



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

2023-24 #6 15TH DECEMBER 2023

St. Joseph's is a joyful community which follows the example of Jesus, helping, accepting and respecting everyone, as we learn and grow together, safe in His love.

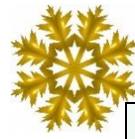


Stay and Pray

On Tuesday 5th & 12th December Year 3 & 4 joined the parish for Stay and Pray. Year 1 will be attending Church on 9th January and Reception Classes the 16th

Please remember that all parents are always welcome to attend morning Mass in the parish, every morning at 9.15am

Year 3 Cooking - As part of our DT topic about cooking, we made cheese straws. We really enjoyed having the opportunity to cook altogether at school. We weighed out and then mixed ingredients. We kneaded the pastry, rolled it out, cut it into strips and then put them on baking trays. Ms. Penny, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Hobden and Mrs. Nye helped us and then baked the cheese straws. We took them home to eat them. Yum, yum, yum!



Group	% Attendance
6S	96.9
3T	96.4
5C	95.9
6B	95.6
4B	95.4
4A	95.3
5M	95.3
2P	95.2
1N	94.8
3R	93.3
2F	92.9
1N	92.4



Well done 6S for achieving the highest attendance in the last 3 weeks

Attendance Presentation

Please check the Parent Mail for a new slide show presentation about importance of good attendance and punctuality.



Following last year's **Christmas Concert**, Year 3-4 Choir were once again invited to sing with the CDot Choir at St Peter's Mass Centre. They made us so proud with their wonderful performance of Christmas songs and also joined with CDot Choir to sing a festive medley. The evening was a tremendous success with many compliments for the children on their singing and their behaviour. Mrs Tsocos who organised the event said "As usual the children were a credit to you and so natural and delightful." An incredible £900 was raised for St Joseph's Church. Well done to all of the children who took part and thank you to the parents who supported them.



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Year 6 Fun Day

On Thursday 7th December, Year 6 led the whole school with a fun-filled day of festive cheer. The pupils organised fantastic stalls and games sold many games and books. Children also enjoyed buying raffle tickets for the most coveted of prizes. Overall, thanks to your generous donations and the superb hard work of the Year 6 pupils, we raised an incredible £1641.10- a school record! This money will go such a long way in helping families across London living in poverty this Christmas.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch was enjoyed by all the children and staff today. Everyone looked great in their Christmas jumpers.

Emma and her team dished up an amazing Christmas dinner and the children really enjoyed their food. Staff served the dinner, we had Christmas tablecloths, balloons and music.

"Oh we wish it could be Christmas everyday...!"

SPORTS *news*

On 5th December the children from the **Year 5 & 6** football team took part in football league matches at Harrow Lodge Primary. Both teams did very well with the girls' team finishing 2nd and the Boys' 3rd. Unfortunately, only the winning team from each group progressed to the next round. A special mention to Jessica C in Year 6 who scored a hat trick in the game against St Albans.

Mrs Willson and Mr Cormack were very proud of the children.

For the Year 5 & 6 Football training on Tuesday 19th December, the children are invited to wear a football kit or sportswear of their choice, Christmas hats are also encouraged. We will be having some festive football fun!



The free Winter Mini Challenge from the Reading Agency started on Friday 1st December 2023 and runs until Monday 19th February 2024. It's for children aged 4-11 and is all online. It is hosted by the Reading Agency.

Children sign up at wintermini.org.uk, read at least 3 books and unlock digital rewards and prizes along the way.

WATER BOTTLES

Some children in Key Stage 2 are bringing in some very large water bottles (some holding more than 1.5l), these are heavy and take up a lot of space on the desks or in the classroom. We ask that parents only send children in with sensible, plain water bottles, holding approximately 500ml. Children are able to refill their water bottles in school throughout the day.

On 30th November **boys and girls from year 5 & 6** took part in the Sportshall Athletics at Harrow Lodge Sports Centre. It was a great event with the children enjoying all the different circuits and races. A special thanks to Campion School for driving a number of children to the event, who otherwise would not have been able to attend.

A reminder to any of the children who have taken part in the various sporting activities, that the St Joseph's sports shirts should be returned to Mrs Willson in the office.



