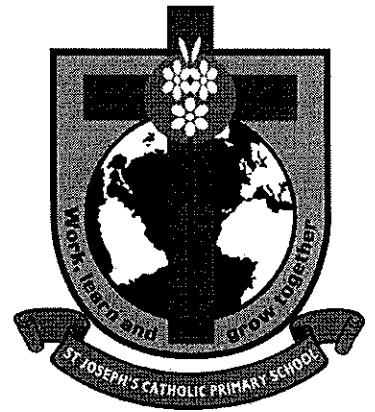


# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

21<sup>st</sup> November 2016



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Dear Parents,

The second half of the Autumn term is racing away and, quite unbelievably, it is less than four weeks until we break up for Christmas. This update gives you a reminder of the important dates for this special time of year and also details of one date change – which is for the Christmas Carol Service in Church – details below.

We really look forward to seeing you in school during the coming weeks.

## Diocesan Virtues and Values for this half term: Intentional and Prophetic

Along with all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese we are focusing on these values this half term.

**Intentional:** in the way we live – guided by our conscience – intending to follow Jesus' example

**Prophetic:** Setting an example – that follows Jesus' example – showing a different way of life that is rooted in Jesus' good example as a kind and forgiving person.

## November Remembrance

November is the Church month for remembering our loved ones and all who have died. We also pray for those people who have recently died that they will rest in peace. The children have been remembering and praying all month in their classrooms, Masses and assemblies.

## Christ the King: The end of the year of Mercy

The Holy Year of Mercy ended on Sunday: Christ the King. As a school we have undertaken a significant number of special activities linked to the Year of Mercy throughout this holy year. As well as charitable giving all year round we have installed doors of mercy, been on pilgrimages and enjoyed retreat days.

## Advent: Getting Ready

The season of Advent begins on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November. The first part of Advent is about getting ready for the second coming of Christ. The latter part of Advent focuses on getting ready to celebrate Christ's nativity in Bethlehem. Throughout Advent there are lots of extra assemblies linked to the Jesse Tree – where the children learn all about Jesus' ancestors. Each assembly and Mass together with the R.E. lessons focus on 'getting ready' for Jesus. The children have the opportunity to help others by donating tins of food for the homeless.

**Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus**

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**Registered office:**  
Burton Road, Dudley DY1 3BY

### Important Date Change – Carols in Church now on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Father Emmanuel has been called upon to celebrate a wedding Mass on the day we had organised the Carol Service in Church. Father does not want to let the happy couple down and we feel we can't have our annual Carol Service in Church without Father! So, the Carols in Church will now take place on the evening of Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Children back at Church for 5.30pm and the service starts at 5.45pm. It will last until approximately 6.30pm.

### Error on previous newsletters

Apologies, on previous newsletters I had listed the events on the MONDAY of the last week of term (own clothes, discos and parties) as being on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December. It should have read Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December. To confirm: own clothes day, parties and discos are all on MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER. Apologies for my typing error!

### Christmas Parties – no food or pop donations needed. Please donate £1 towards the Disco if you can.

A reminder that there is no need to send in food and drink for the parties any more. The school will provide pop and biscuits for the party afternoons (the children will have only had their lunch half an hour beforehand!). There will still be the normal party games, own clothes day and disco – just a bit less food wasted and hopefully one thing less to worry about for parents! If you can, we would appreciate a cash donation of £1 towards the cost of the Disco on party day. Please send this as cash.

### Christmas Party Day / Disco Day / Own Clothes Day – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Each year on the day the school celebrates with parties and discos, we invite everyone to think of those in the community less fortunate than ourselves. If you can, each child is invited to bring in a tin of food that will be set for the poor and homeless at The Good Shepherd shelter in Wolverhampton. If you can, please donate a tin of food on Christmas Party Day.

### Christmas Fair – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

We are in urgent need of more donations for the Christmas Fair. If you can, please donate unwanted good quality gifts and toiletries, cuddly toys, games and toys and chocolates and selection boxes.

### Father Christmas – Christmas Fair

We will be sending out a booking form soon for those of you who would like your child to go and see Father Christmas before the fair during school time- in the afternoon before the fair starts. This is the option to choose if you don't want to queue at the fair or you are unable to come to the fair later. Unfortunately the only downside of this option is that whilst your child will be looked after by our staff (Elves, in fact!) and they will go along to the grotto with their friends you won't be able to join them for the visit. If you want to visit the grotto as a family – there will be plenty of time at the Christmas Fair itself. Just choose the grotto option that suits you best! Another letter will be sent out a bit nearer the time.

### Diary Dates

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November: Please donate BOTTLES OF POP, WINE, BEER OR SPIRITS for the fair, if you can.

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December:** Please donate TEA, COFFEE, LONG LIFE MILK, SUGAR AND BISCUITS for the fair, if you can.

