



St Joseph's Newsletter

November 2020



Important Information

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, rehearsals for the 'St Joseph's Nativity Movie' are well underway and we have appointed new prefects in Year 6. Please note:

- We break up for Christmas on **Friday 18th December**. Your child will be dismissed exactly **one hour earlier** than their current dismissal time (There will be no After School Club this day)
- The children return to school on Wednesday 6th January at their current arrival time

Managing the Symptoms of Coronavirus

Thank you to our parent community for your vigilance in managing the symptoms of Coronavirus. Please see the guidance below:

The NHS defines the symptoms of Coronavirus (including children) as:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If your child or a member of your household displays symptoms of Coronavirus:

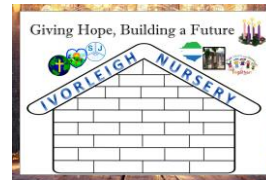
- 1) Call the school office to inform the school
- 2) Book a test for Coronavirus
- 3) Self-Isolate until you receive the test results
- 4) Call the school office to inform the school of the results of the test

Upon receiving the results of the test, the senior leadership team will follow appropriate guidance as to what, if any, further action needs to be taken. If you are unsure whether your child or a member of your household is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus, contact your GP or call 111 for further advice.

Advent Project

This year, the theme of our whole school Advent project is 'Giving Hope, Building a Future'. Our School Council have decided our Advent Project this year is to raise money for our sister school, The Ivor Leigh Memorial School in Sierra Leone. The funds will be donated to the school to assist them in finishing the construction of their new nursery building.

We are encouraging our children to use their pocket money (and any money saved from giving up treats) to donate to this worthy cause. We will be accepting donations until Monday 14th December. Thank you for your support.



KS1 and Reception Nativity

In very exciting news, we can announce that this year the children of Reception and KS1 will be creating the very first St Joseph's Nativity Movie! Rehearsals and recording are already in progress for this exciting project. The Movie will premiere on the school website in the last week of the autumn term – further detail to follow.

Nursery Nativity

In further Nativity news, we are delighted to confirm that the Nursery Nativity will also be going ahead this year. The Nursery Nativity will be recorded and made available to parents on the school website in the last week of the autumn term – further details to follow.

Calendar 2021

Our school calendar for 2021 is on sale now. A school calendar makes a great family gift and also contains all the key school dates during 2021. We are selling these for only £6.50. Calendars can be purchased by completing the PTA order form and sending the money into school with your child enclosed in a school money pocket. Your calendar will be sent home with your child.



Uniform

All children should be wearing the full winter school uniform including:

Girls:

- Blue Shirt
- School Tie
- Navy Skirt/pinafore/culottes
- Navy Cardigan
- Black Shoes (not trainers)
- Navy Tights/Socks
- Navy School Jacket
- Navy School Winter Hat
- Navy scarf and gloves

Boys:

- Blue Shirt
- School Tie
- Grey Trousers
- Grey Jumper
- Black Shoes (not trainers)
- Grey Socks
- Navy School Jacket
- School Winter Hat
- Navy scarf and gloves



You may wish to put a small badge on your child's coat to help them identify this, if they are unable to read their name at present. Please remember jewellery, including stud earrings are not permitted. Shaved hair patterns or unusual styles, including the use of hair products, e.g. hair gel, are not permitted and children should tie back long hair during the school day. Please remember to label all items of uniform and return any items taken in error.

Uniform may be purchased online at: <https://www.yourschooluniform.com/schools/index/st-josephs-014b-r-c-primary-school-20988> by following the link on the school website.

Target Setting Parents' Consultations

Thank you very much for making the time to carry out a 'Target Setting Phone Call' with your child's class teacher. 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.

Virtual Class Assemblies

Congratulations to Dempsey and Fisher Class who over the past two weeks have led the first ever St Joseph's virtual assemblies. Their reflections upon the Gospel message were a wonderful reminder that in times of hardship God's word is always there to lead us through.

Parent Mail

Please check your 'Parent Mail' app regularly for updates and correspondence from the school.



Green Team

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed a new green team. Your green team projects and posters were outstanding and have given us some wonderful ideas for the redesign of our rooftop garden.

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. These children make up our new Green Team 2020/21! Congratulations everybody! Miss Allen our Green Team leader, is excited to be working with the new Green Team on making the school a more environmentally friendly place.



Absences

Please remember to contact the school on the first day of your child's absence and then subsequently for each day s/he is absent. On their return to school, please ensure you have sent in a note explaining the reason for the absence. The note needs to be addressed to the class teacher. Please ensure that all holidays are booked within the school holiday periods – refer to term dates on the website.

Remembrance Day

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were unable to sell poppies at school this year as their production had been disrupted. At St Joseph's each class marked Remembrance Day by holding their own two minutes silence at 11:00am on Wednesday 11th November and by reflecting upon the sacrifice made by so many soldiers in the name of freedom.



Welcome

We are delighted to welcome Miss Hardiman and Mrs Balliu to our after school club team this half term and Miss Deerdan who will be teaching MFL to all of our KS2 classes. I am sure that you will join us in welcoming them to the St Joseph's community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Byrne or Mr Hoyes by appointment through the school office.

Prayer of the Month: November



Dempsey Class Prayer: Remembrance

Dear Lord,

During this month of Remembrance we remember those who fought, and continue to fight, for us in wars around the globe. We ask you to bless and protect those who are affected.

We reflect upon the work of our key workers during the Covid-19 pandemic and remember the many sacrifices they have made to protect us through these uncertain times. We ask that you continue to protect them in their hard work to keep our country safe.

We remember all of the people around the world who have been affected by Coronavirus and those who have sadly passed away.
Amen



- Written by Dempsey Class

Gift a Brick

This Christmas we are supporting our local Parish, The most Holy Trinity Church Dockhead, in their mission to build a new parish centre.

For £5, you can support this wonderful campaign. You will also be given a gift card that you can give as a Christmas present which states that on their behalf a brick has been purchased.

Please send your donations into school with your child enclosed in a school money pocket. As always, your generosity is much appreciated.

