

St Joseph's Catholic School Newsletter

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12th December 2019 Term 2-3



Count down to Christmas! With only just over a week to go school is getting busier by the day and the excitement is mounting.

Thank you to all of our parents who attended structured conversations. We hope that you found the additional time to talk about your child useful and feel that staff are planning well to support their additional needs.

Again we need to thank our fabulous PTA. Last Friday they organised our first film night, which was a huge success! Having worked with the School Council, the children chose the Christmas movie that they wanted to watch. Children rolled in wearing onesies, brought pillows and cuddly toys! The staff and PTA joined in the fun too! Staff that supported the event really enjoyed spending the evening with the children and I'm told that a couple of them were more engrossed in the film than the children! The motivation behind this was a fun event rather than to raise a lot of money and the event certainly did that - so many thanks!

Francesca from the Chaplaincy Team came up with the idea of sharing advent acts of kindness for Advent. Supported by Mrs Barron the team have made this idea come to life! They have produced an advent display in the KS1 entrance. Every day a member of the Chaplaincy team visits the advent calendar to see what the day's act of kindness is. They then take the act around the classes. This act is shared with the class so that all of the children can try to achieve it that day. Some of the acts have been, give someone a smile, try to be helpful, pay someone a compliment.....what a brilliant way to count down to Christmas.

The PTA have just supported the school by buying some quality reading book that can be used for DEAR time in the classes. The books were also funded by the last Scholastic Book Fayre held in school earlier in the year, so thank you for your support with this. DEAR is a new initiative that staff are working on this year - Drop, Everything And Read has been being developed since September. The idea behind it being that staff share a quality text with the children on a daily basis so that children's vocabulary grows. This is proving a great success, especially in KS2. It is great to see that in some classes some parents have supported this by buying a copy of the text for their child so that they can follow as it's being read and many children have added titles to their Christmas list! Thank you for your support with this! Staff will be sharing more information about this in their letter to parents in the New Year.

The KS1 Nativity! Wow! What a fantastic performance! The children were so professional! They looked amazing, the costumes were great and face painting was stunning. Let us not forget that some of the children are still only 4 years old! We were very proud of them all, as we are sure you are too. None of this would be possible without the tireless work of the staff who work together to make sure that the performance is of a very highest standard. So a massive thank you to our excellent team for their hard work and commitment. We would like to thank all of the parents who have supported the staff by making sure that the children have the items of clothing, in the colour requested. Thank you to parents who provided the costumes and paid for the tickets. As you are aware, the money goes back into school and the children benefit from this. Finally, lots of proud parents will have taken photographs of their children, please can we remind you that images of children other than your own should not be put on social media as you do not have permission.

KS2 are getting ready for their carol concert. They have all been working so hard over the last few weeks. When visitors have arrived at school and this coincides with a carol practise they are always impressed with the singing. Sadly, a member of staff had to remain in school to supervise the children who will not be attending the concert. That is hugely disappointing for them and the staff who have worked so hard over the last few weeks to not take part in the performance. As part of everything we do, we expect children to attend the concert. It would be like a KS1 child not taking part in the Nativity- we don't imagine that would happen. Thank you to all of the parents who are supporting the school and attending the service next week. I am sure it will be stunning as usual.

Looking forwards to next week, we have a jam packed week of exciting activities, a piano performance from the children who work with Mrs Innes, we're all off to the panto on Tuesday - following a workshop in the morning, Christmas lunch followed by the KS1 Christmas Party then the KS2 carol concert in the evening. The choir will be singing at school on Thursday and the School Council will be serving tea, coffee and mince pies with the KS2 Christmas party in the afternoon, Friday morning begins with Breakfast with Santa, followed by fun Christmas activities in the classroom, finally finishing at 1.30pm! By which time all of the staff and children will need a well-earned rest!

Finally, we wish you and your families a very merry Christmas. We hope that you enjoy the festive season with your families.

In Your Prayer

For all the sick and suffering, the homeless, unemployed and anyone in any kind of distress we pray to the Lord.



Class News!



