



Newsletter: December 2015

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you for your beautifully decorated 'Christmas trees' all hung up in our school hall and wonderfully reflective of Christmas' true meaning. The tree decorated as the 'Paris tricolore' is particularly striking – thank you for the time and effort you have all put into our whole school project with your children, the results are charming. And you can see our winning entries displayed in our school reception area!

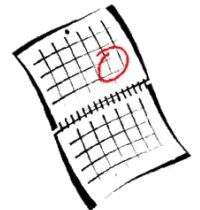
Important Dates...

- Second Nativity Performance for parents of children in Years 1 + 2 is on Wed. 16th Dec. (doors open at 1:30pm) – please remember your tickets!
- Children's School Christmas Parties – Thursday 17th Dec. (afternoon)
- Advent Carol Service – Friday 18th Dec. 10:45am (doors open 10:35am) – All parents are welcome to attend
- Christmas lunch for all children – Friday 18th December



The autumn term finishes at **2:00pm** on Friday 18th December – *please ensure you make arrangements for your child to be collected at the earlier closing time on this day, thank you.*

We return to school on Tuesday 5th January at 8:55am (supervision in the playground from 8:40am) – the children should attend in their winter uniform.
(INSET day 4th January 2016 – school is closed to children on this day)



Year 6 SATs Parents' Meeting – Thursday 14th January 2016, 5:00pm, upper school hall

Christmas Fundraisers

The Christmas Cake Sale held last Friday was a success! Thank you to all who contributed with donations and purchases! We raised an amazing £283.78!

Our new school calendar for 2016 is on sale now! The theme of the calendar is 'Inventors and Inventions!' Every class has contributed to the pictures in this calendar and it has all the school term and event dates detailed inside. It would make a great gift for aunts, uncles and grandparents! So be sure to purchase one soon! The cost of the calendar is only £6.00.



Our carol singers are fully booked again this year! They have already performed at Bermondsey Tube Station and Canary Wharf and they are due to perform at Hay's Galleria. So far, we have raised £569.22 for our school and there's still more to come! Thank you to our fantastic carol singers for their hard work and energy!

Advent Fundraising Project

Thank you so much for all the overwhelming donations for the Manna Centre supporting homeless people. We have had to book one collection of donations already as they have been spreading vastly through the lower floor of the school! Our next collection is on Fri. 18th Dec. – so be sure to get your donations in before this date! Most of the children have brought in at least one food, clothing or toiletry item to donate and have coloured in a heart on their class chart. Thank you for your thoughts and generosity during this Advent.



Staffing...

Goodbye and Good Luck!

We are saying goodbye to two members of staff this Christmas 2015!

Firstly we say goodbye to Ms McGrath who leaves us after 13 years! Ms McGrath will miss all the children at St. Joseph's greatly. We thank Ms McGrath for her care and commitment over the years and we will miss her recounting her funny stories of her time at St. Joseph's!

Secondly, we say a temporary farewell to Miss Tran who begins her maternity leave this Christmas! We wish her and her family well as they eagerly await the new addition to the family! Thank you Miss Tran and have a good rest over the Christmas break!

Welcome!

We are pleased to welcome Mr Child to our school premises team! Mrs Martin has taken the sensible decision to reduce her working hours ensuring she can continue to keep the cogs of St. Joseph's turning behind the scenes in a manageable way! This has meant we are in a position to increase the members of our premises team and Mr Child has offered to pick up the snow shovel, wield the drill and manoeuvre the mop! Please join us in welcoming him to the staff team!

We also welcome Mrs Agbontohoma to our nursery team – stepping in temporarily so that we can increase the provision for our nursery pupils!

Reminders

Children who are brought to school by an adult should be accompanied all the way to the pupil entrance – please do not send children running down George Row on their own for obvious health, safety and welfare reasons. Further, we will be reminding all our children to **walk** along George Row before entering school in the mornings, running is dangerous for the individuals and other members of our community present on the pavements at this time. In the event your child is late for school, please **do not encourage him/her to run** as this does not help the situation – best practice is to always arrive at school 5-10 minutes before the official start time of 8:55am.



Please ensure your children wrap up warm with the necessary accessories during this cold period – hats, gloves and scarves! Novelty and brightly coloured accessories are discouraged while navy blue and school items are encouraged. Please also remember laces on school shoes must be black – coloured laces are not permitted. Lastly, please label your child's school coat; there is a name label that can be written on, in the inside of the pocket of school coats purchased through the office.

Please do not book holidays or flights during term time periods. While we understand it is often cheaper to fly during term-time than in holiday periods, remember our staff are expected to be in school and therefore, our pupils are too. Time is so very precious and we cannot reclaim it!



School Water Bottles

We have new and improved school water bottles on sale! They are non-drip and do not require the children to pull nozzles up with their teeth! Children can simply drink the water using a sucking action. They are on sale today at a cost of £1.50. Previous school water bottles are still acceptable while we move through this transitional period.



We wish you all a very sincere, happy and holy Christmas!

St. Joseph's School Staff

