



*St Catherine of
Siena Catholic
Primary School*

NEWSLETTER

December 2011

Dear Parents

On reflection, as this Autumn Term draws to an end, I am delighted that we can celebrate an excellent start to the academic year.

Pupils have had many enriching experiences, thanks to careful planning and the combined efforts of our Governing Body, PTA, parents and staff. The usual ones included Woodside cinema, pantomime, One World, after school clubs, sporting fixtures, violin, swimming and discos.

New ventures included trips to Watford Palace, Building Research Establishment and golf sessions.



Congratulations to both our A and B Football teams, who are undefeated this term. The A team will likely be progressing on to the next round of the District as they were winners in their group!!

We are equally proud of the netball team, who likewise have conducted themselves well at various venues.



They have gelled together and been very flexible in adapting to playing in different positions. It is disappointing that their last two matches were cancelled.

However, compensation was being able to join the football team's Surprise Party! Furthermore, they will play some Friendly Netball Matches in the summer.



Next Monday, we have the Discos after school 4.30 – 6 pm
6.30 – 8 pm;

Tuesday is own clothes and Christmas lunch;

Wednesday "St Catherine has got talent" in the morning and fun activities in the afternoon, as organised by the School Council;

Thursday brings the Ten Ten Theatre – our treat for the children;

and on the last day of term, Friday 16th December, our Advent Mass at 11am.

(Please send in a note if you wish to attend the celebration of Mass with us and take your child/children home early afterwards, before lunch).



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



Monday 5th December was the beginning of assessment week for the whole school. Papers will be marked as soon as possible, put on the system and analysed. The results will be shared in more detail at the next Parents' Consultation Meeting. However, meanwhile, our own ongoing School Self Evaluation evidences that Booster Classes and Interventions are continuing to make a difference in terms of pupil confidence. Likewise, the streaming of pupils in years five and six for Mathematics, since half-term, is beginning to have a positive impact on progress and proving popular with the children.

We have had a few instances recently when children and parents have been upset about comments written to them or about them on Facebook or other social networking sites. As a school, we are not able to police these sites or sort out problems caused by them unless they are beginning to impact on the class. These sites are not designed for children, many of them have minimum age limits (13 for Facebook) and all of them, despite their promises, can easily be used wrongly.

If your child uses any of these sites, please keep an eye on them, monitor them and make sure that the privacy and security settings are set correctly. As a part of our Child Protection Policy, no member of staff may make contact with children from the school via social network sites. It would make their lives easier if children did not approach them online.

It saddens me to once again have to mention the *misuse* of Facebook by a very few individual parents, who persist in posting slanderous and negative comments about school, staff and pupils. This continues to undermine our whole Christian ethos and Mission Statement. Please note our attached School Social Networking Policy, which clearly states the code of conduct expected of all and the consequences of potential and actual breaches.

To conclude, I applaud and thank the majority of our parents who are happy and proud to be part of the family of St. Catherine's and work in partnership with us. No doubt, you are already in the throes of shopping and preparing for the coming festivities. However, in conjunction with the parish of Our Lady and St Michael, we ask you, if possible, to support our School charity 'Watford New Hope Trust.' If you would like to make a donation, however big or small, your child

may put coins in their classroom box or you may send in tinned and non perishable food items.

Please note that all products must have a **Best Before Date of 2012 onwards.**

In a world where Christmas has become very commercial, endorsing this charity is a great way for staff, parents and pupils to rediscover the true spirit of Christmas.

During this Advent, the Church's season for preparing to receive the gift of Jesus in our homes and in our hearts, we pray for all our families and loved ones, especially for any from whom we are separated, that we may learn to see Christ in each face, and serve Him in caring for each other.

The staff wish all pupils and their families a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and every blessing in the coming year. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Wednesday 4th January 2012.

Pauline Curran



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