



St Joseph's January Newsletter



National Lockdown

Happy New Year! We hope that you have a good start to 2021 and that this year will be a joyous and successful one for all.

As you are aware, school is currently closed to all pupils except the children of critical workers and vulnerable groups. We are saddened by the fact we are unable to be together as a school during this testing period however this measure is vital to protect all members of our school community.

The DfE's current guidance on school attendance states that if children can be cared for at home, they should be. This is because children are safer at home than they are in school; to reduce the transmission of the virus and to support the school in sustaining consistent staffing numbers to provide for our families of greatest need at this time. Thank you to all of our parents for your support by keeping your child at home where you can and supporting their learning remotely.

Coronavirus

We ask our parent community to continue to be vigilant in how they manage the symptoms of Coronavirus in their household and in their family. Furthermore, we ask you to continue to adhere to the preventative measures which we are implementing as a school to inhibit the potential spread of the virus.

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

<http://stjosephsgorgerow.org/>

Remote Learning

All of the staff at St Joseph's have been delighted to see and to hear about the progress the children are making through their remote learning. The manner in which both children and parents have embraced this new form of learning has been incredibly heartening – the commitment of the St Joseph's community to enabling all children to reach their full potential remaining strong despite these challenging circumstances.

You can access the remote learning resources provided for your child by their class teacher daily on 'Google Drive'. Teachers are monitoring the children's engagement and progress closely each day and will provide feedback to you and your child regularly by phone. If you have any questions with regards your child's remote learning please speak to your child's class teacher or call the school office.

Term Dates

The spring half-term is from Monday 15th Feb. – Friday 19th Feb. 2021

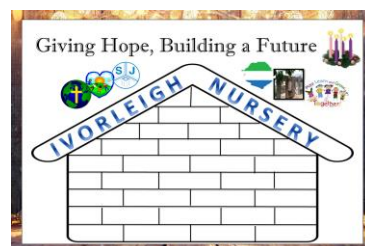
School will finish at the usual time for your child on Friday 12th Feb. 2021

The second half of the spring term begins on Monday 22nd Feb. 2021

Advent Project

It gives us great joy to announce that our school community raised £500.00 through our Advent Project to donate to our sister school, The Ivor Leigh Memorial School in Sierra Leone, to help fund the construction of their new Nursery building.

This year, the theme of our whole school Advent project, inspired by our school council, was 'Giving Hope, Building a Future'. On behalf of the children of the Ivor Leigh Memorial School we wish to extend our thanks to all of you for your generous donations.



Prayer of the Month: January

Dear Father,

Thank you for guiding us through these unpredictable times. We ask you to guide us to help others through these challenging times. We pray in particular for the elderly people in our community; may you help us to help them by helping with their shopping, spreading the Gospel message and staying in touch relatives. Even though we know we may not be able to go to Church, we know you are always in our hearts.

Amen.

- Written by David & Nana Ama

Uniform

During adverse weather conditions, (heavy rain, frost or snow) please remember the children can wear boots/wellies 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 your 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 – all accessories should be navy blue. 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.

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

EYFS and KS1 Nativities

Thank you to all parents for your kind words with regards our YR+KS1 and Nursery Nativity movies! It seems that you enjoyed watching them as much as we enjoyed creating them. Well done to all of the children who participated; they truly helped to spread the true meaning of Christmas through their wonderful performances.

Parent Mail

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



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