



January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2025! 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 05 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.

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



St Joseph's Fundraising:

Thank you to everyone who supported the many fundraising activities last term. Christmas raffle gifts raised an amazing £877.83. Tickets were drawn on Thursday 19 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 paid for by the Friends of St Joseph.

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 for her hard work in co-ordinating these events.

Pilgrims of Hope:

Last week we began our school journey for the Jubilee year called by Pope Francis. A year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years and is an opportunity for us all to think about our relationship with God and with one another. 4PE led a lovely assembly where they shared their hopes for the coming year, each class has celebrated a liturgy some of which were led by our Year 5 and 6 Faith Ambassadors and we have launched an art project that will be displayed in our Prayer Room.

The theme for the Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope", and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. We are invited to celebrate the Jubilee year with "deep faith, lively hope and active charity."

As we journey together in this Jubilee year of hope, we will be sending home additional information and ideas for how you can also grow in love and hope as a family this year.



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 01 April (4.00 - 6.30pm)** or **Thursday 03 April (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.



Christmas Door Competition

The School Council decided to spread some Christmas cheer during Advent by inviting every class to decorate their door for Christmas. The School Council's design brief was to use recyclable or reusable material and to include children's work on the door. The final results were amazing and added a 'wow' factor to our Christmas celebrations in St Joseph's. The School Council had a very difficult decision when choosing the winners. Congratulations to 1SA, 4PE and 5LB who won their categories. A huge thank you to the teachers and children for all your hard work.





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1SA



4PE



5LB





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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!

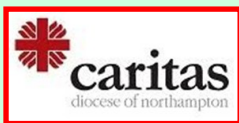
Towards the end of last term we saw a significant drop in attendance as shown below and this will continue to be monitored closely in order to achieve our 97% target. Well done to 2DO on achieving 97% attendance during December. We cannot stress enough how important it is for children to come to school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



December 2024

Class	Attendance	Class	Attendance	Class	Attendance	Class	Attendance
Red	94%	Blue	95%	Yellow	92%		
1DO	94%	1SW	95%	1MB	93%		
2SC	94%	2DO	97%	2GK	94%	2DW	93%
3MG	94%	3MM	93%	3JS	95%	3MH	91%
4CW	93%	4OR	94%	4PE	93%	4BG	95%
5LB	92%	5CF	95%	5CS	95%	5AF	92%
6PC	96%	6JC	92%	6SW	93%	6MM	96%
						Whole School	94%

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.



Healthy Eating:

Perfect Soup for a Cold Day: Roast Squash

Squash soup is a soup in African cuisine. It is a part of the cuisine of Northern Africa, and the cuisines of Mozambique and Namibia both of which are located in Southern Africa. Squash soup is also served in other countries and is a part of other cuisines.

If you get a chance to make this tasty soup please, send in some photos and maybe you could write us a review.

Find your recipe [here](#)



Sporting News::



Some of our children have spent a wonderful time at Inspire over the last couple of weeks, having the opportunity to play a variety of games, including balloon volleyball, table tennis, badminton and archery. For some children, it was their very first outing to a sporting event, and they had an amazing time! Well done all!



Sportshall Athletics Town finals took place the first week back, with the usual impressive performances from all teams attending. Our Year 5 and 6 team finished 4th overall, just missing out on qualifying for the County Finals, while our Year 3 and 4s finished in 2nd place, and will be at the County Finals in Bedford in February. Well done to CNS Young Leaders for all their support and hard work.



A great start to the new year for our Girls' Football team, winning their game in the latest league event, and finishing 4th last week in the hard fought County tournament at Powerleague! Amazing performances from everyone!



School News:

We are pleased to inform you of the safe arrival of two beautiful baby boys.

Congratulations to Mrs Adams, her husband Andrew and family on the birth of their son Nathaniel.

Congratulations also to Mrs Hatchell and her husband Jason on the birth of their son Arthur.

Both mothers and babies are doing well and we wish them every joy and happiness.



We are delighted to welcome the following staff who joined St Joseph's at the start of this term:

Middy Supervisors – Mrs Jalil.

Term Dates: Half term holiday dates are **Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February**. We finish for Easter on **Friday 04 April** and the children return to school **on Tuesday 22 April**. Monday 21 April is a training day.