



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Friday 15th December 2017



Dear Parents and Carers...

"Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace."

Pope Francis



Christmas Dates for your Diary



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|-------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Monday 18 th December | Rec, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Assembly | 1.30pm |
| Tuesday 19 th December | Y3 & Y4 Christmas Assembly | 1.30pm |
| Wednesday 20 th December | Y5 & Y6 Christmas Assembly | 1.30pm |
| Friday 22 nd December | School Christmas Carol Concert | 9.30am |
| | School closes for Christmas holidays | 1.00pm |
| Monday 8 th January | Return to school | 8.55am |
| Thursday 11 th January | KS2 Trip to 101 Dalmatians | (back at 5.10pm) |
| Wednesday 17 th January | Holy Communion/ Confirmation | 3.30pm |
| | Parents' Meeting | |

Reminder - Last Day of Term

Next FRIDAY 22nd we break up for our Christmas holidays at **1.00pm**. Please make sure that your child comes into school on that day, as we are expecting a special visitor...



It is very important that someone is here to collect your child promptly at 1.00pm, as staff will be leaving the site at this time also. Thank you for your support with this.



End of Term School Mass

Our final School Mass of the year takes place on **Wednesday** next week during the third week of Advent. It starts at 9.30am and will be led by Y6 We will also be lighting the fourth candle on our Advent wreath. You are all very welcome to attend – you do not have to be Catholic to come to Mass.

Snow!

Thank you for your patience and understanding with the school closures this week, which were unavoidable for health and safety reasons. In the event of more heavy snow over the coming weeks or extreme weather which causes significant disruption, any school closures will be listed on local radio stations, as follows: BRMB 96.4, Heart FM 100.7 and Radio WM 95.6. If you do not hear our school name or any mention of 'blanket closures', then school is open!! Remember that there are several St Joseph's schools and you must listen out for ours. We will also send a text message out so please ensure that you keep us up-to-date with any changes of contact numbers. Thank you!



After-school Clubs

All after school clubs have now finished for Christmas. They will start again after the holidays.

*If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact one of the safeguarding team;
Mrs Treadwell, Miss Price, Mrs Pattinson Mr Caffrey and Miss Collins.*

Learned & Wise

School Christmas Carol Concert

We are having a special end of term Christmas Carol Service on Friday 22nd December. The service will start at 9.30am in school, and will be led by the children. The children have been working really hard at learning their carols and are looking forward to singing for you. All families are welcome to attend this event. It will be a lovely way to start your family Christmas, so please come along and share in this special celebration with us.



Christmas Performances

A reminder that our Christmas Performances take place **next week**

Monday 18th December at 1.15pm (for 1.30pm start) Rec Y1 and Y2– The Nativity
Tuesday 19th December at 1.15pm (for 1.30pm start) Y3 & Y4 – Straw and Order
Wednesday 20th December at 1.15pm (for 1.30pm start) Y5 & Y6 – The Nativity

The children have worked very, very hard and would be delighted to see their parents and carers in school to watch them perform. Please come along; it makes such a difference to the children when their efforts are well supported.



Please ensure that you arrive at 1.15pm ready for the performances to start at 1.30pm. **We will not be able to admit latecomers after 1.30pm**, this is because of the way the hall is set up, as entering the hall will involve you walking through the stage area. For health and safety reasons, once the performance has begun this will not be possible. Please bear this in mind and allow enough time to get to school.

Christmas Trips

As you know because of school being closed due to the poor weather this week, the Christmas trips were unable to go ahead. We are now able to update you on what will be happening;

KS1 trip to Father Christmas

We are currently waiting to hear back from the MAC theatre on what we can do regarding rearranging the trip. We will let you know what is happening as soon as possible.



KS2 trip to 101 Dalmatians

We have been able to rearrange the date and the trip will now take place on Thursday 11th January. Please note that the pickup time will be later and **you will need to collect your child at 5.10pm**. Reminders will go out closer to the date. Anyone who has not yet paid for the visit should return their reply slip and full payment as soon as possible.



Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to everyone for their huge effort in supporting our Christmas Jumper Day last week. We saw some amazing jumpers and outfits! The children looked fantastic and we raised almost £150 for Save the Children.

St. Joseph's Parish Christmas Bazaar

Thank you for supporting our bazaar so well last Friday. We had a lovely afternoon and raised a total of £1500 for St. Joseph's Church, which is amazing!! Thank you!

Third Sunday of Advent

This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent, and we light the pink candle on our Advent Wreaths. The pink candle is a symbol of joy, hope and expectation. At the time of Jesus' birth, people were waiting for his coming. They had been told that a Messiah would come, and they were



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hoping and waiting for the time to come. The third Sunday of advent is also traditionally known as 'Gaudete Sunday'. The word 'Gaudete' is Latin and means 'rejoice!' The theme this week is therefore one of rejoicing that Christmas is very near.

As the feast of Christmas draws closer, we are reminded that Jesus is with us even now, and the Church emphasises the anticipation and joy which should be in our hearts as we come closer to celebrating the birth of Jesus and remembering the true spirit of Christmas. John the Baptist tells people that the one that they have been expecting, the light of the world, is amongst them and that their waiting is almost over. John prepares the way for Jesus through his preaching and baptising. This message also tells us that we should rejoice and have joy in our hearts, as the waiting of advent is almost over.

We are preparing the way for the Lord in our lives by lighting our Advent wreaths each day at prayer time, through our reflections and using the daily 'Walk with Me' calendar. You will see that our display in the entrance hall is building up as the days go by. This is designed to help the children to appreciate the meaning of Advent and the season of Christmas, and guides the children with daily tasks and prayer.



St. Joseph's Mass Times

Weekly Mass at St. Joseph's is on Saturday evening at 6.00pm. St. Joseph's Church can be found on Thimblemill Lane and the telephone number is 0121 327 0235. All families are invited and more than welcome to attend church. I look forward to seeing you there!

Father Stephen

St. Joseph's Mass Times - Christmas Services at St. Joseph's

I would like to invite all families to our Christmas services at St. Joseph's. It is always a pleasure to see so many of you at Mass and you are all most welcome. The family service on **Christmas Eve** is always very special and popular. This starts at **7.00pm**.

Christmas Day Mass will be at Sacred Heart Church in Aston at 10.00am.

It is important to remember the true meaning of what we celebrate at this time of year, especially for those of us who are Christian or Catholic. The word 'Christmas' means 'the birth of Christ' and that is what should be at the heart of all that we do to celebrate, so it would be wonderful to see the church full for our services! I look forward to seeing you over Christmas.

Father Stephen



Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday this week to Jasper (Year One), Coco & Joshua (Year Four), Pharell (Year Five) and Abigail (Year Six)

Attendance - week ending 8th December 2017

Well done to Year Four who achieved an amazing 100% attendance last week! The full attendance figures are as follows:

| | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----------|------|-----------|-----|
| Rec | 98% | Year One | 96% | Year Two | 96% |
| Year Three | 95% | Year Four | 100% | Year Five | 97% |
| Year Six | 97% | | | | |

This gives a whole school attendance of 97% which is brilliant!

Many thanks,
A. Treadwell
 Head Teacher

Christmas Countdown



9

sleeps until
 Christmas!

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