

Dear Parents



The reading for the fourth Sunday of Advent on 20th December is from St Luke's Gospel. We hear the story of the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her 'You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High.'

Secret's Room



We are all sold out! I hope you like the gift your child has chosen for you. I will have to get on with my bargain hunting again for 2021!

Thinking of others

The children decided that they wanted to show an act of kindness during advent by decorating a love heart and writing a special message for the residents and staff from Hawthorn Lodge care home in Loftus.



Foodbank Donations



Loftus Foodbank was amazed by the generosity shown by our children and their families, they were overwhelmed with the 652 items of food that had been donated. I would personally like to say a big thank you to our Leading Lights from Y6 for coming up with this original idea and collecting the items donated.

Christmas performances

I hope you enjoyed the FS and KS1 Christmas presentations, not quite the same as usual but the children managed exceptionally well. A huge thanks to teachers who spent a lot of time putting things together.

Christmas Lunch

Thank you to Mrs Perks and the kitchen staff for our lovely Christmas lunch on Tuesday. Again, things were quite different this year as we had no visitors and were unable to all eat together but the children certainly sounded like they enjoyed their lunch and pulling crackers.

Christmas Parties

Santa made a surprise visit to FS and KS1 for their parties on Wednesday. Requests for presents were very interesting- there are obviously going to be a lot of ponies, puppies and phones in Christmas stockings this year!

KS2 children sounded like they were enjoying themselves if the music was anything to go by. I even managed to see Mr Scarlett having a sly dance!

Christmas Raffle

We did our Christmas raffle via Zoom so that all classes were involved. There were some very excited children arriving in the school hall to choose their prize. Amazingly the two lovely staff hampers were not the first things chosen, the children preferred the selection boxes and soft toys.

Thanks to those who sent raffle prizes in and to those staff who donated to the hampers. It raised £320 which is great.





Well Done Y5

A huge well done to Year 5, who have come in third place for the Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation School Choir Competition! The MFC Foundation were so impressed with Year 5's fantastic rendition of Feliz Navidad. Year 5 have won a trophy, medals and certificates!

Stars of the Week

This week's certificates are for Design Technology.

FS2 Ava and Martha

Y1 George and Jacob

Y2 Oscar and Charleigh

Y3 Jolie and Sunley

Y4 Jack and Chloe

Y5 Macey and Scarlett

Y6 Isaac C and Kaydee

Times Tables Rockstars

Y2 Holly

Y3 Daisy

Y4 Harvey

Y5 Pollyanna

Y6 Eva

House of the Week

Our Lady	St Joseph	St Anthony	St Cuthbert
154	135	170	161

So well done to all of those in St Anthony who have earned house points this week.

Christmas Present

Please accept a Christmas present from everyone here at St Joseph's. The children have recorded lots of the lovely Christmas songs and carols that they have been learning. I hope it brings plenty of cheer to you this Christmas. A huge thank you to Miss Ayton

Congratulations to the winners of the Christmas Challenge. Miss Smith, our Chair of Governors, had a very hard time making a decision as there were lots of lovely entries. Well done to Grace Harding (FS2), Toby Boyd (Y2) AND Olivia Sivills (Y4).



Their designs are used in each of the CDs that have been given out.

After School Clubs

Next half term's after school clubs will be:

Tues Y5/6 Basketball with Teesside Lions

Wed Y1/2 Arts and Crafts with Miss Baker

Thurs Y3/4 Simon Carson Multi skills

Clubs will start on 5th January and there will be 6 sessions for each club.

The cost of £9 for all of the sessions is on Parent Pay.

Covid-19

I have resent the letter that was sent out on 10th December regarding DfE guidelines for action that should be taken if your child gets a positive Covid- 19 test result.

- If a pupil tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school (after 4pm on Sunday 20th December), school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

- For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school. (between 4pm on Friday 18th December and 4pm on Sunday 20th December) parents/carers need to contact the school so that we can assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

Should you need to contact school, please use the following email address:

covidpositive@stjosephs.npcat.org.uk

I will log in to this email account each day and have to notify Public Health England if there is a case so please let me know as soon as possible.

Church Services

Don't forget you need to book seats for all Christmas Masses. Father Simon would love to see as many children as possible.

Thank You

Well done to all of our children for returning to school so well in September. They have adapted to the changes really well and have just got on with their learning. I think they deserve a well-earned rest and hopefully, some lovely Christmas presents!

I must say a huge thank you to all staff for their exceptionally hard work this term. It has been a very long term and , in very difficult circumstances and with lots of Government changes, they have ensured that children have continued to access a full curriculum and are working hard at plugging the gaps in children's learning from being off for so long.

Farewell

We say goodbye to Mrs Say today. Eileen has worked at St Joseph's for 36 years as a cleaner and caretaker. She works hard to keep our school clean and has done for all those years. We will all miss her. Thank you Eileen, your commitment to St Joseph's is very much appreciated.

Break Up

We break up this afternoon and return to school on Monday 4th January. Have a happy and holy Christmas with your families and let's all pray that 2021 brings better things! Keep safe everyone.

