



## St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School- November 2023

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*Can you actually believe that it is November already? As time is flying by so quickly we wanted to share with you some information regarding up coming events in school and Christmas dates for your diary.*

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## Class 4 Assembly

Year 5 and 6 children will be sharing their class assembly with the school and their parents/carers on **Friday 10th November at 9.10am**. They look forward to seeing as many of their family members there as possible to share in the theme of Remembrance.



## Class 3 Liturgical Prayer

Class 3 children invite their parents/carers/grandparents to join them as they lead a Liturgical Prayer themed around Remembrance and peace. This will take place on **Wednesday 15th November at 9.10am** in the school hall.



## November- The Month of Remembrance

During the month of November, we will be spending time in school praying for all of our loved ones, as well as those who have died in war and conflict over the years. Children will be bringing home a poppy template. Please complete the poppy by writing the name of anyone who has died in your family that you would like us to remember and pray for. When your child brings the completed poppy back to school, it will be hung on our remembrance tree. It is always a really special way, as a school family, to pray for those who we miss and love.







## PE Kit

Please could we remind all parents that football tops and strips are not appropriate for PE kits. We ask that on PE days, children please wear their school PE t-shirt, school jumper and in this colder weather either leggings or tracksuit bottoms (preferably black/dark coloured).

We appreciate your support in helping our children to feel proud of their smart appearance in their uniform, including on PE days.



## Jewellery

We have noticed an increase in children coming into school wearing earrings and jewellery. Please can we remind you, that for health and safety reasons, pupils must not wear jewellery for school. If pupils wish they can wear a wrist watch for school, however this must not be a watch that has access to messaging, camera etc.

We appreciate your support in keeping your child safe.



## Advent

Advent this year starts on Sunday the 3rd of December. Advent means 'coming' and it's the period before Christmas where we 'prepare' and 'wait' for the coming of Jesus as a baby. Advent in school is always such a special time of prayer, reflection and anticipation of the special gift that we are about to receive - The birth of Jesus Christ.



## Poverty Proofing in School

With the cost of living crisis affecting us all, as a school we are acutely aware of how difficult things are financially for many of our families. For that reason there are a few reminders that we would like to share to help families this Christmas and not add any extra financial pressure at this time of year.

- **We will not be doing Christmas jumper day in school so that families can avoid this added expense**
- Whilst teachers appreciate your kind gifts and well wishes at Christmas, we would ask that **no presents are bought for staff this year**. If you would like to show your appreciation to staff in school, please consider donating an item of food to the foodbank appeal in school on their behalf. Last year, with all of the food items donated, we were able to make a number of large Christmas hampers that were provided to families within our own school and others in the local

community. Additionally, we donated a lot of food items to the local foodbank. Your support with donating food makes a significant difference to the lives of many people who would not eat at Christmas without your generosity. We thank you for always being so kind and generous.



## Christmas Performances

We know that one of the most special parts of Christmas for all parents and families are the Christmas performances that the children share with us. They children really have the ability to bring the true meaning of Christmas to life for us. For this reason we wanted to give parents and carers advanced notice of when they will be taking place so that you can arrange to be there.

**The performances will take place as follows:**

**Wednesday 13th December-** Early Years and KS1 followed by KS2 (YN, YR, Y1, Y2 followed by Y3, Y4,Y5 & Y6) Christmas Performance in Church at 1:30pm-**Refreshments will be available for parents/carers in the school hall after the performance finishes.**

**Friday 15th December -** Early Years and KS1 followed by KS2 (YN, YR, Y1, Y2 followed by Y3, Y4,Y5 & Y6) Christmas Performance in Church at 10:00am-**Refreshments will be available for parents/carers in the school hall from 9.10am before the performance starts.**



## Christmas Dinner Day

**Christmas Dinner Day** will take place in school on **Tuesday 12th December**. Please note that **we will not be doing 'Christmas Jumper Day'**, children will wear their school uniform on **Christmas Dinner Day**.



If your child is usually on packed lunch and you would like them to have a Christmas Lunch this day, please complete the form via this link [Book a Christmas Dinner](#)

Please ensure that if you wish your child, who usually has a packed lunch, to stay for Christmas dinner that you complete this form at the latest by **Friday 17th November**.



## Christmas Party Day

Christmas Party Day will take place on **Tuesday 19th December**. Children will have their party in the morning, a party lunch in school and then Christmas activities in the afternoon. We ask that on party day children come to school dressed in their party clothes. Please be mindful that children will still be going outside for lunch and playtimes so will need to wear clothes that are warm enough to be outside in potentially cold weather. Please ensure that children also wear safe footwear on party day and not high heeled shoes etc.

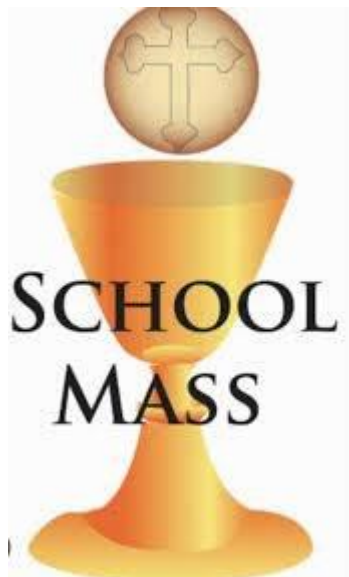
If your child has packed lunch but you would like them to have a school party lunch on party day, please follow this link to book their lunch - [Book a party lunch](#).

As always we are sure that party day will be really special for the children!



## Whole School Mass

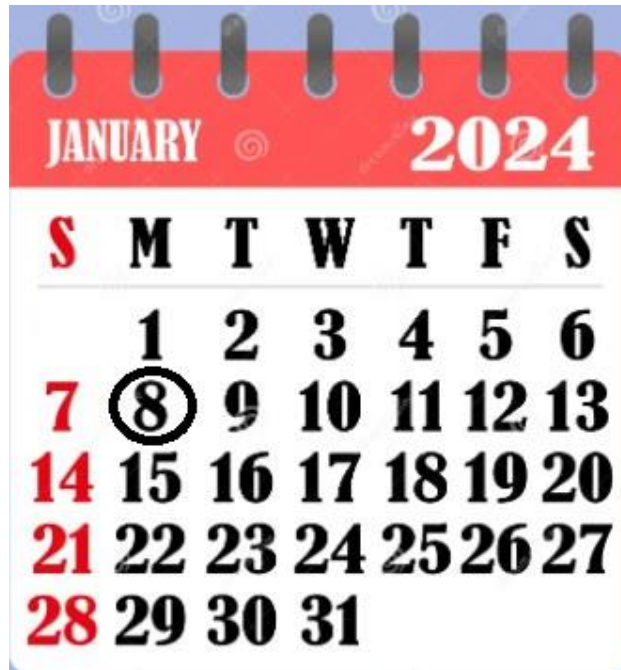
On **Thursday 21st December at 9:15am** we will be ending our term with a Whole School Mass. All are welcome to join us in church for this special time of prayer and reflection. What better way to prepare for Christmas than to join together and be lead in prayer by our wonderful children.



## Break up and Return to School

Children will break up from school on **Friday 22nd December** and will be return to school, after the Christmas Break, on **Monday 8th January 2024**.





## Contact Us

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. As always, we seek to make communication between home and school as effective as possible. If you have any queries, or would like to contact school, please see the information below.

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