



Autumn Term 2023

7th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we begin the month of December, we will be fast approaching the end of this half term, we have a lot of exciting times planned for our children before they are ready for the festive break! Our Christmas events are a lovely time to get the whole community together and celebrate with the children.

On Friday, we said goodbye to Mrs Gillingham who left to begin her maternity leave. We cannot wait to hear of the arrival of her new baby, and we wished her all the very best. Mrs Vasey who joined us in October has really got to know our children well and has enjoyed teaching them since Mrs Mills left to join the police force. We welcome Mrs McGurk who will join our school team in Year 1 from January. Mrs McGurk has been working in school for a few days to ensure the handover is a very smooth transition. She joins us with a wealth of experience after working in a school in Chester Le Street and she is really looking forward to starting here at St Joseph's. Mrs Toward and Mrs Barnfather will be supporting and teaching the children over the next few weeks on a Wednesday afternoon as well as Thursday and Friday.

Mr Ferriday who has been working with us in school successfully secured a permanent Higher-Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) position and he will also be joined by Miss English as an HLTA from January. Miss Lomax who also joined us in October has also settled so well and has made a great addition to our Early Years Team in Reception.

As we have now secured permanent support staff, we are delighted to share that Mrs Barnfather can now begin the preparations to open our "wrap around care" offering breakfast and after school provision. Mrs Barnfather will be updating parents and carers with this new offer as she is keen to get the club up and running in the New Year.

First Week of Advent

The first week of Advent is the **candle of hope**. During the first week of Advent, we are encouraged to think about how, at Christmas, Jesus, the Son of God, was born into our world to show us how-to live-in hope.

To help us do this, an important lesson Jesus taught was that we should love one another. We are like bright stars when we let God's love and hope shine through us.

In this prayer for the first week of Advent, pray for peace on earth and hope in your heart.

Heavenly Father,

in Advent we remember the importance of hope. Help us to always have hope in you and to share this hope with others through our kindness and our prayers.

Amen



Whole School Christmas Mass in Church Wednesday 20th December 9:30am



After Mass, all parents/carers and parishioners are welcome to meet in the school hall for a coffee morning/Christmas fayre. Hot chocolate, tea/coffee, mince pies/cake, Christmas raffle etc will be available to purchase. Come along and join us in our festivities.

Dates for the Diary:

Tuesday 12 th December	2.00pm	Reception and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) Nativity in Church
Wednesday 13 th December	1.30pm	Key Stage 2 (years 3,4,5 and 6) Christmas Party
Thursday 14 th December	1.30pm	Reception and Key Stage 1 Christmas Party
Friday 15 th December	2.00pm	Key Stage 2 Christmas Performance in Church
Tuesday 19 th December	10.00am	Nursery Nativity in School
	1.30pm	Nursery Nativity in School
Wednesday 20 th December	9.30am	Whole School Christmas Mass in Church
		Christmas Jumper Day
		Christmas Lunch Day
Thursday 21 st December	am/pm	Nursery Christmas Party

Children can come to school dressed to party on their party day



School breaks up for Christmas at 1:00pm

Friday the 22nd of December

There will be no afternoon nursery session on this day.

We look forward to a morning of fun with a live band and a Christmas quiz.



And a present maybe left from Santa.....

A Merry Christmas to you all.

God bless you and your family with peace and joy for the year to

come. Thank you for your continued support,

School returns on Monday 8th January 2024

Mrs Graham & Mrs. Toward

