



Newsletter: November 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

The second half of the autumn term has already been full of excitement and the countdown to Christmas has begun. We have elected a brand new Green Team to help make St Joseph's a more environmentally friendly school, Nativity rehearsals are already well underway and we have appointed more new prefects in Year 6. 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 move through the Autumn Term. Teachers really do notice a significant difference in the progress of children who work on and achieve their targets.



October & November Fundraising

A huge 'Thank you' for supporting our 'Anti-Bullying Week' last week. We were delighted to see so many children wearing odd socks on Tuesday 12th November to mark St Joseph's celebration of diversity. On Friday 15th November all of the children had the opportunity to pair up with children from another class to decorate their yellow t-shirts in recognition of 'Children in Need.' As a school, we have donated £200.00 to support this charity on behalf of our school community.



Remembrance

Remembrance Day



The children have been wearing their poppies with pride during the month of November to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the Armistice and we have been remembering all those soldiers in heaven, who gave their lives, in our prayers. We held a two minutes silence in school on Monday, Remembrance Day, joining the rest of the nation in this act of remembrance. Our poppy sales in school have raised £265.65 for all those affected by wars past and present. Thank you for your support.



Our Advent Project – 'Giving'

This year for our Advent project we will be reflecting upon the theme of 'Giving'. Advent is a time of year for reflecting upon how lucky we all are and the importance of giving to those less fortunate than ourselves. This year, as a school, we will be donating gifts to the Manna Homeless Society.

Below are the items the shelter has requested we donate:

- Powdered milk
- Sugar
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Tins of ham
- Tins of fish
- Corned beef
- Rice
- Tinned meat for soup
- Tinned vegetables
- Pasta sauce
- Socks
- Puzzle Books
- Novels
- Orange Squash



As detailed in a previous letter, we are encouraging our children to use their pocket money (and any money saved from giving up treats) to buy the items listed above to donate to this worthy cause. We are collecting donations now up until Monday 16th December. If your child can bring in a donation each week that would be fantastic! We will be recording the growth of our donations and the growth of our love and support for Manna Homeless Society on our class charts. We are always really thankful for your support and any items that you can donate are greatly appreciated.

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 – Fri. 6th December 10:30am, Wade Hall.
- Nativity Performances – upper school hall
 - Parents of children in Reception to attend the performance on Fri. 13th December (doors open at 1:30pm)
 - Parents of children in Years 1 + 2 to attend the performance on Wed. 18th December (doors open at 1:30pm)
 - Both performances are ticketed and tickets will be given out during the week of the performances
- Nursery Nativity – Tues. 17th December 2pm (doors open 1:45pm), Nursery
- Children's School Christmas Parties – Monday 16th December (afternoon) – *children only!*
- Advent Carol Service – Thurs. 19th December 10:45am (doors open 10:35am) – *All parents are welcome to attend.*
- Carol Singing – this year our Year 6 choir will be performing carols at the following public locations:
 - Tesco Jamaica Road – Wednesday 4th December 3:30-4:30pm
 - Hays Galleria – Thursday 5th December 12:30-1:30pm
 - Tesco Surrey Quays – Tuesday 10th December 12:30-1:30pm
 - Age Concern – Tuesday 10th December 11am-11:40am
 - The School Playground – Wednesday 18th December during end of day dismissals



Calendar 2020

- Our school calendar for the Year 2020 will be on sale shortly! Last year's calendar theme was 'Our Favourite Songs' and this year's calendar theme is 'Flowers of the Month'. A school calendar makes a great family gift and also contains all the key school dates during 2020. We will be selling these for only £6.50. Calendars can be purchased from main reception.



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 2019/20! Congratulations everybody! Miss Wright our Green Team leader, is excited to be working with the new Green Team – they have already had their first meeting!



Uniform

During the autumn term & spring term girls should wear a blue shirt, school tie, a navy blue skirt/pinafore/coulottes, navy socks or tights, a navy cardigan, black shoes, a plain navy coat and a school winter hat.

During the autumn term & spring term boys should wear a blue shirt, school tie, grey trousers, grey socks, a grey jumper, black shoes, a plain navy coat and a school winter hat.

Please ensure that all uniform accessories – hats, scarfs, gloves, ear muffs – are navy blue, so as to be in keeping with our School Presentation Policy. 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 or boots. 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.

We do have several items of uniform still in stock at school – please refer to the uniform list that was sent out last week. If you wish to purchase any of these items please enquire at main reception.

All other school uniform can now be purchased online, please see the link on our school website.

Parents and Toddlers

As you may be aware our Parents & Toddler group takes place from 9:00-11:00am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Felton Hall. Thank you to Mrs O'Mahony and Mrs Ryan for all their hard work in organising these sessions, they have been very much enjoyed by all in attendance.



Welcome

It is with great pleasure that this month we welcome Mrs Ryan and Mrs Hill to our After School Club team. Please join us in making them feel welcome as part of the St Joseph's community.

Reminders

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 to 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. School reception opens at 8:00am for Breakfast Club, please remain outside the front of the school until this time.

Parents' Suggestions and Comments

As always, your suggestions and comments are very much appreciated. If you have any suggestions, there is a Parents' Suggestions Box in main reception.

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

Kind regards,

St. Joseph's School Staff