

Dear parents and carers,

Someone recently asked me why I write about school attendance so much! I appreciated the observation, and also the fact that someone regularly reads these(!), but it's a very important part of school life. This week we held pretty steadily at 97% attendance, which is 2% above the national average. This meant that almost everyone in the school was here for Anti-Bullying Week, to pay their respects during Remembrance, to be involved in our collective worship, to learn in carefully sequenced lessons, and to feel like they are part of our school family. The best schools I have worked in have consistently high attendance - thank you for your support in this and well done!

As mentioned, it has been a busy week and I've tried to capture some of that in this week's newsletter!

Of course, Advent is approaching and that means a lot of other events to follow. We have confirmed dates for Nativity and Advent services - available on the right side of this page; we will email these soon with more details and options to book tickets.

Thank you for all of your support - we ask a lot of our families, from regular reading with children, to remembering odd socks, spots and stripes, donations, and many more things! You do an awful lot for your children and the school, and we are very grateful.

As ever, if I can help with anything at all, please get in touch with the office.

God bless

Sam Crome



## IMPORTANT DATES AND KEY INFO

### Advent Dates

Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> December, AM  
Yr R Nativity to Parents

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec PM  
Y1&2 Nativity 1

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec AM  
Y1&2 Nativity 2

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Christmas Lunch

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
KS2 Advent Service 2PM

[St Joseph's Instagram](#)

[Full School Calendar](#)

[Book a school tour:  
01306 883934](#)

## SHOEBOX APPEAL - THANK YOU!



With modest ambitions, we were not expecting so many shoeboxes! Thank you so much for donating items and boxes. They were collected on Wednesday and now make their way to families in need. Thank you!

## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

The children spent time this week, in assembly and in class, exploring what it means to use our Power for Good, to eradicate bullying from any parts of our life. The theme of the week connected beautifully with our work on Catholic Social Teaching and helped us explore how we serve the Common Good, and show Solidarity with those in and outside of our community. Please ask your children about their takeaways from anti-bullying week.



## CHILDREN IN NEED - SPOTS AND STRIPES!

Thank you for supporting Children In Need with your spots and stripes, and your donations. [Our JustGiving page for CIN can be found here.](#) Thank you.



## YEAR 3 - NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Year 3 journeyed to London on Thursday for a brilliant tour of the Natural History Museum! Huge thanks to Mrs Bradfield, Mrs Doherty, Mrs Field, Mrs Begum and Mrs Norton for taking the children for an unforgettable day!



## ACADEMISATION UPDATE

You will have received a letter via email from the governors, asking for your views about St Joseph's becoming an academy. If you have any questions please send them to [consultation@stjosephs-dorking.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@stjosephs-dorking.surrey.sch.uk) or you can come to the meeting for parents at 6pm on Wednesday 19 November to hear more and ask questions.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY AND POPPIES

We gathered together on Tuesday morning to pay our respects to those who have lost their lives in conflict and war. The whole school listened to the Last Post, observed a two-minute silence beautifully, and then said a prayer for those who have gone before us. A lot of children have made and bought poppies - thank you for your support.

