

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

13 December 2013

Dear Parents,



End of Term Newsletter

The end of term is here and we have had another very successful few months in school.

Events in the last week of term

Monday 16th December: Nursery and Reception Play at **2pm** in the hall. Please do not arrive before 1.50pm as we need to clear away after lunch. Nursery children can be taken home afterwards if you wish, or they can stay in school until 3.30pm. Reception children will stay in school until 3.15pm and you are most welcome to wait in the hall before collecting them from their normal exit.

Wednesday 18th December: Own clothes day for all pupils. Christmas Parties and Discos. Please donate £1 towards the cost of the discos and please donate a tin of food for the homeless shelter. Nursery Disco from 1.15 to 2.15 (morning nursery can come back with their parents). Key Stage 1 Disco from 2.15pm to 3.15pm and Key Stage 2 Disco from 3.15pm to 4.15pm. The Disco after school is only for Key Stage 2 children who want to stay. **Please collect the Key Stage 2 children at 4.15pm.**

Thursday 19th December: St Joseph's Nativity and Carols in the Church at **6pm**. Please let Miss Morgan know if your child is attending. Pupils must meet at the Church **at 5.45pm** – please do not arrive before this time. **Children must have an adult in Church for them at all times - they cannot attend alone.**

Friday 20th December: Merit Assembly at **11am**. Nativity Readings and Carols in the hall at **2pm**. All welcome.

Little ones at our assemblies, Nativities and Carol Services in school and Church

We are a family orientated school and we welcome the entire family to our events. Please can we respectfully ask you to supervise your little ones at all times. Little one's happy play and chatter can sadly be very disruptive for the older brothers and sisters who are trying to remember their lines, read or sing in front of a big audience! Please do not let little ones run around or play loudly. If your little one becomes upset and is crying or shouting a lot – please would you mind taking them out and settling them down before coming back in to enjoy the performance. We want everyone, little ones included, to enjoy all of our performances and we really appreciate your support.

RE and Catholic Life Inspection

Our recent RE inspection went extremely well and we have been very highly praised indeed for the quality of our RE and Catholic Life in our school. The inspector referred to our school as 'an example to others' in her feedback and said that our school was 'one of few these days where teaching is still a vocation'. We are waiting for the report to be published and will send you the details as soon as we receive them. We are thrilled with the outcome of the inspection and the entire community of St Joseph's and our Parish deserves to feel very proud of what we have achieved in our school.

Father Emmanuel and Father Ben

We are really lucky at St Joseph's to have a Parish Priest and Retired Priest who support the school wholeheartedly. As School Chaplain Fr Emmanuel is a generous, kind and dedicated Priest who tries his utmost to live and work in the way of Christ. Father does an excellent job of bringing all of us much closer to Jesus and we are very grateful for all that he does. Please keep both of our Priests in your prayers this Advent and Christmas.

Standards and Progress

The government has recently published the school performance tables and we are delighted to report that our school's results in 2013 are our best ever. In our school 100% of children made expected progress from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 and they also attained highly. We are very proud of our results and our success only inspires us to work even harder to continue providing the best possible education and care for our children.

Christmas Plays

We have all enjoyed beautiful nativity plays this Advent and we have really enjoyed having so many visitors in school. Thank you so much for your generous support of our raffles and of course the Christmas Fair. Details of the fundraising can be found below.

Fundraising

Thank you for your generosity. We raised £690 at the Christmas Fair and we have raised at least £100 so far with the raffles at the Christmas Plays. This money is used to pay for extras for the children such as making trips a bit more affordable for everyone and of course for helping Santa to bring everyone a present next week (if they are good!). We will also donate £150 to the **Church Building Fund** and we have made a donation of **£100** to **The Philippines Disaster Appeal**. Thank you for your kindness.

KS1 and KS2 Playground refurbishment

Detailed plans have now been produced by the surveyors and the tendering process will start before the holidays. Projects of this scale always take a long time but rest assured, the funding is allocated and progress is being made. Before long our playground will be refurbished to a very high standard creating a high quality outdoor environment for the children to enjoy.

Fencing Project

The fence at the front of the school is working really well and keeps the children safe. All of the fencing at the back of the school has also been replaced and this is the first stage of the playground refurbishment. This project alone has cost over £40,000 and we were lucky to successfully apply for funding from the government for this. The contractors will be on site again soon to carry out minor alterations to the front fencing so that the car park is fully sealed off from the pedestrian area.

Anti Bullying, Anti Racism and Internet Safety Week

This was a very successful week in school with all of the children learning how to stay safe and happy at all times. Year 6 attended an excellent workshop at the Council House with 'Show Racism the Red Card' and also performed an anti bullying 'play in a day' in assembly. Mrs Hancox and Mrs Cheema also ran assertiveness courses called 'Zap' training for a number of children and both of them faced Mr Hinton for a special anti bullying edition of 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' which was enjoyed by everyone! The week was the official, national anti bullying week but at St Joseph's we have 2 anti bullying and anti racism weeks per year! The next one will be in summer term when we will have anti racism workshops in school provided by professional footballers!

Parentview

OFSTED collect the views of parents and use the information to make judgements about schools, plan inspections and decide on gradings. If you check out the Parentview results for many schools you will find they are blank because the schools do not publicise Parentview. We are different. Ever since its launch we have actively encouraged our parents to use Parentview. Our approach is simple: if you are happy with our school – please tell OFSTED! If you are unhappy with our school – please tell us first so that we can try our best to make things better. If you are happy with our school it really is helpful if you can let OFSTED know! Go to www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk . Registering and completing the survey takes about 15 minutes – but it is very important for us as a school. As always, if you are unhappy about anything at school, please always let us know so that we can try our best to solve any problems you or your child are experiencing. You can always see a senior member of staff, usually straight away. If you need to see the teacher, they will normally be able to see you after school. Do not hesitate to get in touch.

Attendance and Timekeeping

Thank you for supporting our efforts to achieve the best attendance and timekeeping results possible. Your support is really paying off – on her most recent visit our attendance consultant congratulated us for the high level of attendance and excellent timekeeping. As winter progresses, please do all you can to ensure your child is in school, on time on every day that they are well enough to attend.

Sickness / Sickness Bugs

Winter inevitably brings with it an increase in sickness bugs. We ask you to apply common sense when deciding whether or not to return your child to school after vomiting or diarrhoea. Please only send your child back to school when they are fully over any bugs. We don't enforce a 48 hour rule because with some vomiting it is a short lived illness – in the case of nasty bugs and persistent vomiting – please keep your child at home, for their own welfare and to prevent the spread of infection, until they are fully recovered.

Bad weather arrangements

In exceptional circumstances we sometimes have to close the school due to bad weather. If this is the case we will make a decision to close as early as we possibly can. We will then put an announcement on **our website** and send all of our parents a text. Please make sure we have your up to date mobile number. We will contact Dudley Council and the Radio Stations (Free Radio) who will publicise the closure on their websites but there is often a delay with these channels. Your best way of knowing about any closure is to **check the school website** and **check your texts** as these are updated first. Please make sure we have your up to date mobile number!

Thank you for your kindness and support – and Happy Christmas

On behalf of all of the staff, the academy directors and the academy committee, I would like to pass on my thanks and appreciation for your support of our school. Our parents and families are so supportive of our school and all that we try to achieve and your generosity and kindness does not go unnoticed. Thank you for helping us to improve our school and for helping to make our school the special Catholic school that it is. The entire community wishes you and your family a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

Back to school

The children are back to school on Tuesday 7th January 2014. Doors open at 8.45am and school starts at 9am. See you then!

Happy Christmas,

M Hinton
Principal

Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus