

Friday 19th December

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Trusting in God; Creating Tomorrow; Helping Today

NEWSLETTER



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Happy Christmas

We have finally made it to the end of an incredibly busy term in school. I am incredibly proud of how hard the children have worked and how they have conducted themselves both within school and on various trips, walks and visits. It has been a wonderful week at St Joseph's with lots to celebrate and enjoy. This week we have managed to squeeze in a Christmas Jumper non uniform day, a pantomime visit , an EYFS concert, a Stay and Play, Carol service and a Christmas dinner.

A special mention to these events this week:

This week, years 4, 5 and 6 did a beautiful job today ending our Advent celebrations with their carol service in school.

On Tuesday, Reception and Nursery children performed their Christmas songs in church. It was wonderful to see how confident our very youngest children were.

On Tuesday afternoon, years 3, 4, 5 and 6 went to Mansfield Theatre to watch the Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs pantomime. It was a really fun afternoon and the children represented the school brilliantly.

On Thursday, year 3 visited Richmond Home in Shirebrook to sing their nativity songs and spread Christmas cheer to the residents.

On Friday, Nursery and Reception went to visit Brookfield school to join in with their Brass Band concert.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents for their support this term. It has been a pleasure to work in partnership with you all and I look forward to continuing to work with you in the New Year. School will reopen to all pupils on Tuesday 6th January and we will update Facebook on Sunday 4th in preparation for the term ahead.

On behalf of all the staff at St Joseph's I would like to wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas,

Mrs Seaman

This weekend in Mass- The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Matthew 1:18-24

How Jesus Christ came to be born

This weekend there will be a children's liturgy at the 5pm Mass. All children are welcome to attend.

There is a Children's Mass on Christmas Eve at 5pm in St Joseph's church. Children are welcome to come dressed as a character from the Nativity.

Head Pupils



Our Head Pupils have worked really hard this term supporting the Senior Leadership Team to lead the school

Article of the week- this is an opportunity for the children to look at different articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

This week the children have been debating which right they think is the most important and why.

What have we been up to this week at St Joseph's?

Nursery- The children have been learning about the Nativity story and have been busy singing Christmas songs and with Christmas activities.

Reception- The children have been learning about shapes and went on a shape hunt around the school.

Year One- The children have been learning about the historical significance of Florence Nightingale's life.

Year Two- The children have been painting castles using strokes and dabbing.

Year Three- The children have been planning and designing Stone Age homes in DT.

Year Four- The children have been generating ideas in art from flowers inspired by Georgia O'Keefe using chalk and oil pastels.

Year Five- The children have been answering the big question, 'Were the Tudors peace makers?'

Year Six- The children have been learning about rural and urban areas in Geography.

Consents in Arbor

Could we please ask you to check you have no outstanding **CONSENTS** in the **NOTICES** section of Arbor for your children. We have added a new consent titled - **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

This would also be a good time to check all your details are correct, in particular any emergency contacts you have provided. If you are unable to amend or add any details to Arbor please email the school office with your information and we will amend it on your behalf.

Upcoming Dates

Please see this year's key dates for next term attached to the newsletter.

Upcoming dates to highlight:

Monday 5th January- INSET day- **school closed for all pupils**

Tuesday 6th January- **school open for all pupils**

Wednesday 7th January- Year 6 Healthy Eating session in school

Friday 9th January- EYFS church as a chapel at 9:10am in church- **parents welcome**

Friday 9th January- year 2 reading cafe at 8:50 in the school hall- **parents welcome**

As always, we will continue to update you on the week ahead each Sunday afternoon on Facebook

Parent Survey

All parents have been sent a letter from our CMAT, Our Lady of Lourdes Trust regarding collecting parent voice. To ensure that your views are listened to they launched an online survey last year. This survey was very successful and has helped them collect vital information from our parents across our trust. Due to its success they would like to again, providing you with an opportunity to share your thoughts on various aspects of your child's education, the school environment, and areas where we can further improve.

Please follow the link below to complete the survey.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy (Langwith), parent survey 2025. – Fill in form¹

Friends of St Joseph

We are very grateful for all of the work that our PTA, Friends of St Joseph do to support our school. They are looking for new members to help them. If you think you could help, even if you are only able to give a little time, please contact Mrs Fearn in the office.

Breakfast Club



¹<https://forms.office.com/e/xcnngxDZekM>

We are delighted to offer our breakfast club to all children from Reception to year 6. The cost for this will be £2.50 per child. If you would like your child to attend, please pre book their place on Arbor. The breakfast club will run from 7:30am with **last entry being at 8:15am.**

We are very excited that we now have a Breakfast Club for Nursery children. This runs from 7:45am in the nursery classroom. If you would like your child to attend, please book them on via Arbor.

Please note we are now capping the numbers at Breakfast club. To secure your child's place, please book on Arbor. Only the children booked on will be allowed into the hall.

Attendance

Whole school attendance this week is **92.7%** . All children will have an attendance letter sent home in the new year with their current attendance to date.

Reception- 95.7%

Year 1- 99.3%

Year 2- 87.4%%

Year 3- 87.1%

Year 4- 97.4%

Year 5- 92.3%

Year 6- 94.7%

Well done to year 1 this week who have won our attendance award this week and enjoyed Fresh Air Friday!

Attending school every day = 100% attendance

Attending 4½ days a week = 90% attendance = **4 weeks missed per year**

Attending 4 days a week = 80% attendance = **more than half a term missed per year.**

Attending 3½ days each week = 70% attendance = **more than a quarter of the school year missed.**

An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to **missing a whole 2 years from school.**

Children's Achievements



We love celebrating your child's out of school achievements! Please make sure you share these with school so that we can publish them in our newsletter.

SMILERS



SMILERS is a whole school approach to wellbeing.

This week, our Mental Health Ambassadors have been busy promoting this around school.

School Facebook Page



A reminder that we have launched our school Facebook page. We have been adding updates of children's work and news for parents onto the page regularly. Please follow us at 'St Joseph's Shirebrook' to keep up to date with our latest class news and school events.