



ST JOSEPH'S JOURNAL

Free! Friday, 3rd December 2021

6th Edition

Christmas arrives at St Joseph's



I hope you have all had a wonderful week? Our decorations are being dusted off and the tree is up in the school hall. It has been another busy week here at St Joseph's. We started our 'season' of nativities this week with our fabulous Reception children performing for their mummies and daddies. As we inch ever closer towards the end of term, we are determined that Covid is not going to kidnap our Christmas but I do need your help. Please adhere to our health and safety measures about the use of masks during performances and using the hand sanitisers when entering the hall. Please **DO NOT** come into school if you are displaying any symptoms. This is also about protecting the staff that are teaching your children. We currently have very few cases at the school but if our community doesn't remain vigilant then we will be left with no alternative than to take nativities online. We do not want our school starting to reflect the rising numbers we are seeing in Mid Sussex. We all want the Christmas tradition of nativities and carol services to make a return this year. As well as the children playing their parts to ensure the nativities are a success, I am appealing to all parents to please do the same.

Advent Appeal



Christmas is always a time of giving and waiting. As we prepare for the arrival of the birth of Jesus this Advent, all the children will be making an Advent promise. This will be displayed on our Advent Tree in the school hall. Following the success of last years appeal, children will again be taking part in our Advent appeal. Your generosity last year, meant we were able to support a range of charities. Each class will be nominating a chosen charity and filling a shoebox with treats and goodies to deliver at the end of term. Class teachers will be sending out more information early next week. Last year we were able to send biscuits to the NHS, provide knitted hats for the neo natal unit, dog food for the Dog's Trust and an afternoon tea break for local carers. All of these ideas came from the children themselves. Please do contact your child's teacher if you know of a local charity that would benefit from this year's appeal. It is just a small way that we can send love in a box this Christmas.

St Joseph's Family Support

Do you know of a family who need a little support this year? Has someone told you how their circumstances have changed? If you do, please do get in touch with me in confidence. There are various ways we may be able to help you; such as support with school uniform, school shoes, food bank vouchers and many other forms of support. Often people are too proud or embarrassed to come forward. The strength of this community is always humbling, especially when those around them have found themselves in challenging times. Please, please do get in touch or nominate a family who St Joseph's can support.

Wedding Bells!

We are delighted to announce that Mr Philpott has recently married. On behalf of the St Joseph's family we hope Mr & Mrs Philpott's life together will be filled with joy and happiness.



Covid Measures

With numbers of Covid cases rising in the local area, we continue to have enhanced measures in place, to try and reduce the risk of transmission. Please could we remind you that if any member of your household has Covid symptoms, that you isolate and **do not send ANY** of your children into school until that person has had a negative **PCR** test result. Test results must be sent to the school office.



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NUTS & SESAME

Please remember we have a **NO nut or Sesame policy in school. This includes sandwich fillings such as Nutella / Peanut Butter and dips such as hummus. We have several children with severe nut and sesame allergies who are at risk of anaphylactic shock.**



Medicines in School



If we hold medication in school for your child, please remember that it is your responsibility to check expiry dates with the school office. **Particularly Epipens and asthma inhalers.**

Midday Meal Vacancies

We are looking to recruit Midday Meals Supervisors to join our lunchtime team, starting Tuesday, 4th January 2022. This is a term time only position, Monday—Friday, the hours are 11.45 – 1.15pm, the salary is £9.43 per hour. All details are available on our website.

We are aware that many families are currently under considerable financial pressure and it isn't always easy to ask for help. We have a very good relationship with the local Foodbank team. If there are any families within the school community who would benefit from a Foodbank delivery, please speak to either Mrs Walker or a member of the school office team in the strictest confidence and we can arrange this for you. **Please please ask.**



Primary Applications Sep 22

If you have a child who is due to start primary school next September, please note that the Local Authority no longer send out individual letters. Parents are being asked to apply online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions. The application process is now open and the closing date is Saturday, 15th January 2022. In addition to the online application, parents wishing to send their child to St Joseph's will also need to complete a Supplementary Information Form for 2022/23 available on our website www.stjosephshh.org.uk **Catholic application forms do need to be signed by your Parish Priest.**

Reporting Absence

Please can we remind parents that all absence, whether for illness or medical appointments should be reported to the school via Studybugs. Studybugs is a free app and all reported absence goes directly into the register and keeps class teachers informed of the reason for your child's absence. We have a legal duty to ascertain the whereabouts of all children. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



Foodbank

Easyfundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for St Joseph's Catholic Primary School?

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline, Sainsbury's and in particular at this time of year if you're booking a holiday then Tui, Easyjet, and far more are all signed up – it doesn't cost you a penny extra! It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjosephscatholicprimaryschool4/> and join for free, there is also an App which can be downloaded just as easily.
 2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
 3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!
- There are no catches or hidden charges and St Joseph's will be incredibly grateful for your donations—thank you.

Autumn Diary Dates

6th Dec - FOS Christmas Fair
8th Dec - KS1 Nativity, pm
9th Dec - KS1 Nativity, am and evening
10th Dec - KS2 Carol Service, 2pm - Years 3 & 4
10th Dec - KS2 Carol Service, 6pm - Years 5 & 6
13th Dec - Elf on the 13th & Christmas lunch
14th Dec - Astronomy Roadshow (years 1 & 5)
16th Dec - Party Day
17th Dec - Last Day of Term



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