



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 27th November 2020



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Sports Apprentice

Mr Ashong left this week as his contract finished on Tuesday. His year-long stay at our school came to an end and we will all have fond memories of his enthusiasm and care for the children of St. Joseph's. The work he did with the children to help them achieve their sporting goals and targets was lovely to see and I thank him for it. He leaves our school qualified to work in other schools as a Teaching Assistant. However, we all know his love of boxing and his aspirations to take up the profession. One day, Mr Ashong will return to our school to show off his championship belts! I look forward to welcoming him back.

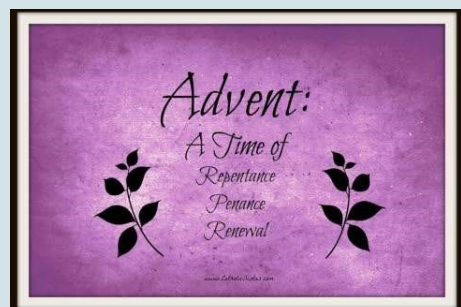


Sunday 29th November 2020

1st Sunday of Advent

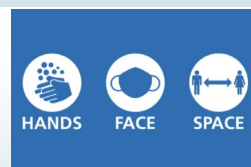
Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.



Lockdown Rules

May I remind our community to remember to wear face coverings when dropping off and picking up your children please. I have also been made aware of groups of parents and children who congregate in places on their way home. Current rules clearly state that there must be as little interaction as possible, especially groups. Please do not flout the rules and block the pavements making it difficult for passers-by to get past safely.



Black Friday Sales!

This is a reminder that the 'Black Friday' periods sees the highest number of emails flying across the ether than at any other time of year.

This means that not only are there millions of legitimate emails, but the scammers also send out their contributions too. We are all vulnerable, but children are beginning to excitedly buy presents online for the first time. Reminders about safe buying online would be very timely.



Safer Streets

I promised that I would approach the Safer Streets initiative representatives about the possibility of including our street in the programme. Unfortunately, the money is no longer available but if the programme gets funding next year, then we will be in line.



Love Learn Believe

Christmas Care Box

As we move into the season of Advent, our school community would like to offer a small gesture that we are thinking of others by giving a local care home a Christmas Care Box. During this time of the 'new normal', many people living in care homes have not been in close contact with members of their family or other members of the community for months. It has been widely publicised through the press and TV that residence living in a care home have been especially affected by feelings of isolation and loneliness. To give them a sense that the local community are thinking of them, each class are going to put together a 'Christmas Care Box' which will be full of small gifts that can be distributed to the residence over the Christmas period. We would like you to send a small gift to school, for example a small Christmas decoration, small novelty Christmas chocolate, handkerchiefs, warm socks, crossword puzzle books. These are just a few examples, but can you remember that the gifts are for elderly people. The boxes will be completed by Friday 11th December. We are sure that the children will really enjoy doing this and can we say a big thank you for your continued support.



New, updated "In the event..."

In the event that somebody in your household wakes up with a fever ($>37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$), or a new, continuous cough or a loss of the sense of smell or taste do not send your child to school. Immediately inform the school via email or phone and then book a test for the person. The whole household must then self-isolate. If the test returns negative and nobody has any ongoing symptoms, the child can return to school and the household no longer needs to self-isolate. If a positive result is returned, the household must self-isolate for 14 days but the positive case can resume normal activity after 10 days as long as they have been symptom free for 48 hours.



If your child has a sniffle, runny nose or is sneezing, they are not coronavirus symptoms and your child should come to school if well enough.

'Laudato Si' project – Caring for our common home

Christmas cards can be a lovely way to tell our friends and our family that we are thinking about them at this special time of year. Each year many children write out 30 cards to their classmates and teacher. That is 30 x 30 cards and envelopes. **900** in total per class! If everyone in our school from Year 1 - 6 did this, then this will mean that **16,200** cards and envelopes will be written. Where do these cards end up after Christmas?



Last year at St. Joseph's we decided to make a change. The pupils were delighted to read out their cards to the class and see the class cards on display – all in the knowledge that they were making a difference to the planet.

Let's give Planet Earth a happier Christmas by reducing our paper waste.

Challenge: We are asking that children create/ write one 'whole class' Christmas card.

- Write all of your classmates' names on it.

- Write a special Christmas message inside.

We can then put the 30 cards on display in the classroom for you to look at throughout Advent.

Let's make a difference – together!

