



# Newsletter



29/11/17

## Advent

Despite being inundated with Christmas adverts on the TV, and Christmas songs on the radio, Advent hasn't started yet! Advent is the season in the Church's year when we prepare ourselves for the great event of celebrating Jesus' birth. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas, which means that with Christmas Day being on a Monday this will be the shortest Advent that we can have (and all of the 25 day Advent Calendars will be out of synch). The children will be learning about Advent in their RE lessons. Our Advent Wreaths will be blessed at 11.00 Mass at St Joseph's Church this Sunday.

### Nativity Plays & Carol Service

Learning about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, and the events there, form part of our Advent preparations. The most special part of Advent for many people is seeing young children re-enact those events in their Nativity Plays and Carol Services. There will be two performances of each of our Nativity Plays and one Carol Service the week after next. The Carol Service (Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm) will be open to all but unfortunately we are limited to a capacity of 130 seats for the Nativity Play performances. We will allow families to request as many tickets as they would like, but please bear in mind that if we have more requests for a performance than we have space in the hall we will have to limit the number of tickets given to the family of any one child. The morning performances are not usually as full as the evening ones so, if you have a large number of people who would like to see the show, opting for a morning performance will give you a better chance of actually getting a ticket. The ticket request form can be found at the bottom of this newsletter. The forms will need to be returned by 9.00 on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets will then be given out and **will need** to be shown at the door to get in to see a show.

It is expected that all children attend, and participate, in the performances they have been preparing for. If there is a very good reason why your child will not be able to attend please let the class teacher know as soon as possible.

### International Christmas Fair

Another celebration of our Advent learning is the International Christmas Fair. Each class takes time to research Advent and Christmas traditions in another country and the children prepare gifts and foods to reflect that learning. Parents are invited in to purchase gifts and enjoy the foods. On the Newsletter of Nov 8<sup>th</sup> it was stated that the fair would begin at 16.00 on the 7<sup>th</sup> December. I am sorry but that time was a mistake. Parents will be welcome to join their children in the hall from **2.30pm** onwards on that day. If you wish to take your child home early on that day you may do so as long as you have informed the teacher when you are going.

### Christmas Lunch

Another change to the details given on the 8<sup>th</sup> November is the date of the Christmas Lunch. The original date clashed with the Key Stage 2 Carol Service on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. We have moved the lunch to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> now, (meaning the lunch on Thursday will be the Fish and Chip option not the roast). The cost of the Christmas lunch is still just £2.10. Normally almost every child in the school has the cooked Christmas lunch. If your child does not wish to have the lunch please let Mrs Taylor, or the class teacher know by this Friday. Payment will need to be made online as normal. Children will be able to wear their own clothes to school that day. Usually the Christmas lunch day ends with a Talent Show but, as the school is getting bigger and bigger, it has become more difficult to find the time to allow all of the children who want to perform the chance to do so on a day with an elongated lunch break. For that reason we will move the Talent Show to Monday 18<sup>th</sup>. The school council have asked if the Talent Show day can also be a 'mufti' (non-uniform) day and in a moment of weakness I said, "Yes," so both the Friday and the Monday will be non-uniform days.

### NSPCC HELP Cards

Although Christmas is a time of great joy, particularly with young children, it is also the time of year when family tensions can rise and make the tough job of being a parent even tougher. The NSPCC recognise this and offer themselves as a source of support for families who are finding times tougher than normal and could do with advice or reassurance. They have a new support line service going under the banner 'HELP, a four letter word you shouldn't be afraid of'. Cards promoting this service will be given to all children this week.

---

## ST JOSEPH'S NATIVITY PLAY TICKET APPLICATION

Child's name ..... Class .....

Please indicate how many tickets you would like to apply for for each performance.  
Applications need to be returned by 9.00am on 4/12/17

### Foundation Stage

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 6.00 pm show .....

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 9.00am show .....

### Key Stage 1 (Classes 1 & 2)

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 9.00am show .....

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm show .....