



# NEWSLETTER

**14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Gospel**

The clear message here from John the Baptist is that we must not be greedy. In order to truly understand Christmas we must recognise that it is about an excess of love and not an excess of material goods.

## **Top in the city**

This is the most tremendous news. The Governors and the staff are delighted. I have worked in many schools and the key drivers in this success here are that staff (teaching and non-teaching) have the highest of expectations for the children.

- The children rise to challenge and are driven to succeed. They want to be the next generation of engineers, lawyers, doctors and teachers. You as parents also want that for your children; you value their progress and rather than make excuses when a child is unwilling you work as true partners and urge your child onwards. You play a huge part in the success of St Joseph's.
- The final part of the article in the Echo indicates that schools should not be SAT's factories and I couldn't agree more. I don't have to remind you that here the whole child is educated: music, dance, drama, art, sport and health all being developed to the highest levels.
- Above all else the prayer and faith life of the school is a key driver for success. Christ is our model, our example, our inspiration and everything we achieve we do in honour of God. Deep thanks for your continued commitment to being 'Better than Our Best'.

## **Toiletries**

Many thanks to all of you who contributed to the collection of toiletries. True Christmas love. The Mini Vinnies were delighted with the amount sent in.

## **Year 1 Superheros**

We will be emailing the Superheros video to our Year 1 parents shortly. Please let us know if you haven't received it by Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

## The Christmas Fayre

Thanks go to all of you for coming and supporting the event. The event speaks of our community. £1000 was raised as a result of the raffle and the event. I will be asking FOSJ if we can use this money to buy touch screens in the classrooms to support the teaching and learning.

Particular thanks go to Mrs Potts who has worked unceasingly to ensure the success of the school in the absence of Mrs Archer. Thank you and well done.

## EYFS Production

This week saw two beautiful performances by our youngest children. They and the staff did wonderfully.

## KS1 Production

Thanks go to the children and staff of Y1 and Y2.

## Carol Service

The Key Stage 2 carol service takes place this Wednesday at 5.30pm. It is always such a beautiful, prayerful occasion in the busy run-up to Christmas and the children have worked extremely hard to prepare for the service with their singing and liturgical dances. I sincerely urge you to attend. **Please remember this is an occasion for all of our community**, not just for the parents of Key Stage 2 children and many of our parishioners look forward to the event every year. Please take this opportunity to join us all and listen to the true message of Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Our Key Stage 2 pupils will be leading the singing and are asked to meet in Church at 5.20pm. The children are also asked to wear their full school uniform:-

- purple sweatshirt
- white shirt
- school tie
- grey skirts (if possible) for the girls
- grey tights (if possible rather than coloured ones)
- Black shoes (or gym shoes rather than fashion boots or coloured trainers please)



## Little Joes Toddler Group

There will be no Little Joe's session this Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

## Texting Service

The service has moved to an App.

You should have received either an email and/or text message from Parentmail. Please follow the instructions in the message. Once registered, if you have an Android or Apple smartphone, we highly recommend you download the Parentmail App for the best user experience. To do this simply search for ParentMail in your App store.

## Attendance

Spike went to Year 6 for the week ending 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018 with a fabulous attendance of 98.8%. Well done!

Damian J Groark  
Headteacher

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Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Special Christmas Liturgy
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery and Reception Christmas Party House Points Cinema Visit Year 1/Year 2 Christmas Party Nursery Visit to Holy Cross Home for Christmas Craft (pm)
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Little Joe's Christmas Party 9am – 11am Whole School Mass in Church at 9.15am Carol Service in church 5.30pm
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3/Year 4 Christmas Party Year 5/Year Christmas Party
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Year 3/Year 4 Cinema Visit
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Inset day
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	School re-opens for our children
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Little Joe's 9am – 11am
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 5 and Year 6 Eco Market Shopping workshop with Groundworks