

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2024! We hope you enjoyed a peaceful and happy Christmas with family and we now look forward to a happy, healthy and Holy New Year.

Mrs M Murphy

### Feast of the Epiphany:

In Church we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday 07 January, reminding us that Jesus was born for all mankind.

During the coming term we will be marking the key events in the season of Christmas with the children.

Our 'Come and See' topics for this term are outlined in a separate RE newsletter for parents.

In school we will be helping the children to prepare through our prayers, assemblies, and RE lessons.



### International Liaison

Just before the Christmas break children in Year 6 made and wrote Christmas cards to send to our partner schools in France and Belgium.

They used their French knowledge and skills to introduce themselves and also wrote part of the card in English. The children are very excited to receive their replies over the next month or so.



### St Joseph's Fundraising:

Thank you to everyone who supported the many fundraising activities last term. Christmas raffle gifts donated by Errisbeg Engineering and staff, raised an amazing £1,306.00. Tickets were drawn on Thursday 16 December and the lucky winners were able to collect their prizes before the end of term.



The children's raffle was also drawn on the Christmas dinner day and the winners had a choice from a lovely range of gifts.

This year we were really grateful that Santa was able to make a 'flying' visit to see the children in KS1. It was a wonderful experience and the children enjoyed singing carols, ahead of the big day.

Thank you to Mrs. Marks, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Wall and many other volunteers for their hard work in organising these events.

### Parent Consultation Meetings in KS1 and KS2:

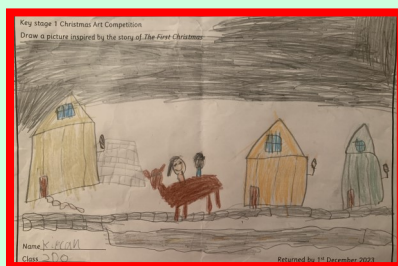
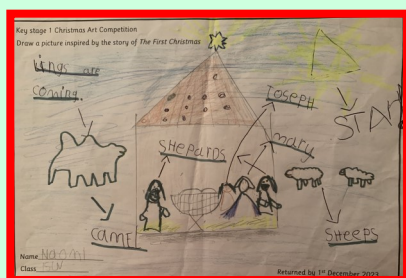
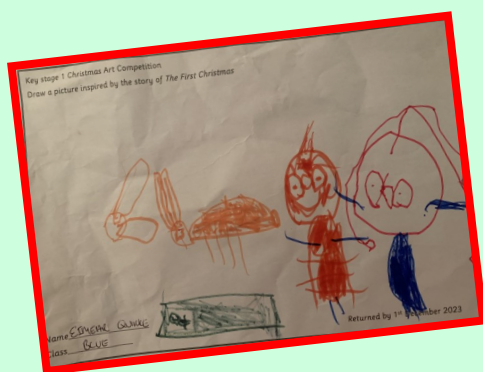
An early reminder that you will be invited to attend a Parent's Consultation Meeting this term on **Tuesday 19 March (4.00 - 6.30pm)** or **Thursday 21 March (5.30 - 8.00pm)**. At the meeting you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher.

Further information regarding these meetings and how to arrange appointments will be sent home via ParentMail, by the School Office nearer the time.



### KS1 Christmas Art Competition

Prior to Christmas the School Council suggested a Christmas Art Competition for Key Stage 1. The children were asked to create a picture or image inspired by 'The First Christmas.' We hope you enjoy the images and congratulations and well done to all the winners.



# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

January 2024



Research demonstrates that absence from school has a negative impact on attainment and progress and can have a damaging effect on a child's life chances. Attendance really does matter and every school day counts!

Towards the end of last term we saw a significant drop in attendance as shown below and this will continue to be monitored closely in order to achieve our 97% target. Well done to 2DO on achieving 97% attendance during November. **We cannot stress enough how important it is for children to come to school every day on time.**



## December 2023

Class	Attendance	Class	Attendance	Class	Attendance	Class	Attendance
Red	93%	Blue	94%	Yellow	95%		
1LH	93%	1SW	90%	1MB	93%		
2SC	91%	2DO	97%	2MH	96%	2DW	95%
3MG	94%	3MM	95%	3GK	96%	3AV	94%
4CW	92%	4OR	95%	4PA	93%	4BG	95%
5LB	95%	5JS	96%	5CS	94%	5DF	96%
6PC	87%	6JC	92%	6SW	96%	6MM	96%
					Whole School		<b>94%</b>

## Caritas 'Love Christmas Campaign'

Thank you all so much for your generous contributions to our Love Christmas Campaign for Caritas. It was wonderful to be able to present a range of gifts which we know made a huge difference to many families in our local community this Christmas.



## Radio Maria



As some of you are aware we have launched our 'The Art of Faith' podcast on Radio Maria. Episodes are broadcast on the second Friday of every month and focus on a piece of art that inspires the children and makes links to scripture. We would like to thank our Year 6 pupils David, Olivia, Eliza, Hubert and Shekinah for their commitment and dedication to this project. Please follow this link to listen to the latest and previous broadcasts which can also be found on the school website.

<https://radiomariaengland.uk/the-art-of-faith/>





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## Love & Kindness:

As we return to school after the Christmas period we have talked to the children about the fresh start that a new year brings. In assemblies we have reminded the children that we are a faith community whose aim is to live out the Gospel values by showing love, kindness and tolerance to everyone, as Jesus did.

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors are continuing their important role by encouraging us all to promote random acts of kindness.

We are grateful to parents and carers for supporting the school in reinforcing this message at home.



## School Uniform:

Please note that all children should be wearing the **correct uniform to school**. Grey track suit trousers are not acceptable and during inclement weather boots etc can be worn into school, however the children will be expected to change into school shoes whilst in the school building.

We fully appreciate that there are so many financial demands on families at the moment, and I would therefore like to remind parents and carers that our Family Workers are more than happy to support with uniform should you need anything.

In line with school policy, jewellery is limited and **only watches and stud earrings should be worn**. Also nail polish, gel or acrylic nails are not appropriate and must be removed following a holiday.

## Healthy Eating:

The leek was considered to be a superfood in Ancient Rome, Egypt, and Greece. In fact, Emperor Nero ate so many leeks that he was even referred to as 'Porrophagus,' which is Latin for 'Leek Eater.'

The vegetable also impacted Celtic cultures—as the Irish and Welsh believed it to have mystical properties. Under the advice of a Celtic monk, the Welsh army wore helmets adorned with a leek emblem in the Battle of Heathfield in 633 AD. This apparently proved effective, as the Welsh defeated the Saxons. Welsh loyalty to this vegetable didn't end there—today the leek remains the national symbol of Wales.

While unlikely to win you any battles, this Potato Leek Soup recipe will certainly fortify you for the cold nights ahead. Find your recipe [here](#)

## School News:

As discussed at the Parent Information Meetings in September, we have now finalised the updates to our School Behaviour Policy. The changes focus mainly on lunchtime behaviour but it also outlines our 'Fun Friday' celebration that the children work towards achieving during the week. Please speak to your child(ren) to find out more and you can also view the policy on the school website.

We are delighted to welcome the following staff who joined St Joseph's at the start of this term:  
Teachers—Mr Coaker, Office Staff—Miss Uddin & Mrs Birowka.

**Term Dates:** Half term holiday dates are **Monday 19 February—Friday 23 February**. We finish for Easter on **Thursday 28 March** and the children return to school on **Monday 15 April**. Friday 12 April is a training day.

