



St Joseph's RC Primary School

Valuing respect, friendship, excellence and care in all we do and say.

Newsletter - January 2020

Welcome Back

A very warm welcome back, we hope that you have had a lovely Christmas and that 2020 brings health and happiness to you and your families.

Mass and Liturgy

Please join us for our next **whole school Mass on Thursday 16th January at 9.15am** you are all warmly invited to attend with refreshments in the school hall afterwards.

Sacramental Preparation

Please keep the children who have started Sacramental preparation in your prayers. There will be a presentation of these children, to the Parish, on Saturday 25th January 6pm. It would be wonderful if as many people as possible could support them and join them at Mass.

Winter Weather

Please make sure that children come to school with warm outdoor clothing. If school has to close due to severe weather conditions, a **text** will be sent to the first contact as soon as a decision has been made. In wintry conditions, it is very important that you follow the following procedures:

- ◆ Pedestrians, please use the routes in and out of school that have been cleared and gritted. These routes will be clearly marked by cones.
- ◆ In the event of snowy conditions, parents may receive a text message to pick their child up at an earlier time. Keeping everyone safe will always be our priority.

School closure will also be posted on our school website.

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns, questions or queries please let one of our safeguarding team know. The key members of staff responsible for safeguarding in school are :

Mrs Ashton– Headteacher (Lead)

Mrs Hanley– Deputy Headteacher

Miss Macdonald

Please make sure that you update the school if your address or contact information changes.

Attendance

Attendance at school is a legal requirement and all children are expected to attend school daily unless they are unwell. It is of the utmost importance that children are in school each day in order for them to get the most out of school and achieve the best possible outcomes. In order to achieve high standards, and ensure that children are not missing out on valuable learning, please make sure that children are only absent from school when absolutely necessary.

Persistent Absence

If your child's attendance falls to 90% or below, this is considered, by the Government to be persistent absence. Where attendance falls below 90% and there are unauthorised absences, this may result in a referral to the Local Authority for enforcement action.

We ask that you do not book a holiday in term time and I would like to remind you that leave of absence for holidays will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

Please see the attached leaflet which explains the essential information about attendance.

Reading

Reading is of the highest priority in school and we appreciate your support with reading at home. Look out tonight for the new Home/School reading record books and reading information that will be coming out with your child. We are excited to launch our new bespoke reading areas that will be coming soon in school, watch this space to see how amazing they are going to be!

We will be offering the following workshops to help you to support your child with reading at home:

- All classes– Bug Club workshop on Tuesday 21st January 3.30-4pm
- Classes 1 and 2– Phonics workshop Wednesday 29th January 3.30-4pm (more details to follow)

Parents' Evenings

Parents' evenings will take place on **Tuesday 3rd March** and **Wednesday 4th March**. This will be an opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher to gain an up to date insight into the progress that they are making and ask any questions you may have. Appointment times to follow.

Fairtrade Fortnight

What is Fairtrade Fortnight?

For two weeks each year thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks and who grow the cotton in our clothes, people who are often exploited and underpaid.

Fairtrade Fortnight this year will take place from Monday 24th February -Sunday 8th March. In school the children will be learning all about cocoa, the special role women farmers play in the journey to living incomes, and will work on ways of promoting and encouraging people to choose to buy Fairtrade chocolate, as well as other Fairtrade products.

ParentPay

Please ensure your ParentPay account is kept up to date with payments. It is essential for school dinners and breakfast club to be credited on a regular basis to enable provisions to be bought. ParentPay allows payments to be made at anytime of the day and for future payments to be made to keep your account in credit. Thank you for your support.

Fundraising

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends of St. Joseph's who have worked so hard to fundraise for the school. Their time, care and support is greatly appreciated.

The Winter Warmer fundraising event raised £429.40 and the Christmas Fayre and raffle raised £640. I would also like to thank you all for your generosity and support leading up to Christmas. The money raised has been used for Christmas activities and will go towards new reading books in school.

School Uniform

Jewellery

I would like to remind you that jewellery is not to be worn by children during the school day. For health and safety reasons earrings **must** be removed before children come to school. On the rare occasion where there is a problem, and earrings cannot be removed, then they must be taped up prior to coming to school— please come into school and see us if this is the case.

While we encourage children to wear watches for school, we have noticed that some of these are 'Fitbit' style watches. Whilst we see the benefit of wearing a 'Fitbit', and encourage children to improve their fitness as well as skills of telling the time, we do recognise that these watches are expensive to buy. It is for this reason that I am reminding you that we cannot accept any responsibility for these items if they are lost or damaged whilst at school; allowing your child to wear a Fitbit for school is at your own discretion. Any watches with access to photography or internet access **are not** allowed in school for safeguarding reasons. 04

PE Kits

Please ensure that P.E. kits are available in school at all times.



School Website

Our school website has been updated and now includes some lovely examples of your child's learning in the class blogs. Please take time to regularly check our website which will be continuously updated to provide you with ongoing information about our school.

www.st-josephsrc-pri.durham.sch.uk



Dates for your Diary



Wednesday 15th January-am	Y3/4 Football Tournament at the Beacon (no spectators)
Thursday 16th January– am	Whole School Mass
Friday 24th January-2.45pm	Class 3 assembly
Wednesday 29th January—am	Y5/6 Football Tournament at the Beacon (no spectators)
Tuesday 4th February– 9.10am	Class 4 Liturgy
Thursday 13th February-9.15am	Whole School Mass led by Class 2
Tuesday 25th February	Author in school
Wednesday 12th February-am	Y4/5/6 Multi-Sports at the Beacon (no spectators)
Friday 14th February	Break Up
Monday 17th to Friday 21st February	School Closed for half-term
Monday 24th February-Sunday 8th March	Fairtrade Fortnight
Tuesday 3rd March	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 4th March	Parents' Evening
Thursday 5th March– 2.45pm	Class 2 Assembly
Wednesday 18th March	Y1/2 Football Tournament at the Beacon (no spectators)
Thursday 19th March—9.15am	Whole School Mass led by Class 1
Tuesday 24th March—9.00am	Class 3 Liturgy
Thursday 2nd April –9.15am	Whole School Mass
Friday 3rd April	Break up for Easter
Monday 20th April	Return to school
Friday 8th May	Bank holiday Friday (not Monday)

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<http://www.st-josephsrc-pri.durham.sch.uk>

Headteacher: Mrs Ashton