



ST JOSEPH'S JOURNAL

Free! Friday, 15th December 2023

8th Edition



Christmas Message

It has been a magical week in school and the excitement bubbles have just about remained under control. Thank you parents for all your support this term. Your children are to be congratulated for all their hard work and how much progress they have made. Please do not worry about school work over the holidays. Relax and enjoy some quality family time, having fun and making memories. If you can add a new book to your child's bedroom this Christmas and can manage to hear them read that will be one of the best gifts you can give them this holiday. On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for your very generous gifts. The heartfelt sentiments you have taken the time to express in your cards are truly appreciated. Our staff are incredible. I would like to thank all the staff for the part they play in making St Joseph's the exceptional school that it is today. I would like to echo the words I shared with you at our recent nativities and carol services. The children were shining examples of the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Values we aspire to live out in our daily lives. If you missed our Carol services, you can watch them using the links following links: Years 3 & 4 <https://youtube.com/live/kB5IIMNgtR8?feature=share> Years 5 & 6 <https://youtube.com/live/8cSSxEIIVjk?feature=share>

To summarise my Christmas message to you all, I would like to point you towards the Christmas message written by Margot, our Head Girl, which she read out during our carol services.

Please do reach out this Christmas if you need to. I will be picking up emails. I hope you all have a blessed and peaceful Christmas. I hope you get time with your loved ones and life's worries are paused. This is a very special community because you have chosen to lend your child to this very special school. From everyone at St Joseph's, Merry Christmas.

God Bless
Mrs Walker



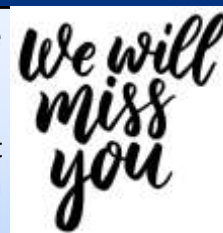
Christmas Fair - THANK YOU



A HUGE thank you yet again to our fabulous Friends of School (FOS) team, who pulled out all the stops with this year's Christmas fair. It is a huge undertaking and yet every year they surpass themselves, this year the fair made £5,400 profit. The event was very well attended and even Father Christmas, who is exceptionally busy this time of year, put in an appearance! We would like to thank all our sponsors for supplying prizes for the raffle, we know times are tough and hugely appreciate your generosity. Once again thank you to our FOS for giving up so much of their time and pulling it all together. Finally, last but by no means least, we would like to thank all the parents, carers, grandparents and children who came and spent their money, (despite the tricky financial climate) - THANK YOU!!

Movers & Shakers

We say farewell to Mrs Fingerneissel, who leaves us after 11 years to train as a dental nurse, she will be greatly missed and we wish her every success in her next adventure. Mrs Cooper is going on maternity leave and we await the arrival of her bundle of joy and look forward to meeting them. Miss Brown leaves us on secondment to Annecy Primary School in Seaford, this is a great opportunity for her, both personally and for her career, and is a testament to her strength as a leader, we wish her good luck and look forward to welcoming her back in September.



Volunteers - THANK YOU



A **HUGE** thank you to all of our volunteers this term. Whether it is helping in the classrooms, fruit sorting or helping out in the library or at Friends of School (FOS) events. We really could not manage without you! We look forward to welcoming you back in January!



Believe · Achieve · Succeed



Admission Arrangements Consultation

We are formally consulting on our proposed admission arrangements for the academic year 2025/26. Please follow the link <https://www.stjosephshh.org.uk/admissions/> If you wish to make any comments, the deadline is 16th January 2024.

After School Clubs

A list of the spring term clubs are available to view on our website. Clubs will be released to parents to book online via ParentPay or directly through the provider in the first week of the new term. Booking as always is on a first come, first served basis.

Christmas Trees

We would like to recycle your Christmas trees as they are a great resource for Forest School. If you are able, please could we ask that you pop them over the wooden gate onto the field in New England Road and the Forest School leader will collect them at the first session.

Elf On the Twelfth

Wow! Thank you to all who dressed up and took part in 'Elf on the Twelfth', whether it be a pair of red socks, a green jumper or full elf costume, everyone looked fantastic! This is a wonderful fun fundraiser and we are extremely grateful for your support, the money raised will go towards Aidan's Christmas Dinner Project –THANK YOU



Foodbank - PLEASE GET IN TOUCH IF NEEDED



Please remember to get in touch with us if you require a Foodbank delivery, speak to a member of the school office team in the strictest confidence and we can arrange this for you. They now also have a Baby/Children's Bank and have an assortment of items to share, including Moses baskets, prams, cots, travel cots, high chairs, baby baths, bedside cots - **Please do get in touch.**

House Keeping

Please remind your children to take home ALL of their belongings today, including lunchboxes, water bottles and PE kits - thank you.



Singing Sensations

Some of our year 5 children visited a local care home to sing Christmas Carols, the residents were very appreciative. Thank you to Miss Johnson and Mrs Wallace for accompanying the children.

Starting School - September 2024

If you have a child due to start school next September 2024 the **closing date is Monday 15 January 2024** and you must submit your completed application by this date. Go to: westsussex.gov.uk/admissions - We require a Supplementary Information Form (SIF), to be completed. Catholic applicants application forms must be signed by your parish priest and we will need a copy of the child's baptism certificate.



Spring Term Diary Dates

DATES TO REMEMBER



December

January

3rd Jan - Back to School

9th Jan - Year 2 to attend Parish Mass, 9.30am - parents are welcome to attend

16th Jan - Year 1 to attend Parish Mass, 9.30am - parents are welcome to attend

31st Jan - Parent Consultations YR only

February

7th Feb - Parent Consultations YR only

9th Feb - FOS Non-Uniform Day, £1

9th Feb - FOS Valentine Cake Sale (St D, St Geo & St P to contribute)

12th-16th Feb - Half Term

19th Feb - INSET DAY - School Closed

Christmas Masses at St Paul's

15th Dec - 7.30pm, Parish Carol Service

24th Dec - 6pm & 9pm Mass (6pm Children's Mass)
11pm - Mass in Malayalam

25th Dec - 9am & 11am Mass

26th Dec - 11am Mass (St Stephens's Day)

A silhouette illustration of a nativity scene. It shows a manger with a baby, a cow, a donkey, and a camel. A bright star is visible in the dark blue sky above the scene.

**Please note all dates and events are subject to change.
Dates are also available to view on the St Joseph's website calendar.**

