



ST. JOSEPH'S
EST. SCHOOL 1934



NEWSLETTER

Celebrating over 75 Years of Independent Education in Nottingham

Head Teacher's Newsletter January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome

Happy New Year and a very warm welcome to our January Newsletter. In this issue, I hope to highlight some of the wonderful events that took place last term and inform you of things to look forward to.

Christmas Lights switch on

The Canning Circus Christmas Lights switch on took place on Thursday 30th November and, whilst the weather was very cold, the children sang with enthusiasm and made us very proud.

Friends Christmas Disco

May I once again take this opportunity to thank you all for your support at the recent Christmas disco organised by the Friends of St Joseph's. A great night was had by all and some much appreciated money was raised for school funds. If you would like to be involved in the school PTA, then please contact us for more information. In the meantime, a great big thank you to the 'Friends' for all their hard work.

Nativity Shows

Pre Prep held a Christmas Sing-a-Long and our Infants performed their Christmas plays to the school and parents on the run up to the end of term. These were very enjoyable and very well received by all. A big 'thank you' to all those involved for all of their hard work.

Christmas Carol Concert

Our Christmas Carol Concert was held on Thursday 19th December at the Cathedral with refreshments at the school beforehand. Many thanks to all those who were able to attend and support us with this important school event.

Singing at Silverwood Care Home

To provide a little extra Christmas cheer, the Chestnuts went along to the Silverwood Care Home in Beeston for an afternoon of carols and festive songs. Thank you to the Infant staff who arranged and supported the event which was much appreciated by the staff and elderly residents at the home.

Awful Auntie

All the children in the school attended the David Walliams production 'Awful Auntie' in November at the Theatre Royal and will be treated to an afternoon at the pantomime 'Cinderella' in January at the Playhouse.

Poppy Appeal

Unfortunately, as it fell on a Saturday, Armistice Day could not be observed by the school through a visit to the ceremony in Market Square as in previous years. However we once again sold poppies on behalf of the appeal. I would therefore like to thank all of those who made a donation

Children in Need

Donations through the school to Children in Need raised £73.20 and once again, even in hard economic times, your generosity astounds us. Thank you. Many children looked superb dressed as Pudsey and despite our best efforts, we still couldn't persuade Mr Purdy to shave his head!



Tag Rugby

In mid-November the Tag Rugby Team attended a tag rugby tournament at The High School and whilst we didn't win, we certainly gave the other schools attending a good run for their money - including the High School whom we beat! This followed on from a friendly match played against Plumtree School earlier in the year.

Netball

Hot on the heels of the Tag Rugby tournament above, we hosted a second friendly netball match against Plumtree School in late November which all the children who took part said they enjoyed immensely.

Football

During the early part of the autumn term, an under 11 squad represented the school in another friendly against Plumtree. The action was end to end and the game finished in a well-deserved draw. Another match, for the under 9s is planned in January.

Links and Relationships with the Cathedral

Father Malachi, in his new appointment at the cathedral, visited the school and as well as meeting staff and children, he led an interesting assembly that the children thoroughly enjoyed.

First Holy Communion/Confirmation Lessons

First Holy Communion classes may be available via the Cathedral.

If you are struggling to find a course in your local parish please contact Barbara McDonagh on 07913 541671.

Cathedral Parking

May I remind you not to park in the Cathedral courtyard car park as this is private and may result in a fine or short term lock in. If you need a short term street parking permit, please ask at reception.



Assemblies and Reading Raffle

Achievement assembly takes place on Friday morning at 9.10 a.m.

We would love to see you there and the children really do enjoy having an audience when they proudly show off their work - so do come along if you can!

Please also be aware that each time you sign your child's reading record at home they are entered into a draw and may win a small prize in the reading raffle. This is drawn during our Friday Achievement Assembly.

House Points

Average House Credits for the autumn term finished as follows:

- St. Peter (Yellow) 129 points
- St. Patrick (Green) 135 points
- Our Lady (Blue) 163 points
- St. George (Red) 130 points

Well done to Our Lady whose colours are now on the trophy in reception. These will stay there until the end of next term when they may be replaced - but by which team is anyone's guess! 'House Points' are earned by the children for good work, behaviour and attitude and are awarded individually as well as being averaged out to contribute to the team's achievements. Final awards for individual and team achievement will be made on Prize Night in July.

