

# St. Joseph's RC Primary School – Newsletter 6 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016



**Dear Parents/Carers**

**Advent 2016 – O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

We are now into the final week of Advent and the fourth candle has been lit as we continue our preparations for celebrating the gift of Jesus' birth at Christmas. At this time in school, the children have been learning the true meaning of Christmas whilst still enjoying and celebrating the annual customs we have come to know and love. We continue to keep the Nativity scene and the Holy Family fresh in our minds as we remember those less fortunate than ourselves and how we might positively support them this 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> and spend two minutes thinking of Christ. 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.

*'At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern.'*

*St (Mother) Theresa of Calcutta*

**Celebrating Success at St. Joseph's RC Primary School**

**Primary 1-2 Nativity – It's a baby!**

Congratulations to our amazing children from P1-3 who gave outstanding performances of their Nativity story 'A Bright Star'. It was a pleasure for the children to perform to such a large audience. They prepared so well for the occasion and thoroughly enjoyed the experience and opportunity to share their learning with the school community and develop so many skills and confidence along the way. Thank you to our P1 and P2 team for their enthusiasm and efforts in helping to prepare the children so well. See more on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stjosephsedin?lang=en>



**Nursery Nativity and singalong**

And finally, our week of performances came to a beautiful ending on Thursday with our Nursery Nativity and singalong. It was a joy and a pleasure to see the efforts of the children and the Nursery team in putting together such an enjoyable and confident performance. Everyone who shared the experience went home full of Christmas cheer! Congratulations and well done!

**P7 Transition Project @ St. Augustine's High School and Cluster Primary Schools – Science**

Congratulations to our scientists in P7 who have been working on a new design to improve the daily lives and interactions of those with needs. The children were required to create and design a product and to then develop and present their 'pitch' to a team of judges from within the Science field from St. Augustine's HS to Heriot Watt University and local industry partners. Each and every team created an inspiring product and learned so much from the process including many of social skills required to get a product through the ideas phase. A number of our teams achieved commendation and certification. Thank you very much to the efforts

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of Mrs Bortherton, Miss Martin, Mrs Powell and Mr Brack for their support of the children in this very innovative and creative learning experience!

**Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day** – Thank you very much to all the wonderful staff in the Catering team and school support staff for putting together a lovely Christmas meal for the children and adults. It was a lovely occasion for the children and adults in the school to share a meal together. Well done to Dawn and the Catering team from Amey and to all the school staff for making the day run so smoothly and to be such fun! It really was a lovely atmosphere amidst a busy Christmas!

**Parent Council Christmas Fair** – Our annual school Christmas Fair took place in the school on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The children, parents and local community enjoyed a superb array of activities, gifts and treats and raised an amazing amount to go towards our school playground improvement project – £1000 (and still counting).

Thank you very much to everyone who worked tirelessly behind the scenes in putting together this significant fundraising effort. The next Parent Council Meeting takes place in January 2017. It may be your new year resolution to help your school community more – your Parent Council and your children need you!!!

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

**Celebration of Holy Mass** – we look forward to complementing our class celebrations and preparations throughout Advent with a celebration of Holy Mass at St. Joseph's School Hall on the final day of term, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 9:30am. All parents/carers, family, friends and parishioners are warmly invited to join with us. The liturgy will be led by our P7 children.

**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. I'm sure you will join with me in saying thank you to the staff team for their enthusiasm and energy and for the fun they have brought 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. Let us continue to work together with God's love for each and every individual in our wonderful school.

Our Motto: Ex animo operamini – work with all thy will – put your heart into all that you do!  
School staff return on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January where the whole team will engage in a Literacy training day with a focus on Reading.

**All children return to school on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017.**

*The staff and I wish you all a very happy and Holy Christmas with best wishes for the New Year*  
Mr A Currie, Head Teacher