



Newsletter: January 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope you have all had a great start to the New Year and that 2019 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 shoe box appeal. It is with great pride that we can confirm that we were able to fill 109 shoe boxes with gifts to donate to the children and staff of our partner school, the Ivor Leigh Memorial School in Sierra Leone. These gifts brought great joy to their recipients and all of us at St Joseph's are very proud of how much the children and our parent community embraced the spirit of giving over the Advent Christmas period.

The Wednesday Word...

We are continuing to purchase and send home the 'Wednesday Word' every week in 2019. 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

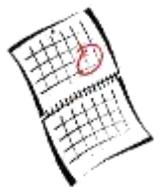
The Reception and KS1 Nativity DVD will be on sale soon – further details to follow.

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.

School Calendars

Unfortunately, due to a printing error our school calendars for 2019 have had to be recalled, republished and redistributed. Thank you to all parents who have already exchanged their misprinted calendars for the republished version. If you still have a copy of the misprinted calendar you can exchange it for the reissue at the main reception. Similarly if you wish to purchase a school calendar for 2019 – themed around the concept 'Our Favourite Songs' and decorated with artwork from all the children in the school – you can do so from main reception for the price of £6.50. The School Calendar includes the school term dates and our annual school events.



Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 5th February our school will be taking part in Safer Internet Day. This year the theme is 'Together for a better Internet'. 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

Parents Suggestions and Comments

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

Reminders...

Term Dates

The spring half-term is from **Monday 18th Feb. – Friday 22nd Feb. 2019**

School will finish at the usual time of 3:15pm on **Friday 15th Feb. 2019**

The children return, still in their winter uniform, on **Monday 25th Feb. 2019**



Pupil Attendance

We are pleased to tell our parents that the level of attendance within the school remains high (97.65% 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 must be accompanied all the way to the pupil entrance – for your child's safety and wellbeing please do not send them running down George Row. 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 – we suggest arriving 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 a 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 or accessories 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. 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.

Finally, 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