



1st December 2011

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Dear Parents,

The festive season is upon us and an excited buzz fills the school. An additional Christmas Newsletter was sent home recently and I thank you in advance for all your contributions which helps make this time of year so special. Spare copies of this newsletter are available in the office reception.

The last term has flown by and much has been achieved. The building is almost complete! Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed and learnt a huge amount from the 'Chalky White' history project. I would particularly like to thank Mr and Mrs Daniels who have contributed a great deal of time and effort to make this project so successful. Lots of positive feedback was received from parents regarding open evening being brought forward this year. Parents felt it was good to know what the children were being successful at and what they needed to work on earlier in the academic year.

We say goodbye to Mrs Kelly, our reception class teacher and thank her very much for giving our reception children a great start to their school life and look forward to Ms Wildey returning in January. We shall miss Mr Davies and wish him every happiness and success upon returning to Australia.

Year 2

Mrs Drummond will start maternity leave in January 2012 and we wish her and her family much joy at this special time. Mrs K Cordingley will cover Mrs Drummond's maternity leave. Mrs Cordingley has worked in a number of local primary schools with great success and I know St Joseph's will make her welcome.

I like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Governing Body Changes

Mr P Tite, mhas retired from his position as Chair of Governors. Mr Tite has tirelessly supported the school for the last 12 years and the school has appreciated and benefitted from his counsel. Mr Tite has promised to still support the school in anyway he can.

Mr T Boshell has been elected the new Chair of Governors.



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. The events for each month are updated each term – please check for additions.

DIARY OF EVENTS – AUTUMN 2011	
DECEMBER	
Thursday 1 st	Year 4 Trip to the Environmental Centre, Eltham School Choir working with Haberdasher's Aske's
Friday 2 nd	Create Inn Pottery for Year 1
Monday 5 th	'School Health' height and weight measurements for Reception and Year 6 School Council Meeting
Tuesday 6 th	After school reading club (3.30 to 5pm) A group of Year 5 children to sing carols at Wolsey House, supporting the Alzheimer's Society.
Wednesday 7 th	Civic Celebration of Pupil Achievement – 2 Year 6 children attending Non Uniform Day to support the Christmas Bazaar (bring a bottle)
Thursday 8 th	Year 5 and 6 carol singing in Bexleyheath Children asked to bring in mince pies for after church service tea.
Friday 9 th	Years R, 1 and 2 Christmas Nativity – to be held in St Mary of the Cray Church (2pm) – all parents welcome
Saturday 10 th	St Mary of the Cray Christmas Bazaar
Monday 12 th	9.15 am Whole School Christmas Mass in church. Coffee and mince pies for parents and parishioners in the church hall
Tuesday 13 th	Snow Queen Theatre Production – Years 1 to 6 Michael Foreman, author, to visit Reception Class and Year 1 for book reading and illustration demonstration. Also visiting the reading club (3.30 to 5pm)
Wednesday 14 th	School Christmas Dinner School Disco/Father Christmas Choir singing at Mayors Carol Service at Haberdashers' Aske's (7.30pm) Parents of children in the Choir are invited. Children to arrive at 7.00 pm
Thursday 15 th	2.00 pm – Christian Resources in Bexley (CRIBS) – Christmas on the Shelf performance – whole school
Friday 16 th	Children break up for Christmas Holidays
	Christmas Holiday from Monday 19th December to Tuesday 3rd January

JANUARY	
Tuesday 3 rd	INSET Day – Staff Training
Wednesday 4 th	Children to return to school
Monday 9 th	School Council Meeting
Tuesday 10 th	Ancestry after school club begins
Thursday 12 th	Charles Dickens Interactive Show – whole school After school Dance club begins (letters to be sent out before the end of term)
Tuesday 24 th	Year 1 trip Hall Place – Toys and Games
Thursday 26 th	9.00 – 10.00 am Head Teacher’s Coffee Morning – all parents welcome Year 5 and 6 - ICT Technology Day
FEBRUARY	
Friday 3 rd	9.15 am – Years 3 and 4 Class Mass in Church – parents welcome
Wednesday 8 th	Year 4 trip to the National Maritime Museum – Vikings
HALF TERM 13TH – 17TH FEBRUARY	
Wednesday 22 nd	Ash Wednesday Water Aid Talk
Friday 24 th	9.15 am – Years 1 and 6 Class Mass in Church – parents welcome
MARCH	
Thursday 1 st	Letter sent by 1 st class post to parents notifying them of secondary school allocation decisions. Online decision available.

Details of all our regular after school clubs are detailed below

Day	Club	Dates and Times
Mondays	Evolution Football Club Years 3-5	3.15 – 4.30 pm 12 th September – 12 th December 2011
Tuesdays	Evolution Drama and Performance Club Years 1-6	3.15 – 4.30 pm 1 st November – 6 th December 2011
Wednesdays	Mr Boshell’s Football Club Year 6	3.15 – 4.30 pm 21 st September – 30 th November 2011
Thursdays	Evolution Football Club Years 1-2	3.15 – 4.30 pm 15 th September 2011 – 8 th December 2011



School Photographs

Orders for school photographs need to be returned to the office by the morning of Friday 2nd December 2011.

Keeping Safe

A number of guest speakers have addressed the children at assemblies in recent weeks. The road safety officer reminded the children of the need to cross roads only where there was a clear view, left and right, so as to be sure it was safe to cross. Further to this he suggested all children should make sure they are visible by wearing something bright or an item of reflective clothing. The anti-bullying officer advised children to report bullying to an adult in the school and never suffer in silence.

Parking

Several complaints have been received by the school about parking both morning drop off and evening pick up times. Please be considerate to fellow parents and our neighbours, do not block in cars and keep the yellow hazard lines clear in the church car park.

Our Community Police Officers observed parking and reported that poor parking near the church car park entrance contributed to Old Road becoming grid locked. Your co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Parent Helpers

A big thank you to our band of parent helpers who support hearing children read. The children have really benefitted from the extra support.

Christmas Mass Times

Please find listed below the Christmas Mass times for St Mary of the Crays Church:-

Christmas Eve	6.00 pm
Christmas Day	Midnight Mass
	8.30 am
	10.30 am

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Sinclair
Head Teacher

