



DECEMBER 2016

# NEWSLETTER

## Christmas Performances

Well done and thank you to all the children and staff who worked extremely hard to produce these performances. They were all worthy of Oscars!

Early Years 'Whoops - a - daisy angel' with the message that not everything has to be perfect!

Year 1 and 2 'Hey Ewe' reminded us all of the true meaning of Christmas amongst all the 'hustle and bustle' in preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Year 3 and 4 'Lights, Camel, Action!' - marvellous acting, singing and dancing - better than anything you would see on 'Strictly' on a Saturday night!

Year 5 and 6 'The Late Wise Man' with the wonderful message that God is with us each and every day in all those we meet.

These performances were truly events to enjoy and celebrate as well as giving us all time to reflect and be reminded of the true message of Christmas. The wide smiles on the faces of children and audience alike were a treat to behold!

## Christmas Fayre

Well done to the 'Friends and Family of St. Joseph's' for their Christmas Fayre which was a huge success, raising a grand sum of

**£681.25**

The Friends and Family would like to thank everyone for their generosity of time and hard work in preparing for the event and on the day itself.

A huge thank you to all children and families for their support in donations for the Fayre and for coming along to enjoy the Fayre on Friday, without which it wouldn't have been the success that it was.

The money will be used to provide additional resources and activities, both within and beyond the classroom, to further enhance and enrich the learning opportunities for all children at St. Joseph's.



*Merry Christmas*

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## Pantomime Visit

The whole school visit to the Tynes Theatre for the pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast' on Thursday 15th December was greatly enjoyed by all children & staff. The children's behaviour was exemplary and we were all very proud of them.

Audience participation, as you know is essential at a pantomime - Oh no it's not... Oh yes it is... with St. Joseph's making the loudest noise and needing no encouragement when everyone was asked to get on their feet to show off their best dancing moves at the finale!

## Music at Morrisons

Our Year 5 and 6 Recorder Group, along with a group of children from Year 4 and 5, delighted shoppers at Morrisons on Monday 19th December when they were invited to play and sing a medley of Christmas carols. Everyone who heard them commented on how wonderful they sounded and left everyone full of the joy of Christmas.

We raised a wonderful **£100.00** for 'Mission Together - Children helping Children'

## The Travelling Crib

Children from Nursery to Year 6 have had the opportunity to take a small crib home for one night during Advent. The children have been encouraged to spend time in reflection with their family on the true meaning of Christmas.

Thank you for having the crib in your home this year.



## Ofsted Report

We are delighted with the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection which took place in November. The report, which was given out to all families and is on our website ([www.stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk](http://www.stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk)), makes very good reading and we are very pleased that the inspectors recognised that

*'The school is a calm and orderly environment where pupils behave well. Pupils show consideration and respect towards adults and each other. They have positive attitudes to learning.'*

*'Pupils enjoy their learning and want to succeed. They are keen to share their achievements. They are proud of their school and show respect for each other and their teachers'.*

*'Pupils show positive attitudes to learning. This is seen in the work they do in books and the willingness to participate in lessons. Pupils show adults and other pupils respect, which has helped all groups of pupils to feel confident to give their views and to do well in their learning.'*

*'Teaching is good'*

*'Progress and attainment have improved since the last inspection.'*

*'The quality of work in books clearly indicates that current pupils in every year group are now making consistently good progress in English and Mathematics, as well as other subjects across the curriculum.'*

We were given 2 targets to further improve St. Joseph's, one of which is to *'improve attendance rates for a small group of pupils who do not attend regularly enough'*

Ofsted recognised that a range of strategies have been introduced to improve attendance and we will continue to work with families to support and improve attendance.

We would like to thank all families for their support and commitment to making St. Joseph's the **GOOD** school that it is and we look forward to working together to improving St. Joseph's still further!



## Christmas Services

- ✠ Christmas Eve, Mass at St. Bede's Catholic Church, 6pm (Carols from 5.30pm)
- ✠ Christmas Eve, Mass at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 8pm (Carols from 7.30pm)
- ✠ Christmas Day, Mass at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 10am.



Thank you for all the beautiful cards and gifts and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

New term starts on Monday 9 January, 2017 at 8.55 am

**School Website**

Please remember to check regularly for news and events.  
[www.stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk](http://www.stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk)