



St Joseph's Catholic Infant School



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November/December 2024

Advent is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas and is a time of **preparation** that directs our hearts and minds to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas Day. The liturgical colour for Advent is purple and we change our prayer cloths in our classrooms to show this special time.

Year One led a wonderful Blessing Service to mark the start of Advent and helped the school learn about the symbolism of the Advent Wreath. Our other Year groups have shared the Christmas story through song and messages. The children enjoyed watching each other perform and joined in all the songs together.

Christmas Message

Wishing all our families and friends a peaceful and happy Christmas time. The children have helped us to remember the reason we have Christmas and how a little baby was born to bring hope to the World.

Christmas Blessings to you from
All at St Joseph's



Staff News

At the end of this term we say a fond farewell to Miss Tobin, Miss Verrall and Mrs Pincetti. They have all contributed enormously to our school over the years and we wish them all the very best for the future as they move on to new things and spending more time with their families.

A big 'well done' to Mr Baker who was chosen for his football coaching work to coach a special match at Wembley Stadium.

School Improvements News

This term we have:



- Repaired the path alongside the cabin replacing uneven paving stones
- Purchased 2 laptops for staff use
- Repainted areas in Year 1 classrooms
- Replaced old noticeboards in EYFS
- Replaced fire strips in fire doors
- Tiled the sink areas in KS1
- Created a sensory room and additional nurture room where staff can support children as needed.

Sharing & Helping Others

Poppy Appeal – Thank you for your contributions and for wearing something red. We raised £174

Friends Friday – This is a growing group of parents getting together for a chat – the Friends agreed to keep the day on a Friday and the next get together is on Friday 10th January 2025.

Dare to Be Different & Cupcakes – a super effort from everyone and a fun end to the week. The £400.77 raised will be put towards some sparkly art resources for Christmas and some sports and playtime equipment.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal – Wonderful for children to be helping other children to enjoy Christmas. The children were excited to describe the items they had chosen to put in their boxes.



Books Exchange

We are delighted that you have been able to re-home so many of the free books for families. Many people have asked if they could donate books and we have decided to make this a children's book exchange. Books (clean, undamaged and suitable for our age groups) can be donated to the box in the main entrance lobby in exchange for a different free book.



Christmas Liturgy – Reminder

You are welcome to join us for Christmas Prayers on Friday morning at 9.00 am when we will be ending the school term by remembering the true meaning of Christmas.



Pre-loved Uniform - Donations and Sale

Are you having a school uniform sort out?

We will be holding a pre-loved uniform sale of current uniform items on Wednesday 22nd January at 3.00 pm. Donations of clean **dresses, skirts, trousers, sweat shirts/cardigans in good condition can be dropped off at the office**. The sale will be in the school hall – 50p an item.

Learning Updates

Dance Coach – Year 1 has benefitted from lessons with the dance specialist (Joanne) this term and they have all had some amazing moves as they put together sequences to make a whole dance.

Sports Coach – Reception classes have worked with a sports coach (Adam) weekly and are working well as partners in small team games. They have loved very simple competition games and supported each other – winning or losing!

Play Coaches – KS1 lunchtime playtime has been enhanced by play coaches who work with groups of children to learn team and playground games

The Science Dome – This was enjoyed by all in KS1 and a really great opportunity to make learning come to life and be extra fun and special.

Forest School – Pre-School children had an adventure- travelling all the way over to the wooded/Forest School area at St Edward's School where they explored the trees, made patterns with sticks and collected leaves.

Start of the School Day

A reminder that Pre-School starts at 8.40 am, and YR, Y1, Y2 classroom doors open at 8.40 am and close at 8.45 am when lessons start. We must secure the site when the classroom doors shut at 8.45 am, therefore the gates to the main playground will close at this time. Any children arriving after this time will need to enter via the office main entrance.

Any children arriving after this time will need to enter School/Pre-School via the office, where you will be required to sign them in.

School Milk

Our school operates a milk scheme which is available to all pupils via our milk supplier Cool Milk.

Free milk is available to order for all children under five. When a child turns five, parents have the opportunity to pay a subsidised rate via Cool Milk for their child to continue to receive milk in school.

Pupils entitled to Pupil Premium funding are entitled to free school milk.

If you would like more information or to register your child to receive school milk please see the parent leaflet link below

<https://coolmilk.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/DIGITAL-Parent-Leaflet-A4.pdf>

Urgent - Emergency Contact Details

You **must** have someone who can collect your child in an emergency such as illness, accident/injury or a school closure during the school day.

The school must be kept up to date with your contact details and emergency contacts details.