



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Statement to Live By: I know rights match responsibility

Dear Parent/Carer

School life is super exciting at the moment as we continue the countdown towards Christmas. Nativity and carol service practices are in full swing, all of the children are working really hard. We can't wait to share the performances with parents/carers.

An Advent Prayer

Father God,

As we journey through Advent, let us get ready to welcome Jesus,

Open our hearts to listen to your Word.

Open our hearts to share your love.

Help us to be messengers of your love

Through all that we say and all that we do.

Amen

Celebration of the Word

We welcomed the families of Year 4 to participate in our worship in school, thank you to all who attended.

As part of their faith in action award, Year 6 will be continuing to sell Christmas cards until the end of term. For a small donation, children can buy a Christmas card to be given to their class. Year 6 will choose a charity to donate the money to. Thank you to everyone who has already bought a card.

Our school choir will be singing at Our Lady's Catholic Church on the 8th December as part of the Rotary Club Carol concert. The children have been practicing really hard and sound fantastic. Well done to all of those children taking part.

Year 4 participated in a Christmas dodgeball event at Sunderland Tennis Centre. The children all enjoyed their afternoon. Fantastic teamwork and great dodgeball skills were displayed by everyone.

Rockstar talents were on display at our Rock Steady concert during the week. Well done to all of the children who performed, you were all amazing.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the Beauty and the Beast pantomime which came into school. Singing, boos and cheering could be heard throughout the school.

All after school clubs have now finished for the autumn term. Please look out for a new letter which will have details of clubs available in the spring term.

The School Day

Nursery starts at 08:45 and finishes at 11:45
Reception Class to Year 6 start at 08:50 and finish at 15:20

The gates will close at 08:50, we kindly ask parents to leave the yard by 08:50

If your child arrives after 08:50 they will need to be brought into school via the main reception.

If your child arrives into class after 08:50 they will be given a late mark.

Lateness to school is disruptive for your child and the children in their class. Punctuality is linked to good attendance, good attenders have more opportunities, more support and therefore achieve more. It sets your child up for a successful future.

We ask for your support and co-operation.

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.

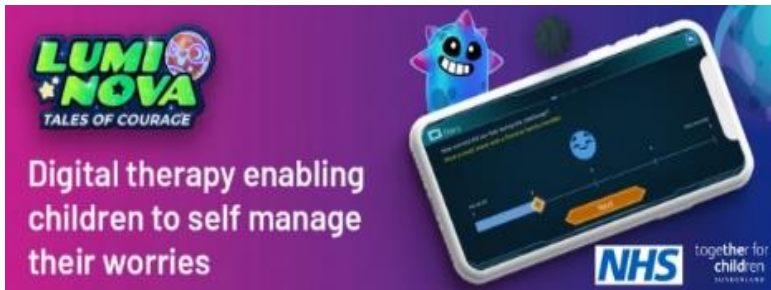
Christmas Fayre

The Friends of St. Joseph's will be holding a Christmas Fayre on 15 December from 3.15 pm. Thank you to parents/carers for the generous donations of tombola prizes during our non-uniform day. We look forward to seeing you all at the fayre.

God Bless.

Mrs E Maher

Lumi Nova



We are pleased to announce that children and families across Sunderland will now be able to access Lumi Nova - an exciting online therapeutic game for children aged 7 - 12 years experiencing difficulties with anxiety including phobias, social anxiety and separation anxiety. Lumi nova provides exposure therapy and should not be used in children who have severe anxiety, are in crisis, have suicidal thoughts or at risk of self harm.

Lumi Nova includes two of the most effective parts of cognitive behavior therapy CBT, that are proven to help treat fears, worries and anxiety. These two parts are psychoeducation – learning about worry and exposure therapy -facing your fears.

The benefits of using Lumi Nova will help your child learn life long skills to self manage their worries. They will learn how to break down big worries into smaller manageable challenges, increase resilience and confidence, understand and talk about worries through a playful experience and get instant access to a highly effective evidence based therapy.

Please use the link below for instant access to Lumi Nova!

<https://luminova.app/sunderland>

Sign up here - [Link to Sign up in Sunderland](#) In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about Lumi Nova and how it can support your students go to luminova.app or reach out to us via our email address - luminova@bfb-labs.com

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

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.

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 **90.4%** which is **below** the Government's expectation of 96%.

What's on this Half Term

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	Year 1 Snow Tubing (PM)
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