence from meat'. Schools are required to help children understand the 'obligations of penance'.

### **School Term and Holiday Dates**

Please find attached a copy of the 2012-2013 holiday dates for your information.

### **School Fund Contributions**

Thank you to those parents who have already paid the school fund. If you still need to pay, please send your £10 school fund contribution as soon as possible. We rely on parents to send this amount in at the beginning of the autumn term. The money collected is for the extra expenses the school has to incur during the year, this includes end of term treats, discos and subsidy for outings etc.

### **Morrisons – Let's Grow Scheme**

Thank you for your tokens received so far. Please keep sending them in so we can stock up on equipment for our Gardening Club.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs J Sinclair**  
**Head Teacher**



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**READING CLUB**

I am interested in attending the Reading Club commencing on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November for 5 weeks.

Child's Name: ..... Class: .....  
PLEASE PRINT

Parent's Name: .....  
PLEASE PRINT

Signed: ..... Date: .....

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**HEALTH AWARENESS FOR FAMILIES WORKSHOP**

I am interested in attending the Health Awareness for Families workshop on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011.

Parent's Name: .....PLEASE PRINT

Signed: ..... Date: .....

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**SCHOOL FUND**

I enclose £10.00 as my contribution to the School Fund.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

