



Newsletter: December 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope that your preparations for Christmas are well underway and you are looking forward to the Christmas break. At school, we have been busy sharing the true message of Christmas in our Nursery and Reception & KS1 Nativity performances. We are very proud of all of our children who have taken part; they have truly spread the Christmas Spirit throughout our school community. We are also very proud of the time and effort you have all put into our whole school Christmas decoration project with your children; the stars and donkeys look spectacular in our hall and you can see our winning entries displayed in our school reception area.

Our Year 6 children have also been busy spreading Christmas cheer with their Senior Citizens Christmas Tea which was held on Friday 7th Dec. in the Wade Hall. Thank you to all those who attended in record numbers! An additional thank you to those who took the time to write cards to say how much they enjoyed themselves; the children were delighted to receive them!

We have a few final events to wrap up our Christmas festivities; including our Advent Carol Service, which will take place on Friday 21st Dec. at 10:45am in our school hall. Doors will open at 10:35am and parents are welcome to attend.

Following this, Children will enjoy a full Christmas dinner with their teachers, complete with Christmas crackers and music!



We would also like to remind you that school finishes at **2:00pm** on **Friday 21st 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 **Tuesday 8th Jan.** at 8:55am (supervision in the playground from 8:40am) the children should attend in their winter uniform. (INSET day on Monday 7th Jan. 2019 – school is closed to children on this day)

Christmas Fundraisers

Our new school calendar for 2019 is on sale now. The theme of the calendar is 'Our Favourite Songs.' 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.

Thank you to our Year 6 School Choir for all their hard work in preparing and performing Christmas Carols this year. They performed at Canary Wharf, Surrey Quays and in the school playground and raised a total of £347.20 for our school!



Additionally, thank you to the PTA and School Council for organising our Christmas Jumper Day which raised £201.00 for our school. The school council are planning to meet with the P.T.A in the spring term to discuss how all of the funds raised could be spent to make our learning even more exciting!

Advent Project

Thank you so much for all the generous donations we received as part of our 'Shoebox Appeal', to provide gifts for the children and staff of our partner school, The Ivor Leigh Memorial Community School in Sierra Leone. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity! We are delighted to report that we have managed to fill 109 shoeboxes which are currently on their way to the school and will bring great joy to all when they arrive. The founder of the school, Mrs Edmund, has offered her heartfelt thanks to our entire school community on behalf of the children and staff in Sierra Leone.



Uniform

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we do have several items of uniform still in stock at school – see attached uniform list. If you wish to purchase any of these items please enquire at main reception.

All other school uniform can now be purchased online from:

<https://www.yourschooluniform.com/schools/index/st-josephs-014b-r-c-primary-school-20988>

Homework

The children have been set Christmas homework to help reinforce some of their learning from the autumn term. We ask that you encourage your child to complete parts of their homework regularly so they can maintain good learning routines during the holiday period and apply their best efforts to their work. It is not advisable to attempt to complete all homework in one sitting or beneficial to your child's learning.



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 remember shaved hair patterns, coloured or unusual hairstyles, including the use of gel are not permitted and children should tie back long hair during the school day. 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.

Dates for Your Diary

Our Year 6 SATs Parents' Meeting will take place on Thursday 17th Jan. 2019 at 5:00pm in the upper school hall.

Our class assemblies continue with Champion Class' Assembly taking place on 18th Jan. and Teresa Class' Assembly On 25th Jan. Parents of children in these classes will be invited to attend.

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