

St. Joseph's RC Primary School – Newsletter 5 28th November 2016



Dear Parents/Carers

Advent 2016

This week marks the beginning of our countdown to Christmas. The [Advent calendars](#) have been opened, the first candle has been lit and we begin our preparations for celebrating the anniversary of Jesus' birth at Christmas. At this time in school, we promote the true meaning of Christmas whilst still enjoying and celebrating the annual customs we have come to know and love. We keep the Nativity scene fresh in our minds as we encounter the excitement and the enjoyment and the trials and tribulations this time of year brings and we remember those less fortunate than ourselves and how we might positively impact their Christmas time. Below is a link to a series of surprises and challenges you may wish to explore to make your Advent a little different this year:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S02KOlw7dIA&feature=youtu.be>

Click on the following link to take you to a very special interactive [Advent calendar](#).

Let us continue to keep Christ at the heart of our school community this Christmas.

Primary 1 and Primary 2 Nativity – It's a Baby

Primary 1-3 will perform their interpretation of the Nativity story at 1:45pm and 6pm on Tuesday 13th December 2016 in the school hall. All children have important roles to play in the performance and it is vitally important that they attend both performances. Further information will follow separately regarding ticketing etc.



Nursery Nativity and Christmas songs sing-a-long

Further to our repertoire for Christmas 2016, our wonderful Nursery classes will perform their Nativity and songs on Thursday 15th December, morning and afternoon classes, respectively.

Please see the Diary Dates for a full breakdown of activities and events throughout December.

Happy St. Andrew's Day from everyone at St. Joseph's RC Primary School

We are looking forward to celebrating the Feast of our Nation's Patron, St. Andrew, through Holy Mass at 9:30am with Fr Stefan and Fr Sean in the school hall this week. We will be led through this celebration by the children of Primary 5 and Primary 6 who have worked with their class teachers and Fr Stefan. You are all very welcome to join with us however, space is limited.

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Celebration of Holy Mass throughout Advent

Our children will reflect daily throughout Advent in preparing themselves for the celebration of Christ's birth on Christmas Day. We will also join with our local parish community in St. Joseph's Church on:

Friday 9th December 2016 for P1 – P4/3 classes and

Friday 16th December 2016 for P4 – P7 classes.



We look forward to complementing our class celebrations and preparations throughout Advent with a celebration of Holy Mass in St. Joseph's School hall on the final day of term, Thursday 22nd December at 9:30am. You are very welcome to join with us at each celebration.

Parent Council Christmas Fair – The annual school Christmas Fair is back and takes place in the school on Friday 2nd December from 9:30am till 12:30pm. Thank

you very much to everyone who has been working tirelessly behind the scenes in putting together this significant fundraising event raising funds towards improving our school playground!



To the children, staff, parent council members, parents and partners who have invested in stalls and offered prizes and donations – thank you very much. We are all looking forward to a superb morning and who knows, there may even be a very special visitor on the day!

Ho, Ho, Ho!



Children will enjoy the activities and stalls firstly before parents/carers, family and friends have the opportunity to join us from 11am – 12:30pm. Please enter and exit via the main office door only. All children will exit as normal at the end of the school day from their class areas.

The role of the Parent Council is to:

- Support the work of the school
- Promote contact between the school, parents/carers, pupils, providers of nursery education and the local community
- Fundraising and organising events

They meet once or twice each term. If you feel you could contribute positively to these aims and would like to be part of the Parent Council, please contact any member of the team or via the school office: <https://www.facebook.com/stjosephsparentcouncil/>

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Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day – will take place on Thursday 15th December. If you don't have a jumper you could bring in a t-shirt or even better, create a Christmas design using an old t-shirt (if that's okay with your parents/carers). Santa hats, tinsel etc always welcome additions also - I think a turkey even made an appearance last year!



P1-7 Christmas Party Day – takes place on Wednesday 21st December. Children are invited to wear their party clothes for the day if they wish. School uniform is not necessary this day.

Celebrating Success at St. Joseph's Primary School

Promoting Partnership with Parents - Class-led Assembly

Congratulations to P5/4, P4, and P7 who have shared their learning with the school, parents/carers and the community over the month of November. We have experienced excellent organisation and preparation, superb skills development and great confidence in presenting to a wider audience. The children have been so impressive and have had so much fun along the way. We've enjoyed themes from Armistice Day remembrance and Children in Need to promoting a love of Reading through [National Book Week Scotland](#). The next Class-led assemblies will take place in the New Year.



Park and Stride to School 2016

Road Safety Week

A global event by everyone, everywhere, to stop carnage on the roads. Get Involved!

Our P6 pupils and Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) highlighted their key message for this autumnal period with their campaign to highlight

road safety in and around schools: [Park and Stride to School](#).

The winners of the banner campaign will be announced on Thursday 1st December at Assembly and the full size banner will be proudly on display in the school hopefully in the New Year. Congratulations to all our entrants from across the school, to the leadership of the JRSOs in organising the competition and raising awareness of this safety message.

Excellent Staff Team – It is very important to note that such experiences in school can only be implemented when the staff team are willing to go the extra mile for the children and the school. Thank you to the staff team for your enthusiasm and energy and for the fun you bring to the children along the way.

To one and all in St. Joseph's, well done for helping to create such a lovely ethos within our school community. Excellent school ethos needs to be worked at every single day and everyone in our community has a role to play in this: staff, children, parents/carers, parish and local community. Let's keep improving our wonderful school!



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The staff and I thank you for your continued support of our children and school community!

Mr Currie, Head Teacher