

**Newsletter: January 2015**

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and we wish you all a very Happy New Year! We hope that 2015 will be a prosperous and peaceful year for us all!

Please read on, for some important information in our first newsletter of the year.....

**Advent Project**

Thank you for all your support during our Advent project. We had several bags of generous donations that we delivered to the Evelina Children's Hospital in December along with gifts for adult patients at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital.



We reflected on our project during our whole school Advent service on the last day of the autumn term – thank you to the parents that took time out of their busy days to attend and share this service with us.

Each game, teddy and gift brought great joy to many people dealing with serious illnesses – thank you for caring.

**The Wednesday Word...**

We are continuing to purchase and send home the 'Wednesday Word' every week in 2015. This is a Gospel resource that contains the adapted Gospel reading from the coming Sunday's Mass, with a brief explanation of the key messages. There is a prayer that we encourage our children to say at home and some fun activities, such as a word search and colouring pictures, linked to the Gospel message. The back of the sheet has a further simplified version of the reading for younger children. We hope that you will share this with your children and family and enjoy the activities together.



**Nativity DVD orders**

The Reception and KS1 Nativity DVD can be ordered from the school at main reception. If you wish to place an order, then this can be done via a member of our admin. team. The DVD will be available during early February. Remember, when you collect it you will be required to sign an agreement that the DVD is for personal viewing use only, and that it will not be copied or shared publicly. Payment may be made in advance or upon collection. The cost of the DVD is £7.00.



**School Calendars**

Our school calendars are still on sale for the calendar year 2015! They include artwork from each class, the school term dates and our annual school events! They are a bargain at only £7.00 per copy. Orders can be made through the school office ☺

**PTA Christmas Fundraising**



Congratulations to our new PTA for a successful period of fundraising! Many thanks also to our parent community for supporting all our events and initiatives – it is greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed! Watch this space for the PTA newsletter due out soon detailing all their achievements!

## Community Appeal

We were overwhelmed by the support from our staff and community for this appeal relating to two children in our school. It is obviously a tragic event that touched many hearts. Thank you for sharing and giving so generously. Some parents have asked whether they can still send in contributions and some of you have even asked whether you can give contributions on an annual basis. Such questions alone are such an expression of love and support. Contributions can still be made to the office throughout this year and next, please mark any envelopes with the words, 'Trust Fund.' Further details will follow regarding the technicalities of this pledge.



## Reminders...

### Term Dates

The spring half-term is from **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2015**

School will finish at the usual time of 3:15pm on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2015**

The children return, still in their winter uniform, on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. 2015**



### Pupil Attendance

We are expecting a register inspection this term and we are pleased to tell our parents that the level of attendance within the school remains high (97.4% overall). Please continue to ensure you support the school by calling the office if your child is going to be absent on the morning of the absence and ensuring that any absence is followed up by a letter addressed to the class teacher. Please remember to check term dates before booking any family holidays.

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. There is supervision in the school playground from 8:40am.



### Medication

We are unable to administer medication to children unless it is prescribed by your GP. Please ensure you complete a medication permission form, which can be obtained from school reception, prior to the medication being sent to school.

### Uniform

During adverse weather conditions, (heavy rain, frost or snow) please remember the children **can** wear boots to school. However, they should carry their school shoes with them in a carrier bag so that they can change into them once they arrive at school. Please ensure that children are wearing black shoes in school, not trainers or ankle boots, thank you.



Please ensure your children wrap up warm with the necessary accessories during cold periods – 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 and around the neck of school coats purchased through the office.

Please ensure items of uniform taken in error are returned promptly to the school – many thanks.



Please remember if you have any concerns or queries at any time, do not hesitate in making an appointment through the school office to see your child's class teacher or a member of management – we are always happy to listen and help where we can.

*St. Joseph's School Staff*