

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope you have all had a great start to 2020 and that this New Year will be a successful one for you all. Please read on, for some important information in our first newsletter of the year...

### Advent Project

On behalf of the staff and members of the Manna Homeless Society, we want to say a massive thank you to you all for your generous donations to our school Advent Project. We recently received an email from the Manna Homeless society, which we have shared together in assembly, explaining how these gifts brought great joy to their recipients. All of the staff 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. A special thank you to our School Council who suggested the Manna Homeless Society as the focus for our Advent Project and who oversaw the management of the project from start to finish.



### The Wednesday Word...

We are continuing to purchase and send home the 'Wednesday Word' every week in 2020. 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.



### 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 our carol singing performances throughout December, which were a great success, raising over £500.00 for the school.

### School Calendars

Our school Calendars for 2020 are on sale now! This year our school calendar is themed around the concept 'Flowers of the Month' and is decorated with artwork from all the children in the school. Calendars can be purchased 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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. As always, we encourage all of our parents to closely monitor your child's online activity in order to support them in conducting themselves safely and responsibly both online and when using their mobile phone. For further information about Safer Internet Day, and how you can support your child in being safe online, visit: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) Look out for further information on parent 'Safer Internet' training.

### 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.

### Term Dates

The spring half-term is from **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. 2019**

School will finish at the usual time of 3:15pm on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2019**

The children return, still in their winter uniform, on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2019**



## Goodbye...

At the end of this month we say goodbye to Miss McConnell, a long standing member of our school staff. Miss McConnell has supported in classes across the school over the course of her years at St Joseph's and on behalf of all the children and staff here at the school, we wish her the sincerest of thanks for her hard work and dedication to the children. We wish her every success for the future and assure her that she will forever be part of the St Joseph's family.

## Pupil Attendance

We wish to remind all parents not to arrange family holidays during term time; attendance at school is a statutory requirement for all pupils. In order to achieve the best possible outcomes for your child it is essential that they are in school every day. We are pleased to tell our parents that the level of attendance within the school remains high (96.89% 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. If your child suffers from an allergy please ensure that the school is informed. Please note that all allergies must be verified by your child's GP.



## 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.

## 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, from wearing beads in their hair, and that all long hair is tied up for school and that hair bands/accessories are a sensible size and either black or navy blue. 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 are not permitted.

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***