



Newsletter: December 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

Merry Christmas! Our first Nativity performance to the parents of reception children last Friday was a roaring success as was our performance to Key Stage Two and the school staff earlier in the week. We are very proud of the children in Reception and Key Stage One – they have truly brought our whole school community into the Christmas Spirit. Many parents commented on the beautifully decorated ‘angels and robins’ hung up in our school hall, wonderfully reflecting Christmas’ true meaning. Thank you for the time and effort you have all put into our whole school project with your children; the results are charming. 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 Wednesday. 13th Dec. (doors open at 1:30pm) – please remember your tickets!
- Children’s School Christmas Parties – Thursday 14th Dec. (afternoon)
- Advent Carol Service – Friday 15th Dec. 10:45am (doors open 10:35am) – All parents are welcome to attend.
- Christmas lunch for all children – Friday 15th Dec.

The autumn term finishes at **2:00pm** on Friday 15th Dec. – *please ensure you make arrangements for your child to be collected at the earlier closing time on this day (there will be no after school clubs) thank you.*

We return to school on Wednesday 3rd Jan. at 8:55am (supervision in the playground from 8:40am) – the children should attend in their winter uniform.

(INSET day on Tuesday 2nd Jan. 2018 – school is closed to children on this day)

Year 6 SATs Parents’ Meeting – Thursday 11th Jan. 2018, 5:00pm, upper school hall



Christmas Fundraisers

Our new school calendar for 2018 is on sale now. The theme of the calendar is ‘Our Favourite Bible Stories.’ 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 £6.50.



Our carol singers are fully booked again this year! They have already performed at Canary Wharf, at the Year 6 Senior Citizens Christmas Tea and in the school playground. So far, we have raised £426.95 for our school and there are still more performances to come at Surrey Quays and Age Concern. Thank you to our wonderful Year 6 School Choir for all their hard work in preparing and performing Christmas Carols this year.

Advent Fundraising Project

Thank you so much for all the generous donations towards raising money to ship school resources to our partner school – The Ivor Leigh Memorial Community School – in Sierra Leone. The founder of the Ivor League Memorial Community School has offered her thanks to our entire school community on behalf of the children in Sierra Leone for your kind donations – they will really make such a difference to the quality of resources the school have available to them.

Staffing...

Goodbye

After over 22 years of service to St Joseph's, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Brice as she moves on from our school to take up her full time role as a Grandmother. On behalf of all the staff, children and parents at Joseph's we offer her our sincerest of thanks for all she has given to our school community. We wish her and her family every happiness for the future.



Goodbye for now

We say goodbye to Miss Crowe at the end of this term as she leaves us to go on maternity leave. Please join us in giving her and her family our very best wishes.

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. 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.



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 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 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

Our school water bottles can be purchased from the school office for £1.50. Please ensure these are clearly labelled.



If you have any questions regarding the items in this newsletter then please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Byrne or Mr Hoyes.

Please contact the school office for appointments, which can be made throughout the year.

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

St. Joseph's School Staff