



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Statement to Live By: I know rights match responsibility

Dear Parent/Carer

It is hard to believe we are heading into the countdown to Christmas! The children have begun to practice their nativity and Christmas songs, which is lovely to hear when walking around school.

Whole School Celebration of the Word

This Sunday we celebrate Youth Sunday on the feast of Christ the King. It is a day to celebrate the role of young people in the church.

The theme of the day is 'Come and See'; inspired by the words spoken by Pope Francis.

"Jesus never closes the door, never, but invites you to enter: Come and See." Pope Francis, WYD Lisbon 2023.

Celebration of the Word

Year 3 attended Mass in church, thank you for all parents/carers who attended.

We welcomed the families of Year 5 to participate in our worship in school, thank you to all who attended.

Year 5 have participated in a Sports Leadership Day. They thoroughly enjoyed their day and developed their sports leadership skills to be able to deliver games in school to younger children and encourage everyone to play.

Congratulations to Oliver O in Year 6 who won the Christmas card competition for the category Y4/5/6 for MP Sharon Hodgson. Oliver's design will be printed on a Christmas card and sent out by Sharon Hodgson MP. The card will even be sent to the Prime Minister! Sharon Hodgson MP, came into school to present Oliver with his prizes in achievement assembly. Well done Oliver.

A group of children took part in a Sportsability Festival at Sunderland Tennis Centre, they participated in a range of games including, football, curling, bowls and tennis.

Please check the dates for what's on this half-term accompanying this newsletter. Additional dates have been added, please make a note of these.

Primary School Admissions 2024 The Council portal for applying for your child's Reception Class place is open. The deadline for applications is 15 January 2024.

Keeping Children Safe

Every member of staff in school will act to keep children safe. Our designated staff who have a lead role in keeping them safe are:

Mrs E Maher - Headteacher
Mrs F Lawton – Acting Deputy Headteacher
Mrs J Johnson – Senior Leader
Mrs P Swanston – Business Manager
Mrs A Twine – Safeguarding Governor

Parking outside school

Parking on the yellow zig zag lines outside of school is against the law for any vehicle.

It has become very hazardous for children getting across the road. Parking is not permitted in the bus stop, there is parking availability in the Church carpark and at the park. Sunderland Council will be doing spot checks on cars parked illegally or causing a hazard and may issue penalty notices.



Attendance

Please can we remind parents to notify us either by telephone, leaving a message with the child's name, class and reason for absence or through Arbor.

Our current whole school attendance is **93.1%** which is **below** the Government's expectation of 96%.

School Christmas Lunch

Our school Christmas lunch will be on Thursday 14th December. Children can wear their Christmas jumpers to school on that day. The menu for the Christmas lunch will include, traditional Turkey with pigs in blankets, stuffing, roast potatoes, mashed potato, honey roasted vegetables, sprouts and gravy. Dessert will be chocolate orange brownie or festive biscuits. A vegetarian option is available.

If your child currently brings packed lunch and would like a Christmas lunch, please let the school office know. The cost of this for KS2 children will be £2.65 which can be paid in Arbor.

Nativities

Our EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativities are very popular. We welcome all parents, carers and grandparents to attend. However, could we ask that you just attend one performance time for your class nativity. Parents or grandparents are welcome to attend on alternative times but we are trying to limit the number of attendees to each performance as some children often become overwhelmed by the amount of people watching.

Christmas Fayre

The Friends of St. Joseph's will be holding a Christmas Fayre on 15 December from 3.15 pm. There will be a non-uniform day, voluntary contributions of chocolate, bath/smelly gift sets and alcohol would be welcome for the tombola.

God Bless.

Mrs E Maher

What's on this Half Term

24 November 2023	9 am Year 5 liturgy – school hall – parents/carers welcome
28 November 2023	Year 6 Mass 10 am Our Lady's Church – parents/carers welcome
30 November 2023	In school Pantomime visit – Beauty & the Beast
1 December 2023	Non-Uniform day – Voluntary Contributions of Chocolate, Bath/smelly gift sets and alcohol are welcome as contributions for the Christmas Fayre tombola's.
8 December 2023	9 am Year 4 liturgy – school hall – parents/carers welcome
8 December 2023	Santa Dash. Children to wear school PE kit with festive headwear e.g. Santa Hat, Christmas boppers, tinsel.
12 December 2023	10.30 am EYFS Nativity – school hall – parents/carers welcome
13 December 2023	10.30 am EYFS Nativity – school hall – parents/carers welcome
14 December 2023	2 pm Year 1 & 2 Christmas performance – school hall -parents/carers welcome
14 December 2023	Christmas Lunch in School - Children can wear their Christmas jumpers
15 December 2023	10 am Year 1 & 2 Christmas performance – school hall -parents/carers welcome
15 December 2023	Christmas Fayre School Hall/ Parish Rooms at 3.15pm onwards
18 December 2023	1.30 pm KS2 Carol Service – Our Lady's Church – parents/carers welcome
18-20 December 2023	Y5 Emmaus Village visit
20 December 2023	EYFS Christmas Party
20 December 2023	Year 6 Christmas Party
21 December 2023	Year 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 Christmas Party - pm
22 December 2023	Break up for Christmas Holidays

School Meals = Please note the price of a school meal is increasing from 1st September to £2.65. Payments should be made through Arbor