



*St Catherine of
Siena Catholic
Primary School*

NEWSLETTER

January 2012

Dear Parents

Happy New Year and
welcome back to the
Spring Term!



I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and a well deserved rest. It may now seem such a long time ago because we have settled back into our more familiar routines. However, here are a few pictures which capture the excitement and fun activities experienced as the Autumn term was ending.



We pray that the graces received at Christmastide remain in our homes and hearts throughout this New Year.

The staff and I would like to thank you for the many messages, cards and gifts we received. Your kindness and good wishes are much appreciated.

Likewise, Watford New Hope Trust was grateful for your most generous donation of goods and cash amounting to £355 – well done everyone, especially the School Council!

We were well impressed with the planning and organization which went into our Fundraising Day to make it a resounding success.

Our Parish Newsletter informed us that Our Lady and St. Michael's Church was named fundraiser of the month for December, by the Trust, thanks to their most impressive donations to this worthy cause.



Father Peter and I were complimenting our pupils and parents for their attendance and contributions to our Advent Mass and the special Children's Mass on Christmas Eve. This helped to make them both wonderful and joyful celebrations, reminding us of the great hope that the birth of Christ brought to our world.



We look forward to what should be an exciting new year with the celebrations for the Olympics and the Queen's Jubilee – to mention just a few memorable events.



'Live, love and learn joyfully together through Jesus and his Church'



Now many of our pupils are preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to be followed by their First Holy Communion. Please keep them in your prayers.

We are very pleased with the effort that went into the Religious Education homework set during the break – some of which is on display in the entrance. Again, a big thank you to pupils and parents!

Our school has a well deserved good reputation for supporting events in the wider community.

Mindful of this, there has to be a special mention of our links with the Dominican Sisters, who founded St. Catherine's.

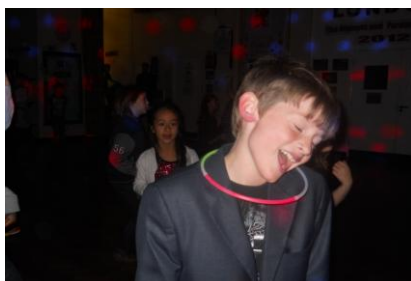
Year six and reception classes performed their "Shine Star, Shine" play at Rosary Priory, to the delight of the congregation.

Year six exchanged letters with pupils at St. Catherine's School, in South Africa, and will continue to correspond with their pen-pals and share ideas.



The children have settled readily into their learning and are already working hard. You will hear more about this at Parents' Consultations. You should have been offered a ten minute appointment with your child's teacher for one of the days next week, or the Thursday evening, to discuss their progress and the targets for their learning. Please be aware of the fact that if you arrive late, the teacher may have no option other than ask the office to make another appointment.

Furthermore, if you could avoid bringing your child to the evening consultation, it would be greatly appreciated, as supervision becomes an issue when there are large numbers of children together!



Finally, I have been asked to bring the following to your attention. Hertfordshire County Council is running a consultation on the proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2013/14 and is seeking responses from parents/carers, schools and community groups.

The main change proposed is to allow an increase in the number of preferences from three to four, i.e. parents will be able to apply to four schools, as opposed to only three as currently. Views are also being sought on:

- A rule to prioritise children of school staff
- Amending the priority area rules and "nearest" school definitions
- Other proposals for the treatment of twins/multiple births, a single sex priority area and in year admissions.

The consultation period runs until 29 February 2012. Please if you wish visit, www.hertsdirect.org/admission_s2013 for more information and to respond online or call Mini Harish on 01992 555840 for a copy of the consultation document.



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