

Newsletter: November 2017

Dear Parents,

We are in November and on the countdown to Christmas! Please read on for some important items in our November newsletter...



### **Parents' Evening**

Thank you for your attendance at our autumn term parents' evening last half-term. We hope you have been working with your child on his/her targets. Please continue to refer to them as we begin to approach the end of the autumn term. Teachers really do notice a significant difference in the progress of children who work on and achieve their targets ☺

### **Advent/Christmas Events**

Below is a list of events we will be holding during the season of Advent. Please make a note of the dates relevant to you, so that you can attend.

- Senior Citizens Christmas Tea – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. 10:30am, Wade Hall.
- The PTA Christmas Jumper Day – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec.
- Nativity Performances – upper school hall
  - Parents of children in Reception to attend the performance on Fri. 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. (doors open at 1:30pm)
  - Parents of children in Years 1 + 2 to attend the performance on Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. (doors open at 1:30pm)
  - Both performances are ticketed and tickets will be given out during the week of the performances
- Nursery Nativity – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2pm (doors open 1:45pm), Nursery
- Children's School Christmas Parties – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. (afternoon) – *children only!*
- Advent Carol Service – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10:45am (doors open 10:35am) – *All parents are welcome to attend.*
- Carol Singing – this year our group of Year 6 children will be performing carols at the following public locations:
  - Canary Wharf – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. 12:30pm
  - The School Playground – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December during end of day dismissals
  - Tesco Surrey Quays – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. 12:30pm



### **Also...**

- Our school calendar for the Year 2018 is at the printers! Last year's calendar theme was 'School Saints and Founders' and this year's calendar theme is 'Our Favourite Bible Stories'. A school calendar makes a great family gift and also contains all the key school dates during 2018. We will be selling these soon for only £6.50. More information to follow.



## Our Annual Advent Fundraising Project

This year for our Advent Project we are aiming to raise money towards paying for a shipping container to send resources from our school to our partner school: The Ivor Leigh Memorial School just outside of Freetown in Sierra Leone. St. Joseph's has been a partner of The Ivor Leigh Memorial School since 2008 and in the past we have raised money to help build the school and improve the facilities. Sadly, this summer, there were terrible floods in Sierra Leone and parts of the school building and equipment were damaged. Our Advent project is a wonderful way for the St Joseph's Community to enter into the spirit of charity and giving that the Christmas Season brings and to help those less fortunate than us in Sierra Leone.

Several ways that we have encouraged our children to support the Advent Project are: By donating some pocket money; by turning down a treat and donating the money instead; by doing additional chores in exchange for a donation; giving up one of their Christmas presents; making cards for your friends in school, saving the money that you would have spent on buying the cards in order to donate; making home-made gifts and saving the money they would have spent on shop bought gifts and to raise money by 'carol singing' with friends and an adult. We welcome your support with this project and extend our sincerest thanks for any donations both great and small.



## We have a new Green Team!

Your green team projects and posters were outstanding! Congratulations to both children and parents for your time, effort and originality! We had many fantastic projects some big, some small, some even growing themselves! Each class teacher had the very difficult job of choosing just one winner and these children were announced in a whole school assembly. These children make up our new Green Team 2017/18! Congratulations everybody! Miss Allen, our Green Team leader, is excited to be working with the new Green Team – they have already had their first meeting!



## October & November Fundraising

A huge 'Thank you' for supporting all of our fundraising initiatives! We raised a fantastic £347.13 for Children in Need on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November, as well as having a lot of fun wearing yellow and bringing our favourite stuffed toys into school.

## Remembrance

### Remembrance Day



The children have been wearing their poppies with pride during the month of November and we have been remembering all those in heaven with Jesus in our prayers. We held a two minutes silence in school on the Friday before Remembrance Day, joining the rest of the nation in this act of remembrance. Our poppy sales in school have raised £223.68 for all those affected by wars past and present. Thank you for your support.

### WWI Centenary (1914 – 1918 → 2014 – 2018)

We are marking the centenary of WWI over four years reflecting the duration of this Great War. This year, we will be learning about all the different groups of people affected by the First World War including one soldier – Harry Hinkins – who himself attended St Joseph's School. We will also be asking our children to continue completing their WWI journals started in 2014, and continuing over the next year so they can develop their understanding of chronology and fully understand the duration and impact of the war.



## Reminders

Please remember that children are not permitted to wear jewellery during the course of the school or nursery day. Shoes should be worn to school, not trainers. All items of school uniform should be marked with your child's name – there are still coats found without names. You may wish to put a small badge on the coats of young children for easy identification, although they are getting very good at checking name labels and delivering coats to their owners.

Please note that it is not permitted to park in the 'Keep Clear Zone' on George Row outside the front of the school as this is highly disruptive of children arriving and being collected from school. Traffic wardens will be monitoring this area at the beginning and end of the school day.

Please remember that our school day begins promptly at 8:55am and that any children who arrive after the whistle has been blown will be marked as late. We appreciate your support in ensuring that your child arrives at school in the morning before the start of the school day begins.

### **Parents' Suggestions and Comments**

Thank you to all parents who have placed suggestions and comments in the suggestions box in main reception, these are always very welcome. As the building developments continue in our school this term we have carefully considered all parents' suggestions for improving our school's physical environment. Thank you for all the kind comments with regards the success of the Year 6 assemblies this half term – we are all very proud of how well the children delivered these key Gospel messages.

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.

Kind regards,

St. Joseph's School Staff