



14 December, 2020

Dear Families,

This week's Statement to Live By is:



I try to follow our school and classroom rules



Yesterday was the third Sunday of Advent



The Third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. We light the pink candle on the Advent wreath in addition to the first two purple candles. Halfway through Advent we begin to be excited about the joy of God's promise that Jesus is very near to us.

In the Gospel we hear that John the Baptist is 'a witness to tell the world about the light'. He is 'sent by God' - a man with a mission, just as we have a mission. We are asked to recognise the light (Jesus) here in our world, and to show that light to others in whatever way we can.



Pope Francis has just announced that the year 2021 will be dedicated to St Joseph.

St Joseph is the patron saint of our school. We pray to him to watch over us as he did the Holy Family and to guide all who work and play at St Joseph's. St Joseph, pray for us.

Christmas Performances

Class performances have been recorded this week and we are now at the editing stage - adding some special effects to make them look even better than they already are. An email link will be sent to families to access the performances as soon as they are ready to be viewed.

Christmas Dinner - Reminder



All children in school will be able to enjoy Christmas dinner.

Wednesday 16 December - Nursery; Reception; Year 1; Year 2.

Thursday 17 December - Years 3, 4, 5, 6

If your child is in KS2 and pays for dinners, £2.20 will be added to your School Money Account. If your child is in Nursery and pays for dinners, £2.10 will be added to your School Money Account.

Living, Learning and Loving together with Christ



Spirituality, Formation and Education Service

in the



Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle



Headteacher: Miss E. Mathews

Armstrong Road, Benwell, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 6JB Tel & Fax: 0191 2739063
www.stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk Email: office@stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk



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Christmas Jumper Day

Children can choose to come to school in their Christmas themed clothes (whether that be jumper, socks, hair bands or something red and green) **on the day they are having their Christmas dinner.**

We usually ask for a donation of £1 for 'non-uniform' days but this year we are asking please for donations of food items for local food banks. There has already been a very generous response to this appeal. Please send in any donations with your child by Thursday 17 December in order that we can deliver the parcels to the local food banks before the end of term. Many thanks for your generosity.

Christmas Parties



Christmas parties will take place on **Monday 21 December, 2020.**

Children can wear their own clothes and, like last year, we are asking that children bring in their own food. Party food will not be refrigerated ahead of eating in the afternoon so please bear that in mind when choosing party food for your child.



Christmas Cards/Presents

We are blessed to work with families who are so generous and appreciative of the work staff do with their children. Families may be considering buying presents for staff. Given that circumstances have been, and continue to be, very difficult for many families please can we ask that you don't! If you would like to thank a particular member of staff by sending a card, letter or drawing this is always much appreciated. We have the best gift of all in your child being a member of our school community!

Children are asked NOT to write and send Christmas cards for everyone in their class. One card sent to the whole class will be much appreciated. As we are all continuing to work and play in our 'bubbles' children will not be able to visit other classes to deliver cards.

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End of term / Holiday dates

Our last day in school is Tuesday 22 December. We return to school on Wednesday 6 January, 2021.

Reporting of Covid-19 during the holidays

In the event of your child displaying symptoms / accessing a test for Covid-19 during the holidays please follow the guidance below.

For Wednesday 23 December and Thursday 24 December

If your child becomes unwell with Covid symptoms and **tests positive for Covid 19** then you **must inform school so that we can take the appropriate action**. School will need to inform other families if their child is identified as a close contact of your child and that their child needs to self-isolate for 10 days.

Please contact school by email covid@stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk

Please do not telephone the school office or use office email address as there is no-one in the office during the holidays.

If you need to contact school please supply the following information

- ✓ Name of child
- ✓ Date of Birth
- ✓ Date/time of onset of symptoms
- ✓ Date of test / result
- ✓ Confirmation of result
- ✓ Are other members of the household displaying symptoms
- ✓ Have any other members of the household tested positive

We have been very fortunate that so far, we have had to ask only 1 class to self-isolate. Unfortunately the same class has had 2 periods of self-isolation.

Please remain vigilant and continue to follow the guidance to keep everyone safe and well.

God bless

E Mathews

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