



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 8 Friday 1st December 2023

www.stjosephsschooldorking.co.uk

"Learning and Growing Together in the Light of God's Love"



FIELDWORK AT THE NOWER

Year 4 visited The Nower this week linked to the class geography topic. The children were tasked with comparing our local woodland to the Amazon rainforest. They created a tally chart to record how people were using The Nower - dog walking was top! - and they stopped passers-by to ask them questions about why they were there, how often they went, what they liked about the woodland and what they would change about it. Mrs Bradfield noted the children were very polite in their interactions with the public and she was proud of their behaviour.



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

This Sunday sees the beginning of the Advent Season during which we prepare ourselves to welcome



Christ at Christmas. Advent is a wonderful time for reflection and preparation and it is sometimes easy to forget that the season of Christmas doesn't actually begin until Christmas Day! The eldest child in each family will be bringing home a leaflet next week outlining the significance of Advent, suggesting some family prayers and simple activities, and summarising some of the events and activities which will be taking place at school and in the parish.



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATHS

If you have an Advent wreath at home and you would like to bring it along to Mass this weekend, each Mass will begin with the blessing of wreaths. You will be invited to bring your wreath up to the altar where a prayer of blessing will be said and the wreaths sprinkled with Holy Water.

CONGRATULATIONS

The children were treated to some live music in our Concert Assembly this week.

Well done to our musicians - George, Eddie, Marley, Lily, Gabriella, Minnie, James, Noah, Camilla, Mason and Bow - for their excellent performances. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to share their musical talents with their classes on piano, flute, guitar, trumpet, trombone and cello with pieces from a variety of genres.

Thanks to Mrs Hampshire for organising the assembly.



A VERY DORKENSIAN CHRISTMAS

****THIS WEEKEND****

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2023

12 NOON—6.00PM

Music and Entertainment
Christmas Grotto
Festive Market Stalls
Fun, friendly competitions
Ms Ballooniverse
BBC Surrey Live Broadcast
Award-winning Food and Drink
Victorian Carol Singers
Volunteer Village
Sustainable Market
Children's Activities
Father & Mother Christmas



Further information about the event can also be found via the following link.

<https://dorkingtowndpartnership.co.uk/christmas-festival-2023/>

ALSO FEATURING THE SCHOOLS

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING COMPETITION

As part of the event, local schools have been asked to decorate a small Christmas Tree with sustainable, recycled decorations. Thanks to the children who attend Art Club for the beautiful handmade decorations they have created to decorate our tree and to Miss Cook and Miss Kenway for organising this. You will be able to see St. Joseph's Tree, alongside those from other Dorking Schools, at the United Reformed Church on West Street. Members of the public are being asked to vote for their favourite tree and there is a prize for the winning school.

Attached with the newsletter this week you will find a voting slip which needs to be posted in the decorated box at the event on Sunday. Please do support the children in this!



PARENT GOVERNOR ROLES

Following our recent appeal for parents to join our Governing Body, we are pleased to confirm that Victoria Moreau and Clare Bates have been appointed. As the number of nominations received did not exceed the number of vacancies, there will not be a need to hold a ballot. We are grateful to both parents for offering their time to fulfil this important role and sharing their skills in support of the school.

FOSJ UNIFORM SALE

Wednesday

6th December

8.45am - 9.15am

Uniform and coffee

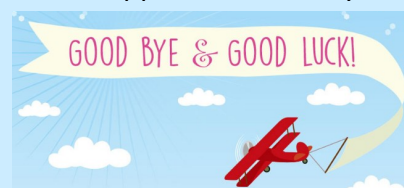
2.45pm-3.15pm

Uniform only



A FAREWELL

Today we say goodbye to Miss Giordani who is leaving St. Joseph's to pursue a new career. We thank Miss Giordani for her hard work here and wish her success, happiness and many blessings in the future.



ADMISSIONS TO RECEPTION CLASS ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/25

A reminder to parents of children born between 01.09.19 and 31.08.20 that applications for admission to our Reception Class for September 2024 open on 1st November 2023. Both the County Council form (usually completed on line at surreycc.gov.uk/admissions) and the school application form should be completed and returned by the deadline of **January 15th 2024**.

If you need further information or copies of the school application form, please contact Mrs Cook.

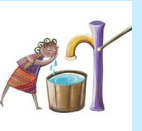
We will be holding small, pre-booked tours of the school throughout November and December for prospective parents. Please do pass this information on to anyone who may be interested in joining our school.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Instead of buying individual Christmas cards to send to each other in school this year we would like to raise money towards CAFOD's World Gifts charity. We would like to suggest that each child sends just one Christmas card to their whole class which can be displayed in the classroom. The card can be shop-bought or handmade. The money that has been saved by not buying lots of cards can be donated to the class World Gifts collection pot. Each class can then use their money to buy a present from the World Gifts catalogue. World Gifts are a range of charity gifts that help transform the lives of poor communities and families in developing countries, for example chickens, bees, goats, mosquito nets, access to fresh water or even teaching a child to read! Sending fewer cards will also be better for the environment!

Cards and donations can be brought into school from Monday 4th December.



INFANT NATIVITY PLAYS

Year R: Wednesday 13th December 9.30am

Year 1 & 2: Tuesday 12th December - 9.30am & 2.30pm; Wednesday 13th December 2.30pm (Grandparents Performance)

Most parents have now booked their tickets. If you have not yet booked tickets, please do so as soon as possible via the relevant google form. A reminder that only those on the list of attendees will be admitted and tickets may not be transferred.



SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

on Monday 18th December.

If you have not yet ordered a lunch for your child, to avoid disappointment, please do so by the deadline of **Monday 4th December 2023.**

The Christmas Lunch is free for all children in KS1 (Yrs R, 1 & 2) and those children in KS2 (Yrs 3-6) who are eligible for free school meals. The cost of Christmas lunch for the remainder of pupils is **£2.70.**

If children do not wish to have the school Christmas lunch on offer they may bring a packed lunch.

Children may wear Christmas themed jumpers and hats to school on this day.

If you don't already have a Christmas jumper, please don't buy one especially - you could trim a plain jumper with tinsel or pin on a Christmas picture!



KS2 ADVENT SERVICE

Thursday 14th December 4pm

At St. Joseph's Church

The KS2 children will be leading our Advent Service at **St. Joseph's Church.**

Parents are warmly invited to join us. The children will walk up to the Church with their teachers straight after school. We envisage that the service will end by 5pm and children should be **collected from the Church** after the event.

FOSJ CHRISTMAS CARDS

Thank you for your support of the Christmas Card fundraiser. Most of the cards and items have now been distributed / collected. If you have not yet received your items, please contact Mrs Cook.

FOSJ CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SHOPPING MORNING

Friday 15th December

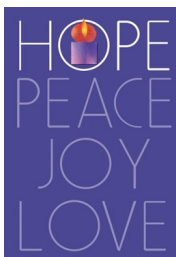
This popular event is fast approaching. It is an opportunity for the children to buy small gifts for the members of their immediate family. A big thank you to everyone who has donated gifts for the sale so far.

Donations of small, good-quality items to sell would be gratefully received and can be left in the containers in the Entrance Foyer. Many thanks for your support.



ONCE A WEEK TAKE A PEEK!

There have been some cases of headlice reported in the school. Please be vigilant and remember to check your child(ren)'s hair regularly.



*Look after one another and be kind!
With all best wishes for the season
of Advent,
Carolyn Scrutton
[Headteacher]*