St Mary	Elliana is an angel in the nativity play, she enjoyed the special dance. She likes drawing pictures with Olive in class. Finlay has lots of fun with the building bricks in class. He is a cow in the play and his costume is black and white.
St Joseph	Ayleigh is also an angel in the nativity. She has had lots of fun rehearsing. Arthur enjoyed learning all the different songs in the nativity. He is a duck. He made a spaceship out of bricks at wet play today with his friends Nicholas and Rory.
St Peter	Matilda plays a mouse in the nativity; she liked having her face painted pink, black and grey. Roxi enjoys art; she has been drawing sunsets using pastels.
St Patrick	Lani has been learning about bridging in maths. VCOP in literacy is about The Cave Man, a stone age story. George has been rounding up in maths. Lani and George both recited the 12 times tables!
St George	Hamish has enjoyed the Big Write. Hannah enjoys the outdoor learning on Fridays; last week the class tested their heartbeats during PE with Mr Walton.
St Teresa	Leah and Daisy are really enjoying the class topic learning all about Vikings. Today they made posters with facts about Vikings; Leah's was about Viking religions and Gods, she said the Viking Gods were Loki and Odin.
St David	Emilia and Holly are finding the class topic of 'Crime and Punishment' very interesting. This week the class were in pairs and one had to describe a picture of a celebrity and their partner had to draw a sketch artist picture of who they were describing. They have been learning about finger prints too. In maths they are doing angles and nets of 3D shapes. They are both reading at the Key Stage 2 Carol Service next Wednesday and looking forward to it.

Weekly R E A C H Awards
29th November and 2nd December 2019

Thank you to Mr & Mrs Brown who kindly donated a Christmas tree for the local primary schools event in Stroud.

St Mary	Isaac, Oliver, Olive and Henry
St Joseph	Charlie, Kacper, Harriet and Jed
St Peter	Claude, Lily, Jacob and Rosalie
St Patrick	Ava, Safia, Nia and Autumn
St George	Sam, Jack, James and Lola
St Teresa	Zac, Kobe, Leo and Naomi
St David	George, Matilda, Willow and Lily

Panto trip next Tuesday the children can bring a treat with them to eat during the interval and a named water bottle please. The children will be responsible to hold all their belongings so please bring in a small bag. We are leaving school at 12.15pm and should be back by 5.30pm, but will send a text if this changes. Thank you.

SCHOOL TRIPS

Lots of exciting trips and events have been planned for the children please pay promptly by PARENTPAY. We thank the PTA for subsidising these events.

Whole school Panto on 17th December —£14 per child
Y5 We Are the Curious on 7th January 2020—£15 per child
Y5 WW2 Experience Day on 1st April 2020—£15 per child
Y4 Slimbridge Wetlands on 14th May 2020—£13 per child
Y5 Sir William Romney experience day on 15th June 2020
—£5.50 per child

Christmas Jumper Day!
20th December 2019



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

In aid of Save the Children
Suggested donation £1

Forthcoming events

17th Dec Panto Trip
 18th Dec Christmas Lunch
 18th Dec KS2 Carol Service 6.00pm
 18th Dec KS1 Christmas Party
 19th Dec Choir singing 10.30am
 ALL WELCOME
 19th Dec KS2 Christmas Party
 20th Dec Christmas Jumper Day
 20th Dec Breakfast with Fr Christmas
 20th Dec End of Term (1.30pm finish)
 6th Jan Inset Day staff only
 7th Jan Term 3 begins

OOSC Holiday Club 2019/2020

Feb half term 18th-20th Feb - Bookings now open

Easter holiday w/c 6th Apr

Summer holiday w/c 3rd & 10th August

Club will run three days each week. Full details available on the school website under Holiday Club.



Congratulations to
Maddie and
Freddie who won the
yummy cake recently.

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR
SUPPORT!



Menu change next week:

Tuesday 17th December—whole school panto trip so there will be an early lunch. The choices will be: sausage and mash or Quorn sausage and mash.

Wednesday 18th December—whole school Christmas lunch—all food has been prepared by parents/carers. If you have not returned your order then we presume you will send your child in with a packed lunch. THANK YOU.

Feedback Slip for newsletter (12.12.19)

