

St Joseph's Catholic School Newsletter

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18th December 2020 Term 2-3



From Mrs Howells

Count down to Christmas..... The last School Newsletter of 2020!

Phew! We made it to Christmas without a bubble being sent home to self-isolate! I would like to thank you all for following the government guidance, wearing a mask, socially distancing, avoiding conversations with others and leaving school as soon as you possibly can. You have all helped us to keep our school open! Just to remind you that if your child displays COVID symptoms over the weekend, please contact me via SLT@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk.

Where has the term gone? We have been monitoring the children's progress and it is clear to see that the children and staff have all been working incredibly hard to be the best that they can be! The key stage one staff are desperately missing all of the dedicated parents who support reading and are hoping that it won't be long before we can welcome you back into school. Now more than ever it is vital that you support your child with their reading at home. The Christmas Holidays will be a brilliant time to spend some quality time reading with your children. To encourage the children with this the KS1 teachers are going to run a Boost your Reading Points over Christmas incentive. This will be available in your child's class TEAM.

I would like to thank Mrs Wand who gave up her Friday morning last week to wrap up the Christmas Hampers for the PTA Christmas Raffle – they looked amazing! Congratulations to the Lucky winners! Despite all of the challenges and restrictions, our determined PTA has worked tirelessly to put this great fund raiser together. Each class recently received a package of new toys for them to play with at playtime this week – they came wrapped up as a Christmas present! Something for them to look forwards to playing with next term. We cannot thank the PTA enough for all that they do to support our children. The eco committee have been working hard to support their class with the planting of a hedge row and they have found the time to produce an Eco newsletter too, do look out for it in your emails.

For the last couple of weeks the school has been a hive of Christmas activities, KS1 performed their bubble nativity. Thank you to all of the parents who supplies costumes and face paints so that their child could enjoy that special part of the KS1 Christmas. We hope that you enjoyed watching your child/children perform in Prickly Hay. KS2 are taking life a bit more seriously while rehearsing carols for a Christmas performance, until they got to snow is falling :-). We hope that you have had time to sit down and watch it with them. This week has been Christmas maths, Virtual pantomime and to round off the week, Christmas Jumper day, Breakfast with Santa, class parties and Party Christmas lunch. Thank you all for your support in funding these fun activities and providing your children with a special lunch. Again we need to thank our PTA for providing the breakfasts, presents (all wrapped up!) and crackers to add to the festive fun at lunchtime. We are truly lucky to have you.

I would like to thank all of my staff; our brilliant cleaners who keep our school spotless, our Admin team who help our school to run so effectively, our TAs who work tirelessly supporting the children with their learning and our brilliant teachers whose commitment to doing the best that they can for the children is second to none! I am proud to be part of such a great team. If you are looking for a stocking filler – hand gel would be great, please send your child into school next term ready to go with the hand washing! The more that the children are able to do this independently, the less impact there is on teaching time.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas. It won't be the same with our restricted socializing but still a time to share with some loved ones. Merry Christmas, we'll look forward to seeing you next year!

PS – don't forget that the 4th and 5th are inset days – the children start back on the 6th.

Jesus, your birth is a joyful message of hope for all people who are suffering. Help me to share it. Amen