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Last week, **the Reception children** shared a wonderful Nativity play with their proud families. It was such a lovely performance and helped us all to prepare for this special time of year.

The children of Year 5 and 6 led the school community in a beautiful Carol Service yesterday.

Through prayer and Scripture, accompanied by the singing of both traditional and contemporary songs, the children brought us together in the true spirit of Christmas.

Thank you to all the staff who
have prepared the children for
these special Christmas
performances.

Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed performing their Christmas Nativity on Tuesday & Wednesday this week. They had fun practising with their classes and performing their dress rehearsals to the rest of the school too. Thank you to Year 1 and Year 2 for reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas.

Year 4 took part in the annual Christmas Tree Festival at Upminster Methodist Church. Both classes made their own decorations for their tree which was displayed for everyone to admire at the church. In addition, Year 4 children and their families enjoyed an afternoon of carol singing at the church. It was a very special time together with another local church. Well done Year 4!



Year 3 - We enjoyed our road safety talk. Two men were the red man and the green man from the pelican crossings. They reminded us of the Green Cross Code – stop, look, listen, think, cross. They told us that you shouldn't wear your head phones when crossing the road because you wouldn't be able to hear traffic coming. Don't get distracted by anything for example a dog or your friends across the road. Always look for a Pelican or Zebra crossing when you cross the road. Wear reflective clothing. Sometimes drivers don't pay enough attention so you have to watch out for them. By Pearl and Bea



ADVENT PRAYER

Loving God, as we await Christmas day by celebrating Advent, help us to become patient in waiting. Please teach us to realize that Jesus is the most precious gift You have ever given to the world. May we imitate Him as a child, and may we grow in wisdom and grace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thanks

On behalf of the staff, thank-you for
lovely cards and your generous
Christmas gifts.

The staff wish all the school
community families a safe and Holy
Christmas, and we look forward to
welcoming everyone back in the new
Year.

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PRE – LOVED SCHOOL SHOP

A massive thank you for everyone who supported our pre-loved shop this year. We were overwhelmed with the donation and very successful with sales. A special THANK YOU to our Year 6 girls who were helping to run the shop with sorting and labelling new donations, and fulfilling and distributing the orders. Thank you - **Ashley, Emily, Emilia, Olivia, Moyosore and Chloe**. We are proud to inform you that for this term's profit we purchased a set of new Nativity costumes for our Years 1 & 2.

PFA Thank you to **Charlotte Tobin**, her fantastic committee and all the wonderful PFA volunteers for all their hard work organising and running the secret shopper and the Christmas Bazaar.

We really rely on the funds that the PFA generate and we are so grateful to everyone who runs and volunteers at events, and really grateful to see so many families attend. Your generosity is so important to our school community.

Stuck on finding books for your Christmas list?

Well look no further! 'The World's Worst Children' by David Walliams will be perfect for you. Why? Well, for these simple reasons:

Firstly, this book's funny and goofy pictures will keep you entertained for hours on end! Not only this, but you're more than welcome to read any part you want. You can do this by looking at the book's contents page and find your desired story. Lastly, if you enjoyed this book, there is plenty more to discover. All you have to do is go to your local bookshop!

By Olive (5C)



Term dates

School closes for Christmas on Tuesday 19th December at 3.15pm. The new term starts on Thursday 4th January 2024. Gates will open as usual at 8.45am.

The term dates for 2024-2025 have been agreed by the governors and are available on the school website.



I would like to recommend the book 'Polly Perorino' by Emma Chichester Clark because it's a fun book and shows kindness to nature throughout the story. I loved it! By Gabrielle (4B)

'Refuge' by Anne Booth and Sam Usher is a story about Jesus's birth. It reminds us about the importance of hope and kindness, especially at this time of year. By Jidenna (2P)



Goodbye and Good Luck!

At the end of this term, we are saying goodbye to 2 members of staff.

Mrs Shepherd is leaving St Joseph's to take up a promoted post in another school. We thank her for the many years of dedicated service since joining the school in September 2014. The children and staff will miss her and I am sure you will join me in wishing her every success.

We are also sorry to be saying goodbye to Mr Pain, who has been our School keeper since September 2022. Again, we thank him for all his hard work and wish him every success in the future.