

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

13th December 2018

December Newsletter

Final newsletter before the holidays

It's now less than one week until school closes for the Christmas holidays and there are lots of nice things happening in school. This final newsletter of the term provides you with a reminder of the dates and times for our special events and gives you some important news updates from the school.

Diary Dates

Friday 14th December: Christmas Jumper Day – Children can wear their own clothes and of course their Christmas Jumpers (if they have them) today! No donations needed as we are collecting tins of food next week for the poor and homeless.

Monday 17th December: Please donate a TIN OF FOOD for the poor and homeless this Christmas. We will display all of the tins ready for Mass on Tuesday and our assemblies on Wednesday before we send them to the GOOD SHEPHERD SHELTER in Wolverhampton.

Tuesday 18th December: Year 3 Mass, 9.15am. All welcome.



Tuesday 18th December is OWN CLOTHES DAY AND CHRISTMAS DISCO DAY. There will be parties in class – no need to send in any pop or food – the school will provide pop and biscuits for everybody. Morning Nursery are welcome to come in for the Nursery Disco from 1.15pm – 1.45pm. **Please donate £1 towards the cost of providing the Disco if you can.** Thanks so much.

Tuesday 18th December: 5.30pm in Church: Christmas Carol Service. Children need to be at Church between 5pm and 5.15pm – **please do not arrive at Church any earlier as it will be closed.** **Every child in Church will need an adult in the audience at all times.**

Wednesday 19th December: Merit and Attendance Awards Assembly at 11am.



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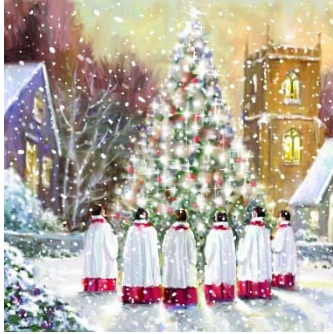
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Wednesday 19th December: Carols and Readings around the Christmas Tree at 2pm. Please join us.

Wednesday 19th December: Children break up for Christmas at 3.15pm

Monday 7th January 2019: School reopens at 8.45am (Nursery at 8.30am) for the Spring Term.

School News Updates

Staffing Changes - Goodbye to Mrs Hancox and Mr Lord

We will be saying goodbye to two members of staff at Christmas who are moving on to new schools in the new year.

Goodbye and thank you to Mrs Hancox

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Hancox at Christmas. Mrs Hancox has been at St Joseph's for the last 8 years and has been an excellent teacher. During this time she has taught in Year 1, Reception and Year 2. In recent years she has been the Head of Early Years and our Acting Assistant Headteacher. Most recently, following the birth of her daughter, Mrs Hancox returned to St Joseph's on a part time basis.



Mrs Hancox has responded to a genuine call from another Catholic school in the Archdiocese who are in need of her support. Unusually, but given the fact we want to support our fellow Catholic schools, we have agreed to release Mrs Hancox early so that she can go and help her new school who are without an Early Years Leader.

We are very lucky to have a full staff of good teachers at St Joseph's and Miss Wisniewski will take over as the Early Years Lead Teacher.

At the same time we have to remember that many Catholic schools struggle to recruit good quality Catholic teachers and we could easily be in this situation ourselves one day – if that ever happens I hope another Catholic school would be as accommodating as we have in letting a teacher leave at short notice in order to assist us.

Mrs Hancox has been an excellent and dedicated Catholic teacher at this school. She will be very much missed and we are very grateful for everything she has added to our school over the years. Mrs Hancox has made a significant contribution to St Joseph's and we are truly grateful for her commitment. She will be an asset to her new school.

We will say our official goodbye to Mrs Hancox after our Carols around the Christmas Tree on Wednesday 19th December at 2pm.



Mr Lord

Mr Lord will also be leaving us at Christmas and Year 3 parents were informed of this last month, together with full details of the new teacher for Year 3.

We are all sad to be saying goodbye to Mr Lord who has been a popular and well liked teacher at St Joseph's since September 2015. He is leaving to progress his teaching career in another, larger school where he certainly will be an asset. We congratulate him on his new position. On behalf of the entire

school we thank Mr Lord sincerely for his hard work and dedication at St Joseph's and wish him good luck at his new school.

We will say our official goodbye to Mr Lord after our Carols around the Christmas Tree on Wednesday 19th December at 2pm.

New Staff joining our team

New Year 3 Teacher – Mrs Buckley

I am very pleased to let you know that we have appointed a new teacher for Year 3 who will join us full time in January. **Mrs Buckley** is an experienced Catholic teacher with many years' experience of teaching in Catholic schools in Birmingham and Sandwell. She will be the Year 3 teacher from January and is a long term appointment to St Joseph's. We warmly welcome Mrs Buckley to St Joseph's and she is looking forward to working with the Year 3 children and parents.