Lunchtime Chips

To ensure continued good behaviour at lunchtime and during 'Before and After School Club', we have introduced a 'Chip' system of rewards. At the end of each session, the person who has demonstrated excellent behaviour, helpfulness or sportsmanship is awarded a token or 'chip' in their team colour. These are dropped in a collection box and counted up at the end of term. As the winners for the autumn term, Green team will be given an extra break time as well as other treats including cartoon time and possibly donuts!

Staff changes

We welcome Miss Kurd to the school, who has taken charge of the newly formed 'Hollies' Class. Miss Kurd is an experienced teacher who has worked with a variety of children in a number of different settings, both in the UK and abroad and is familiar with the teaching demands and commitment required of her at St Josephs. Also she is familiar with the curriculum taught at the school and has a passion for drama and ICT.

Sadly, we will soon say goodbye to Kiran who has helped run the After School Club for the past 18 months as she moves on to take up another appointment in the city. We thank her for her hard work and commitment and wish her well in her new post. Lauren will continue as a permanent member of the ASC, supported by other staff in school and nursery until a suitable replacement can be found.

Vicky Gelsthorpe had a baby boy in November and both mother and baby are doing really well.

Staff training

Training is ongoing for all staff at the school and nursery. Recent training courses attended by staff are Safeguarding, Paediatric First Aid, Prevent Duty, Fire Safety and Food Hygiene.

Snow

Throughout the depths of winter, we aim to stay open as far as is practical and safe. However, should the weather take a turn for the worse, please check for texts, 'schoops' and radio announcements for news on closures rather than ringing the school. Please also ensure your child has appropriate clothing as it is likely they will be outdoors at break times whenever possible.

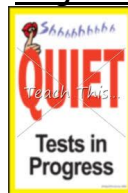
Trips and Visits

Many trips and visits have been taken this term including a visit to the Theatre as detailed above. Nursery also visited the Snowdome for some winter fun whilst the juniors visited the PGL activity centre near Grantham.

Able Maths Day (Fibonacci)

On 2nd November a team of junior children were invited to attend an Able Maths' Day at NGHS. Examples of the challenging tasks they faced, based around the findings of Fibonacci were tweeted out, so please look at these and our Facebook page if you would like to see more. Out of the 11 teams that took part in the day, St Josephs were awarded third place for endeavour and attitude.

Progress Tests



During this term, the children will continue to undertake a number of progress tests in Maths and English. These enable us to track attainment and target more accurately any areas of learning or development which may need support. Please note however, the results of such tests are a snapshot of performance at one particular point in time and only reflect outcomes on that day.

Extra-Curricular Clubs and Forthcoming Events

At the time of writing, children are able to take part in a variety of clubs including: chess, football, French, ballet, choir, recorders and archery. In addition, ice skating is beginning in January, and the Stations of the Cross will commence in March at the Cathedral. We also plan to be running 'Inter House' events, as well as attending Inter School Sports Competitions in football, netball and cross country.

Notification of Absences

If your child is going to be absent or late please notify the school office on 9418356 **before 9.00 a.m.** We need prior notification of medical appointments, either by letter, telephone or via a direct message. All children leaving school early **MUST** be collected by a responsible adult.

Change of details

Kindly inform school of any change of address / telephone numbers. If you need to be contacted during the day or via email/mobile messaging service, we need to have current details.

Lost Property

As in every school lost property is a huge problem. Please ensure all clothing is labelled and that no valuables are brought in as we cannot accept responsibility for them. Please also note that unclaimed property will be sent to charity at the end of each term.

Violence to staff

Please note, whilst we pride ourselves in being an open and approachable school, we do operate a non-aggression policy towards staff including zero tolerance to verbal and physical intimidation. Any member of the public or school community who does not respect this will be asked to leave the premises and further action may be taken depending on the nature of the abuse.

Finally

May I once again take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year. Many of you speak very highly of the school and I agree that St Joseph's is a wonderful place; with professional and hardworking staff who only want the best for your children. Therefore, please rest assured that we are working tirelessly to provide an academic and extra-curricular experience that is second to none and that, with our small class sizes and your continued support, you can be confident of sustained interactive and intimate teaching, targeted support and personalised learning aimed at ensuring every child achieves their best.

Facebook, Twitter and Schoop

You can follow us on Facebook and Twitter using @StjosephsNG1. The Schoop app can also be downloaded to your computer, tablet and smart phone in the usual way. Log in details are available in reception. Additional information is available on the school website at: www.st-josephs.nottingham.sch.uk

Uniform

Please continue to support us by ensuring your child wears the correct uniform at all times in school. This also extends to coats, shoes and PE kit.

Kind regards
Mr A Crawshaw
Head Teacher