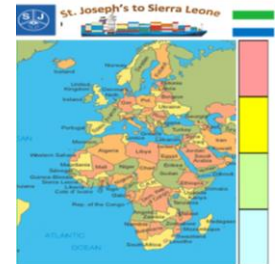


Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope you have all had a great start to the New Year and that 2018 will be a successful year for all. Please read on, for some important information in our first newsletter of the year...

Advent Project

On behalf of the children and staff of the Ivor Leigh Memorial Community School Sierra Leone and us all here at St Joseph's, we extend our thanks for all your generous donations towards our Advent Project. It is with great pride that we can confirm that in total our project raised over £1,000 to pay for the shipping costs of learning resources from St Joseph's to our partner school in West Africa. These resources will have a huge impact upon the quality of provision that the staff of the Ivor Leigh Memorial Community School can offer for their children.



The Wednesday Word...

We are continuing to purchase and send home the 'Wednesday Word' every week in 2018. 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 will be on sale soon – further details to follow.

PTA

The staff and governors of St Joseph's would like to extend our thanks to the PTA for their hard work over the past few months raising money for our PTA fund to re-invest in learning resources for the school. Our PTA organised Christmas Jumper Day and carol singing performances which were a great success and raised £500.00 towards milk provision for the children.

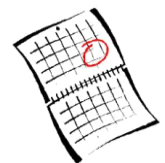
PTA Trolley Coins

Trolley coins are now on sale from our school reception. These are engraved with the school crest and would make a lovely gift for friends or family. Coins are priced at **£2.00**; all money raised will be donated to our school's PTA.



School Calendars

Our school calendars are still on sale for the calendar year 2018 although we are now down to our last few due to their popular demand. They include artwork from each class inspired by 'Our Favourite Bible Stories', the school term dates and our annual school events. They are a bargain at only £6.50 per copy! Orders can be made through the school office.



Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 6th February our school will be taking part in Safer Internet Day. This year the theme is 'Create, Connect and Share Respect, a better internet starts with you.' The children will take part in lessons and activities to help them develop their understanding of the dangers of using the internet and what constitutes safe and appropriate online behaviours. For further information about Safer Internet Day and how you can support your child in being safe online visit: www.saferinternet.org.uk

Staffing

Congratulations

On behalf of all the staff at St Joseph's we wish congratulations, and extend our best wishes to Miss Crowe who this Christmas welcomed a new baby girl to her family. Baby Muireann was born on Wednesday 20th December 2018 at a healthy 6lbs 15oz,

Welcome

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Mrs McDonagh, a long standing member of our school community, back to St Joseph's this January as she joins our kitchen team.

Good luck

We wish good luck to Mrs Hilton, Campion Class Teacher, who this month has begun her training to run the London Marathon 2018. Mrs Hilton has very kindly offered to use this opportunity to raise money for the school and our associated charities – more details to follow in coming newsletters.

Parents Suggestions and Comments

Thank you to all parents for your kind comments regarding the success of our Key Stage One Nativity, carol singing performances and advent project – as always your kind hearted words are very much appreciated.

We have received suggestions from parents that the school implement an electronic system of payment for parents. This is something that is also a goal for us as a school and that we are currently taking steps towards implementing this.

Reminders...

Term Dates

The spring half-term is from **Monday 12th Feb. – Friday 16th Feb. 2018**

School will finish at the usual time of 3:15pm on **Friday 9th Feb. 2018**

The children return, still in their winter uniform, on **Monday 19th Feb. 2018**



Pupil Attendance

We are pleased to tell our parents that the level of attendance within the school remains high (97.71% 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 explaining the reason for your child's absence. Please remember to check term dates before booking any family holidays – these can be found on our school website.

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 health, safety and welfare reasons. Furthermore, 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.



Hair

Please ensure that when attending school pupils have their hair presented in a neat and appropriate fashion. We ask that girls refrain from styling their hair in large or elaborate styles and indeed that all long hair is tied up for school. Furthermore, boys are not permitted to have shaved or patterned hair styles and we ask that boys refrain from haircuts with significant differences between the length of the top, the back and sides. Artificial hair colours are not permitted.

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 not permitted 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 Mrs Byrne or Mr Hoyes.

St. Joseph's School Staff