



St John's Catholic Primary School

November 2017



Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.
2 Timothy 2:15

The crisp frosty days are now with us and we wage a daily battle to keep the leaves outside rather than in the corridor. Please make sure that your child has a coat to wear every day as it is too chilly for just a jumper. Hats, scarves and gloves are welcome but they do need to be named as they are often dropped and it is hard to find the owner again otherwise.

Thanks to the PA for the excellent Glow Disco and for the wonderful resources which have been purchased across the school, particularly the new maths resources to underpin the new CPA approach.

The old reading books, which were upgraded last year, have been sent to Just Be A Child, a Stevenage based group which recycles resources for a school in Kenya. www.justbeachild.com. Thanks to Mr Baynham for coordinating this and Mrs Pearce for the contact information.

Please use the church car park when dropping off and collecting pupils from school, even if it is an after-school club. The school car park is for staff only and the road is quickly congested by a single act of selfish parking.

Attendance is currently 96.5% which is below target so we will be looking again at which classes are making a real effort to achieve 100%

Interfaith Week 30th October- 3rd November

During interfaith week **Year 1 and Year 5** have been working together to explore the faith of Sikhism and discovering artefacts related to the 5 K's – physical symbols worn by Sikhs who have been initiated into the Khalsa.

- Kesh (uncut hair)
- Kara (a steel bracelet)
- Kanga (a wooden comb)
- Kaccha (cotton underwear)
- Kirpan (a steel sword)

We have also been learning about the festival of light (Diwali). We created delicate designs on an outline of our hands and we re-enacted the story of Rama and Sita

Year 5 also visited and experienced first-hand the Sikh hospitality.



Y2 and Y6 joined together to explore prayer and beliefs within Islam. We visited the Stevenage Muslim Community Centre and were given a thorough grounding in the Five Pillars of Islam. They were also very generous with their hospitality and all the children would like to say a big thank you to the Imam.

EY2 and Y4 made some delicious challah bread and invited Ros Landy from the Jewish Congregation in Cambridge to join them and explain how Judaism is lived out for her.

Year 3 were lucky enough to have a visit from one of our parents who shared her experience of Hinduism and some delicious cake. Many thanks to Bini Rajappan who made the children aware of how life is lived according to Hindu beliefs and is also an excellent cook!

Looking Ahead



Prayer Group Update

The children in the Prayer Group have set themselves the challenge of reducing food waste at lunchtime as part of our Feed The World 2050 focus. Currently over 6kg of food is wasted on an average day. What surprised us was that the children felt this showed a lack of respect for the sources of the food.

We have some excellent stewards of Creation in our midst

15 th November	Cakes for Classes Y3&4
16 th November	Rapid Fire Cricket Tournament
17 th November	World Day of the Poor
27 th November	Wind Day at Stevenage Music Centre
27 th Nov – 1 st December	Christmas Art Week
23 rd -28 th November	Book Fair
29 th November	Y4 to Parish Mass
1 st December	PA Christmas Extravaganza
6 th December	Y3 to Parish Mass
8 th December	Occasional Day – School Closed
11 th December	Clarinet Christmas Concert
12 th December	Wheelchair Basketball Festival
13 th December	Nativity Dress Rehearsal 9:30am
14 th December	Nativity Performances 1:30pm & 6:00pm
15 th December	Christmas Jumper Day