Cover Teacher for Reception and Nursery Classes (half a day in each class per week) – Mrs Marley

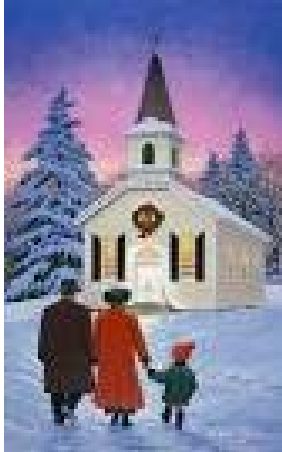
We are pleased to welcome **Mrs Marley** as our Nursery and Reception Cover Teacher, working every **Wednesday**. Mrs Marley is an experienced Catholic teacher with many years' experience teaching in Catholic schools in Sandwell. She also works in the Education Faculty at the University of Birmingham helping to train new teachers. She will be covering Wednesday morning in Nursery and Wednesday afternoon in Reception for the rest of the school year. We warmly welcome Mrs Marley to St Joseph's and she is looking forward to working with our Nursery and Reception children and parents for half a day each week!



Cover Teacher for Key Stage 1 and 2 – Ms Oakley (Welcome back!)

We are delighted to welcome Ms Oakley back to St Joseph's. Before she had her children, Ms Oakley was our Early Years Leader and Reception Class teacher. Since then she has worked with us on a supply basis fitting in work around her young children. Now she is coming back to St Joseph's as a part time teacher, staying with us until the end of the summer term in the first instance. Many of the children will remember Miss Oakley and we are delighted to welcome back a familiar and popular member of staff. Miss Oakley will be our part time cover teacher in Key Stage 1 and 2.





Mass Times at Tipton and Dudley this Christmas

Christmas Eve

Dudley: Children's Mass starting with Carols at 5.30pm and Mass at 6pm

Tipton: Carols at 8pm and Mass at 8.30pm

Christmas Day

Dudley: 11am

Tipton: 9.30am

Mass of the Holy Family (Saturday 29/Sun 30 December)

Dudley: 6pm Saturday 29th December

Dudley: 11am Sunday 30th December

Tipton: 9.30am Sunday 30th December

Thank you for supporting our Christmas Fair

It was great to see you at the Christmas Fair and we would like to say a huge thank you for your support. The main aim of the fair is to bring everyone together, let the children see Santa and for everyone to enjoy spending time in school. Any money raised is a bonus and is put into the school fund to pay for extras for the children, with a donation also made to the Church maintenance fund. We are overwhelmed to let you know that we made a clear £500 profit from the fair which is a massive contribution to the school fund – thank you so much for your generosity. £100 will be donated to the Church.



Thank you for supporting the raffles at our Nativity Plays

It's been great to see so many of you at our nativity plays. Thanks for buying raffle tickets – all of the money we collect goes towards paying for Christmas presents for every child in the school. Father Christmas will be delivering these next week!

Thank you for supporting Fr Louis' Induction Mass



A group of children came along to Fr Louis Induction Mass together with the staff of the school. Special thanks to everyone who made the journey over to Tipton to support our new parish Priest. We know it's cold, dark and VERY busy at this time of year and we want you to know how much we appreciate the support of the group of families that came along. Fr Louis was very grateful indeed.

Christmas Holiday Homework

The teachers are not setting homework for the Christmas holidays – because it is a special holiday from school and a busy holiday at home for the children and their parents. However, if you would like your child to undertake some home learning during the holidays, there are lots of activities available on Education City – the online service that schools pay into for the children to use at home. If you need a reminder of your child's login details please contact the school and we can let you know. The website address is www.educationcity.com and you need your username and password. A huge variety of educational activities are



available – more than enough activities to keep the children going all holiday!

Mini Vinnies

Miss Wisniewski and our Mini Vinnies have been doing some fantastic work on behalf of the school and the St Vincent de Paul Society in our community! The children took part in a Sponsored Charity Winter Walk and with support of their families raised £108.90 for the SVP. Our Mini Vinnies also visited Broadway Halls Care Home to perform a short Christmas Nativity and sang some Christmas Carols. We are very proud of the children that have represented St Joseph's and the Mini Vinnies so well, well done everyone!



Parentview



Both the school and Ofsted rely on Parentview. All we ever ask is that if you have any problems – you let us know about them **first** so we can try to sort them out. After all if we don't know about the problems you are experiencing we can't sort them out! And remember that no problem is too small – so please do let us know.

The last review left online for our school was back in October – and we have 'lost' a number of reviews because they are archived after 12 months. Please submit another review and keep our Parentview page up to date with Ofsted.

We would be VERY grateful if you could spare a bit of time to rate our school on Parentview. www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

Keep in touch

We want you and your children to be happy at St Joseph's. In fact, nothing is more important to us. We try hard to be an Outstanding school BUT WE KNOW WE ARE NOT PERFECT – NO SCHOOL EVER CAN BE!

Everyone at St Joseph's wants our school to be the sort of school we would want our own children to attend – so you can be assured we will always listen carefully and do everything we can to resolve any problems – however small. Never, ever hesitate to get in touch.



Mr Hinton (Headteacher) and Mrs Chapman (Deputy Headteacher) can normally see you or speak on the phone straight away. We are the most senior leaders in school and we are always more than happy to see you to resolve any matters.

You can normally see the class teacher after school or you can book an appointment to see your child's teacher if you prefer – just let the office know.

Mrs Cheema is our senior teacher and Miss Wisniewski will be taking over in January as the Nursery and Reception Leader. Both of these senior teachers are available to help you as well.



Wishing you a Happy Christmas

Everyone at the school wishes you and your family a very happy Christmas and an enjoyable holiday. Wishing you peace, health and happiness for the New Year.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR SCHOOL – WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN 2019!

Every kind wish,

Mr M Hinton,
Principal

Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus