



ST JOSEPH'S JOURNAL

Free! Friday, 8th December 2023

7th Edition



Elf on the Twelfth



Next Tuesday, 12th December we invite the children to come to school dressed as an elf, either in an elf costume or any red and green clothing (socks, jumper etc.) and to donate £1 online via ParentPay.

We do this every year to support Rockinghorse Children's Charity and a special Christmas project they fund called Aidan's Christmas Dinner Project. This was set up by parents Lucy and Simon Pond in memory of their son Aidan who sadly died from mitochondrial disease in 2014. Every year they fundraise to provide a festive hamper for families having to spend Christmas in the Royal Alex or The Trevor Mann Baby Unit (neo natal intensive care) with their sick child. We do appreciate that times are tough, please only donate if you are in a position to do so. Please find a link below with further information: <https://www.rockinghorse.org.uk/news/families-spending-time-in-hospital-over-christmas-supported-by-aidans-christmas-dinner-project/>

Cross Country Runners

We are so proud of our cross country teams, last Saturday they took part in the Mid Sussex Primary Schools Cross Country Competition. With a rather early start, and on a very chilly morning—and it was VERY chilly, they all finished with smiles on their faces and showed not only great resilience but also wonderful and heart warming team spirit, and camaraderie in making sure everyone completed the distance. Huge thanks to parents for bringing the children and to Mrs Rogers for training them up! Well done to Evie and Jake who have qualified for the Mid Sussex Active Primary School Cross Country Final in January.



Pot Tombola's

Wow! Thank you to everybody who entered the pot tombola competition. Yet again it was incredibly competitive, with some very imaginative designs, making it extremely difficult to judge! However, after much deliberation the winners are as follows:

- St A - Alex C / St B - Libby H / St C - Amelia L / St D - Aliyah G
- St E - Jinzel A / St F - Lily T / St Gen - Suha C / St Geo - Dylan S
- St H - Irene Anish / St J - Jacob D / St M - Elijah W / St P - James P
- St T - Amelia-Grace C / St X - Nayon R



Fortnightly Attendance

St A	96%	St B	94%
St C	94%	St D	97%
St E	97%	St F	97%
St Gen	98%	St Geo	97%
St H	96%	St J	96%
St M	98%	St P	96%
St T	96%	St X	94%



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 reminder that **after school club are now finished**. We hope to have a list of the spring term clubs, available to view before the end of term. 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 Shows

We hope the children enjoyed the performance of Snow White and the Three Cool Dudes by Ensemble Reza on Wednesday. Next Tuesday, 12th December, Quantum Theatre will visit and perform the Snow Queen. There will be plenty of opportunity for audience participation and we hope the children enjoy the show.



Foodbank

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**.



Medication 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. If your child requires antibiotics or any other medication, we can only administer if your child requires it 4 times or more in a school day. All medication MUST come to the school office in its box with the information leaflet enclosed.

NUTS & SESAME

Please remember we have a NO nut or Sesame policy in school. This includes sandwich fillings such as Nutella / Peanut Butter, dips such as hummus and chicken



satay. We have several children with severe nut and sesame allergies who are at risk of anaphylactic shock.

Reporting Absences & Appointments

Please can we remind parents that **all absence, whether for illness or medical appointments or any other reason, 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. By reporting all absences, it prevents office staff from having to ring and email parents to find out the reason for them not being at school and avoids unnecessary home visits. Please remember to report absences daily, your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.



Starting School - September 2024

If you have a sibling due to start school next September 2024. Online applications are open, go to: westsussex.gov.uk/admissions

Free internet access to apply online is available at all West Sussex libraries, the closing date is **Monday 15 January 2024 and** you must submit your completed application by this date. We require a Supplementary Information Form (SIF), to be completed. Catholic applicants application forms must be signed by your parish priest and a copy of the child's baptism certificate.

Year 5 Greek Day



Fire Service Visit



Nativities



We have thoroughly enjoyed the EYFS and KS1 performances this week and hope you have too. It's no mean feat pulling it altogether and the children have been absolutely fantastic. Many thanks to everyone involved, including parents for providing costumes and helping with lines, we would also like to pass on our thanks to Mrs Bowe, who very kindly donated a large number of costumes in memory of Agnes and Denis Smith. Final thanks go to our wonderful narrators (Annabel & Esa), and to all the staff who have managed to get and keep the show on the road!



Autumn Term Diary Dates

DATES TO REMEMBER

December

8th Dec - Carol Service, 2pm years 3-4 / 6pm years 5-6

12th Dec - Elf on Twelfth

12th Dec - Snow Queen

13th Dec - Christmas Lunch

14th Dec - Party Day - Children can wear party clothes!

14th Dec - Year 6, Harry Potter Trip - School uniform to be worn

15th Dec - End of Term, **1pm finish**

Spring Term Diary Dates

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

11th Dec, 7.30pm - Advent Reconciliation Service

15th Dec, 7.30pm - Parish Carol Service

24th Dec, 6pm & 9pm Mass (6pm Children's Mass).

25th Dec, 9am & 11am Mass

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