



Autumn Term, Issue 10, Friday 22nd December, 2017

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

A Voluntary Academy

Newsletter

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Dear Parents,

This week was a very busy week in the life of St Joseph's but also a very blessed one with so many opportunities for children to shine and experience wonderful things that they will never forget. These all help your children to blossom and grow and become fully alive. One of God's many attributes is beauty and there have been many beautiful and moving experiences throughout this week. Well done to all our staff who have worked so hard to help the children do so very well. 2017 has brought a lot of changes for St Joseph's. By continuing to work together our school will just get better and better. In a team everyone achieves more and this is how we will continue to work in 2018. We are all well aware of how Christmas has become 'commercialised' and one glance along the racks of cards for sale will tell you that you will be lucky to find any that have anything to do with what Christmas is all about ~ the birth of Jesus Christ the Saviour. It is amazing to think that the God who created the universe humbled himself to be born in a stable and 33 years later to die in agony on a cross. He did this because He loves us with a love so great and enduring that we can hardly take it in.

I would like to take this opportunity to everyone for making me feel very welcome at St Joseph's and I would like to wish you a very happy, holy and joyful Christmas with every good wish and many blessings for the year ahead. We will reopen on Monday 8th January 2018.

A reminder that there will be Christmas Eve Mass at St Joseph' Church on Christmas Eve at 6:30pm



Christmas Mass at St Joseph's - Christmas Eve 6:30pm

Christmas Fayre: Thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas Fayre we raised approximately £944 for school funds. I know that the school are busy preparing and planning how this money can be spent for our children. A couple of suggestions are to have a more permanent location for the chickens as well as having a music centre to play songs at lunchtimes.

Christmas Raffle: The raffled was drawn in assembly this morning and the winners are listed below:

- 1st Christmas Hamper- Keelan Webster
- 2nd Christmas Hamper - Alfie Noble
- 3rd Group Ticket to the Butterfly Park - Cayden Ball
- 4th Christmas Hamper - Abigail Marriot
- 5th Christmas Hamper - Louise
- 6th Christmas oil painting - Annika Poce

Mrs Flowers: Today was Mrs Flowers last in school as she takes up her new post at a new school in Maltby. Mrs Flowers has worked at St Joseph's for five years and she will be greatly missed by us all here in school. We wish her all the best and good luck and hope that she won't be a stranger to us. We have recruited Mrs Val Dixon to replace Mrs Flowers and she will take up her post in the New Year.

EYFS & KS1 Nativity: A big well done to all our children who took part in the nativity performances this week. Thank you to all the staff for all the hard work in preparation as well as the fantastic support from home.

Prize Donations: Thank you to everyone who donated prizes towards the raffles and tombola and also to Brendan and Christie Handley parishioners at St Joseph's who donated the family ticket for the Butterfly Park.

Advent Liturgy: Our KS2 children read and sang brilliantly at the Advent service on Monday evening. It was brilliant to see a packed out church with parents and grandparents. Thank you to all the staff in helping the children to prepare and a special mention to Mrs Brockbank for preparing the service and organising it so well with the music.

Epiphany Mass at St Joseph's Church: There will be a mass for the Feast of the Epiphany at St Joseph's Church on Wednesday 10th January at 10am. All parents and families are welcome to attend.

Mrs McCall: A much belated announcement about the birth of Mrs McCall's baby Samuel who was born on the 29th November. Both Samuel and Mrs McCall are doing very well. Mrs McCall dropped into school last week to catch up with us and the children were delighted to meet baby Samuel.

Key Dates

School reopens	Monday 8th January
Epiphany Mass at St Joseph's Church	Wednesday 10th January 10am
Break up for half term	Thursday 8th February
INSET DAY	Friday 9th February
School reopens	Monday 19th February
Kingswood Year 5	Wednesday 7th March - 9th March

Reception place applications: A reminder for parents of reception children to make sure that you apply for your child's school place. The final closing date is 15th January 2018. Please return the forms that will have been mailed out to you from RMBC.

Free School Meals Application: If you have a change in circumstances and receive a qualifying welfare benefit (income support, income based jobseekers allowance, income related employment and support allowance) you may be eligible for Free School Meals. All you need to do is apply by telephone 01709 336066 or ask at the school office for a form.

Applying helps the school apply for extra funding known as Pupil Premium payment, and this helps the school to provide extra resources.

100% attendance: Well done to all our children achieved 100% attendance this term. They all received a certificate and the school council will be proposing ideas for how we can best reward children who maintain this for the remainder of the year.



**Attendance week beginning
18th December**

**Well done to Reception children with the
best attendance!**

Class	% Percentage	Lates
Apple	93.7%	3
Birch	98.5%	2
Cherry	93.3%	2
Pine	95%	8
Maple	91%	17
Oak	90.6%	5
Total	93.6%	37

**Thank you for reading this newsletter,
David Hickey**