Love Learn Believe

Book Fair

This week, a different 'Book Fair' has taken place. Not quite virtual, but children can see the books from afar and then order. We don't have the usual teams of sellers all competing for your money. Still a perfect place to pick up a stocking filler for Christmas and help the school whilst you are at it.



Winter Grant Scheme

You will be aware that the government has announced a Covid Winter Grant Scheme to support children, families and the most vulnerable over winter including those eligible for free school meals. Further guidance is due shortly and I will let you know as soon as possible. In the meantime, I want to remind parents that they need to register for free school meals if they qualify due to low income. Children receiving universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) are not entitled to benefits-related free school meals.

PTA 'Rule Break Day' - Pens/pencils down afternoon

All the children and teachers are looking forward to this afternoon and ensuring they are complying with the PTA's pens/pencils down afternoon. As promised, the children will not do any writing in any lessons after lunch. I know that Year 6 are watching 'Oliver', Year 5 will be doing art, Year 4 will be watching the Iron Giant, Year 3 will be watching Willy Wonka, Year 2 will be practicing their Advent service, Year 1 will be doing fun activities in class, Reception will be doing art and craft and activities and Nursery will be making Christmas decorations.



Good news for older siblings

As part of Transport for London's recent government funding agreement, travel concessions for under 18s will now remain. All work on the temporary removal of under 18 concessions has been stopped and young people under the age of 18 can be reassured that they will continue to benefit from free travel on buses and trams. Merry Christmas!



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Celebrations

Headteacher awards are presented each week to children who the staff think have put that little bit of extra into their work. Well done to the children listed below:

Class	Name	Reason
1B	Pavel	For taking great care with his work and improving his participation in our lessons.
1S	Thomas	For working so well in Maths using directional words.
1SW	Oliver	For making a fantastic improvement with his handwriting.
2AL	Jack	For writing a great diary entry.
2B	Julia	For her willingness to read a challenging narrator part in our Advent carol service.
2SL	Cameron	For listening attentively and trying his best in all lessons – Thank you!
3AR	Zachary	For showing exemplary classroom behaviour when his class teacher was not in.
3DS	Riley	For giving his best efforts in all areas of the curriculum.
3SR	Thalia-Lee	For her valued input during RE.
4B	Ted	For writing a good poem about the Iron Man.
4C	Alphonsa	For increased success in English skills and presentation.
4S	Finian	For always working hard and showing a great attitude.
5B	Pippa	For trying extra hard with her handwriting and gaining a pen licence.
5S	Bonnie	For her amazing singing in preparation for the Advent Carol service. Well done!
5W	Sienna	For outstanding diary writing and always being a role model to others.
6B	Amelia	For always showing patience and kindness to others.
6I	Blanka	For super science explanations for her 'light' observations.
6J	Fain	For his fantastic verbal responses in RE and PSHE.

Good Disciple awards are given to children who have shown exceptional love and kindness to fellow pupils and are helping to build God's kingdom here and now. Well done to the children listed below:

Phase	Name	Reason
Lower	Natan	For always being kind and friendly.
Middle	Martina	For always working sensibly and respectfully with all of her peers
Upper	Gabriel	For the empathy he shows towards others.



Walking around the school this week...

I saw an excellent and informative Hanwell history display...



I saw, "Three ships come sailing in", three lovely model Viking ships...



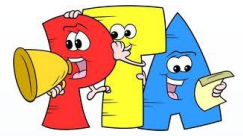
I saw football skills being shown off...



And finally, a beautiful frosty Friday morning....



PTA News



Hi Everyone,

So this year, Christmas at school will be very different for the children. We sadly cannot have our lovely Christmas market and it is not safe for Santa to visit the classes. However he will drop off the traditional gift for the children of an orange and a sweet treat. Also the PTA have purchased some presents for the children, which is two board/interactive games per class so they can enjoy them together on special days. We hope that this gives them something to be excited about.

As from Monday 23rd Nov, staff in school will be selling tickets for our Christmas raffle. The tickets will cost £1 each. The children will not take tickets home. When they pay their teacher for their ticket, the teacher will put their name and class on the back of the ticket and place it straight in the box ready for the prize draw on the 14th December. The draw will be recorded and put on the school website for you to view.

The prizes are as follows

1st prize: Apple Ipad- very generously donated by Doyles Sales and Lettings.

2nd prize: Speed boat trip in London for a family of 4 - kindly donated by Thames Rockets

3rd prize: Christmas Hamper full of goodies and treats for all the family

4th, 5th and 6th prizes: family board games.

The last day to purchase tickets is Friday 11th December

Thank you all for your continued support.
Stay Safe

