



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

October 2025

What a super start we have had to our school year, it is difficult to believe that we are coming up to half term 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.

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.



Anti-Bullying Week-Odd Socks Day



We will be hosting Odd Socks Day on **Monday 10th November**. Children and staff are invited to come into school wearing odd socks to show that we are all unique and different and to celebrate these differences. **The theme of Anti-Bullying Week 2025 is 'The Power of Good'**. Throughout the week children will take part in a range of activities themed around anti-bullying.

Class 4 Assembly

Year 5 & 6 children will be sharing their class assembly with the school and their parents/carers on **Wednesday 5th 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.



Theatre Visit- The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe

On Thursday 13th November the Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children will be going to Sunderland Empire in the afternoon to see the fabulous production of The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe. Children are expected to return to school for a later collection, with an estimated pick up time of 5.30pm.

Any outstanding payments towards the cost of the trip can be made via ParentPay. As always, if you have any issues around payment or need support with this, please contact school.



Children in Need

Children in Need this year will take place on **Friday November 14th**. Children are welcome to come to school wearing spots, bright colours or, if they prefer, their own clothes. Donations can be made for this cause in cash on the day or via Parentpay



Parents' Evening

Thank you to those who have logged into Arbor to book their Parents' Evening Appointment. There are appointments still available on Monday 10th November and Tuesday 18th November. If you have not already done so, please book an appointment in your Arbor app. If you require any support, please contact the school office 0191 5864308.



Harvest Bags/Food Bank Donations

A huge thank you for all of your donations of food to help with the harvest bags that we made up for our local community- they were gratefully received. We will continue to collect any donations of tins and dried food - any donations can be brought to school with your child or dropped off at the school office. We thank you for your generosity and ongoing support.



PE Kit

Pupils are to come into school wearing their PE kit on their PE days, as well as days they are attending a sporting event.

Our PE Kit includes:

- Dark joggers / leggings / shorts

- A white t-shirt
- Grey PE hoodie or School jumper/cardigan

PE Days:

- Class 1 - Tuesday and Friday (Outdoor Education on Friday)
- Class 2 - Wednesday and Friday (Outdoor Education on Friday)
- Class 3 - Monday and Wednesday
- Class 4 - Monday and Wednesday



Advent

Advent this year starts on **Sunday the 30th November**. 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.



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:

Tuesday 9th December- EYFS and KS1 (Nursery, Reception, Y1 & Y2) followed by KS2 (Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6) Christmas Performance **in Church at 1:30pm.**

Friday 12th December - KS2 (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) followed by EYFS and KS1 (Nursery, Reception, Y1 & Y2) Christmas Performance **in Church at 10:00am.**



Christmas Dinner Day

Christmas Dinner Day will take place in school on **Tuesday 16th December.**

If your child is usually on packed lunch and you would like them to have a Christmas Lunch this day, please complete the form that will be sent out to parents in the near future.



Christmas Party Day

Christmas Party Day will take place on **Monday 15th 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 complete form that will be sent to parents in the near future.

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



Poverty Proofing/ Help with Christmas

To support with our poverty proofing agenda in school, **we ask that this Christmas no presents are bought for school staff**. Whilst we very much appreciate your kindness, we are

acutely aware of the financial pressures upon families at this time, particularly as we move towards Christmas. We would ask that instead of presents, anyone wishing to show appreciation to school staff might consider contributing an item to our school food bank appeal instead. At Christmas time we always use the food donated to make up lovely hampers for families within our school community and for those within our wider community too- your support really does make such a difference.

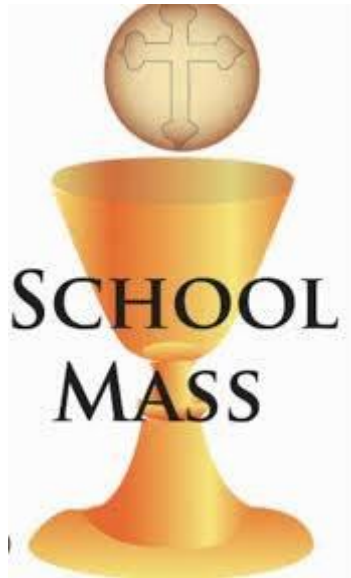
Additionally, we would also like to extend an offer of support to any families who may be struggling to buy presents for their children this Christmas. We have set up a confidential link that anyone can access if they would like a little bit of extra help. This link will only be visible to the Headteacher and any information provided will be dealt with very discretely. Please remember, at some point we all benefit from being part of a community that can help. If you do wish to receive a helping hand this Christmas, complete the link below as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made to help.

<https://forms.office.com/e/RgcP8fYn61>



Whole School Mass

Our end of term Mass will take place on **Thursday 18th December, 9:10am in Church**. 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 after their lunch on **Friday 19th December at 1pm** and will be return to school, after the Christmas break, on **Tuesday 6th January 2025**.

Children are to be collected from their usual exit points.

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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Visit us on the web at www.stjosephsblackhall.net