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December:** Christmas Fair 3.30pm with Father Christmas' Grotto and stalls

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December:** Drop in with school nurse Mel – book at the office.

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December:** Key Stage 2 Christmas Play 2.20pm (doors open at 2.10pm)

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December:** Key Stage 2 Christmas Play 5.30pm (children back and doors open from 5pm – please don't come back any earlier than 5pm as we may not have staff available)

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December:** Own Clothes day in school for everyone. Please donate a TIN OF FOOD for the homeless and poor, if you can, on this day.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December:** Discos – Morning Nursery children can come back 1.15-1.45pm for their disco. Key Stage 1 and 2 will have discos during the afternoon. Please donate £1 cash towards the cost of the discos if you can.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Parties: There is no need to send in any donations of food or drinks for the party. School will provide pop and biscuits for everyone (because we were wasting so much of the party food given that the children have only had their lunch immediately before the party! If your child has allergies and you would prefer to send their own pop / biscuit this is of course fine)

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December:** Carols in Church at 5.45pm (children at Church for 5.30pm)

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December:** Key Stage 1 Christmas Play 2.20pm (doors open at 2.10pm)

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December:** Key Stage 1 Christmas Play 5.30pm (children back and doors open from 5pm – please don't come back any earlier than 5pm as we may not have staff available)

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** Reception and Morning Nursery Christmas Play at 10.45am (doors open 10.35am)

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** Reception and Afternoon Nursery Christmas Play at 2.20pm (doors open 2.10pm)

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December:** Merit Assembly and attendance awards 11am

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December:** Carols and Nativity Readings around the tree at 2.15pm

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January:** Children return to school for Spring Term

### Polish Visitors

The head teacher from Poland, Mrs Barbara Rotte and her 6 teachers enjoyed a very informative week in our school and at St Francis Xavier in Oldbury. They praised the individual attention St Joseph's gives to the children, the way the curriculum is matched to the children's individual ability and the caring atmosphere that permeates the school. We were very glad to hear this feedback! A small group of our staff will travel to Poland in 2017 to learn from our partner school. Both of the visits are fully funded by the European Union.

### Keep in touch

At St Joseph's we are genuinely committed to making sure your children are safe and happy. We try our best to prevent any problems from arising but inevitably things can and do go wrong from time to time. If something goes wrong, if there is a problem or if you or your child are unhappy for any reason it is vital you **let us know straight away**. No problem is too small and the quicker we know about things the quicker we can sort them out.

### School Leadership Team

Mr Hinton (Head teacher) and Mrs Chapman (Deputy Head teacher) are the two most senior staff in the school and we can normally help you immediately – so don't hesitate to come and see us or phone us. We are supported by our two senior teachers, Mrs Hancox and Mrs Cheema. Both of the senior teachers are available to help and you can ask to see them at any time. There is **always** a member of the senior team in school during school hours so there is **always** someone here in authority to help you. Just let us know.

### Mrs Cardy – our SENCo

Our new Special Educational Needs coordinator is Mrs Cardy, who is also the SENCo at Bishop Milner. Mrs Cardy will be at St Joseph's on Mondays and Fridays and you can book in to see her or just pop in before or after school. She is often outside on Monday and Friday morning as well. If you have any concerns about your child whatsoever please talk to their teacher or Mrs Cardy immediately.

As an alternative or indeed following your discussions with your child's teacher you can speak to myself or Mrs Chapman (Deputy Head) at any time. Pop in before or after school or call us by telephone – we will always try to see you immediately. Our two senior teachers, Mrs Hancox (head of Early Years and Reception Teacher) and Mrs Cheema (Teaching and Learning lead and Year 6 Teacher) are also available to help you with any concerns or enquiries.

Between us we can help with learning difficulties, social and emotional difficulties, pastoral welfare matters, health matters and indeed any concern you may have – however small.

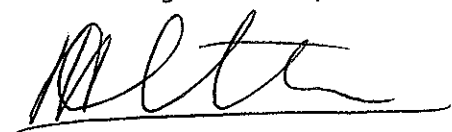
### School Nurse

We can ask our lovely school nurse, Mel Dowling (who has been with us for many years) to contact you at any time if you have any health concerns about your child. In addition Nurse Mel is here once a month and you can simply book to see her via the school office. Mel can support you with a full range of health matters and can make referrals to other health professionals. For example she can provide help with children's sleep matters, behaviour at home, eating concerns, bed wetting, nightmares, glue ear, skin conditions, and on-going health matters and so on. If Mel can't help you herself she will help you to access the appropriate care from another healthcare professional.

### Hope to see you in the coming weeks

Advent and Christmas is a lovely time in school – we hope to see you in the next few weeks if you can make it in to one of the many special events.

With every kind wish,



M Hinton, Principal