



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Statement to Live By: Simple Things Make Us Happy



Dear parents/carers,

Two weeks left of this term – we can't believe how quickly the time is going by. Christmas is a lovely, exciting time to be in school. The children are all super busy in class, and then rehearsals for Nativities and Carol Services start to take over. We have so much to look forward to in the next couple of weeks!

## Celebration of the Word

Advent is an exciting time of getting ready for Jesus' birthday at Christmas. We also prepare and wait with expectant hope for when Jesus will come again!

Let's remember our hope in Jesus as we pray the Jubilee Prayer together...

Father in Heaven, May the faith you have given us,  
in your Son Jesus Christ, and in the the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken hope in us.

May your grace transform us  
and your glory shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee be with us,  
as Pilgrims of Hope,  
so we may spread the joy and peace of Jesus  
throughout the Earth.

To you our God,  
be glory and praise forever.  
Amen

As part of their First Holy Communion journey, Year 4 completed their Sacrament of Reconciliation at a service in church. Thank you to all parents and carers who came to the service to share this with the children. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, which is also known as Confession or Penance offers forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God. It is important in the Catholic religion as it allows forgiveness of sins, personal reflection and helps us to live a better life.

Year 3 led Celebration of the Word in school today, with the theme of 'Advent/Visitors .' Thank you to all parents and carers who came to school to support the children. We are sure you will all agree, the singing and readings were beautiful. Thank you to parents/carers who stayed for refreshments, we always enjoy welcoming our families into school to share our Celebration of the Word.

## Catholic Life in School:

### CAFOD Club

Thank you to everyone who donated books to our CAFOD club to be sold at the Christmas Fayre.

Mrs Hughes and the CAFOD club members are raising money to go towards CAFOD's teach someone to read campaign which costs £12 to help a person learn to read.

### Mini Vinnies

Our Mini Vinnies have made Christmas gift tags which they sold at our Christmas fayre. Thank you to everyone who supported them in their venture. They will also be sold at our Nativities next week, in case you missed them.

### Faith in Action

As part of their faith in action award, Year 6 have been selling Christmas cards in school. The children can buy one Christmas card for £1, which can then be given to their whole class. The money raised goes towards, the British Heart Foundation. This also has an economic and environmental impact on us all. We are not sending and receiving lots of Christmas cards which will not end up as landfill and cause environmental harm.

### Mass and Celebration of the Word

When the children attend Mass and also participate in Celebration of the Word in school they are taught about the solemnity of the occasion and are either led into Church or the school hall in a respectful and quiet way. We would like to remind and ask parents to do the same.

Children may be reading or singing hymns, but these occasions are not performances, they are prayerful, reflective and holy occasions which we share as a school family. We would kindly ask you to turn your mobile phones to silent and not to talk to each other during the service, especially Mass in Church.

### Sneak Peak!

All of our classes are working hard practicing for their Nativities and Carol Service. We can't wait to share them with you, but until then, here is a little peak of our EYFS costumes, all lined up and ready for action!



### Key Stage 2 Boccia Sports Event

Congratulations to our Key Stage 2 boys team who came first in a sports event at Sunderland Tennis Centre with a game of Boccia. This is a team sport where the players have to throw a ball to then land closest to the mark or a small white ball. The game can be played sitting down and all players on the team have to get close to the mark. This sport tests both muscle control and accuracy.

Our boys team played excellent and they may even have to return to retain their winners title to compete against all other Sunderland school winners.



### Year 1 Snow Tubing

Year 1 enjoyed a morning at Silksworth Ski Slope where they went snow tubing. The cold weather didn't stop the fun as afterwards we warmed up with hot chocolate!



### **Christmas Fayre**

Thank you to Paula and the Friends of St. Joseph's for organising our Christmas Fayre. Thank you to all of the parents who attended with their children to support this event and for persevering in the queue at our popular tombola stall!

### **Christmas Chocolate Hamper**

We will be holding our annual Christmas Chocolate raffle again this year and selling tickets at our Christmas Nativities. They will be £1 per strip, the prize being a hamper full of chocolate goodies. Just in time for Christmas!

### **Staff Shout Out**

This week's staff shout out goes to all staff for their continued hard work and commitment. We are blessed with such a wonderful and skilled team. Thank you everyone.

We look forward to welcoming all of parents and carers to school next week for our EYFS and Key Stage 1 Nativities. Have a lovely weekend.

### **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 – Deputy Headteacher

Mrs J Johnson – Senior Leader

Mrs P Swanston – Business Manager

Mr R Topping Safeguarding Link Governor

### **Lunch Money**

School lunch is £2.95 per day. Payments for school lunches must be made on the Monday for the week ahead. We cannot operate a system which allows arrears to build up for meals taken in previous weeks.

**What's on this Term – this may change and new dates maybe added**

Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Celebration of the Word – Year 3, School Hall 9am
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Mass in Church – 10am Year 1 attending
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Nativity School Hall – 10.30am
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 – Dodgeball event at Sunderland Tennis Centre
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Nativity School Hall – 10.30am
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Lunch / Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas Production – 2pm school hall
Friday 12 December	KS1 Christmas Production – 10.30am school hall
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Santa Dash in school – Wear Festive Headwear or tinsel to run in
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Church - Key Stage 2 Carol Service, 1.30pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime in school (am) – Rick Whittington
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS School Christmas Party
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 6 School Christmas Party
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 school Christmas Party
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	School Breaks up for Christmas