



Happy New Year!



Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,



On behalf of the staff and governors of St Joseph's School, I would like to wish you a very Happy New Year. I hope you have had a great time with your family and friends over the holiday period. We are really looking forward to seeing you and your children in school on Monday 8th January 2024.

INSET – This week

Please remember that we have INSET training this week on **Thursday and Friday**. The staff will be engaging in training for teaching phonics and for increasing opportunities for outdoor learning. We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 8th January**.

School News & Updates

Thank You!



I would like to say a big "Thank You" from the staff and from me for the cards, best wishes, comments, and gifts at the end of the Autumn term.

Our dedicated staff do not do their job for any reward save that of seeing the children in their care doing really well in school, but we are grateful for your kind words and presents.

Pre-School Nativity



Thank you to Miss Young for a special St Joseph's Preschool Gift to parents and carers of our youngest children.

Knowing how difficult it can be to get children to remember songs and lines, she decided to

produce the first epic Pre-School Christmas movie. In true "Nativity" fashion, please take a moment to enjoy their creation with can be viewed from our google drive space using the link below.

Thank you to the children and staff of our lovely pre-school at St Joseph's!

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ANvMKcgvbmY6rrKteYL2FalcC1x9-jA/view?usp=drive_link

We do have spaces available in our Pre-School. If you or anybody you know would like to sign up, please see our website here;

https://www.st-josephs.org.uk/web/st_josephs_preschool/601574

or contact Mrs Fenton Stretton for further information;

preschool@st-josephs.org.uk

Please feel free to share the contact information with family, friends and neighbours. Visits to pre-school can be arranged by contacting the school office:

office@st-josephs.org.uk

Dates for Diaries

We update the school website diary regularly so please use this link to keep up to date:

<https://www.st-josephs.org.uk/web/calendar>

Volunteers in School

Thank you to those who have offered to help in school. We will be contacting you next week to discuss the days and activities you will be able to help with.

The School is committed to safeguarding and all volunteers are expected to complete an enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) before working with children in school. All governors, staff and volunteers are checked and receive training regularly. If you would like to understand what a DBS is, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service/about>

We are looking for people to help with our school library at lunchtimes.

Please use this form to register your interest:
<https://forms.gle/yTmM7NaxgveYV6yV9>

School Reminders

Uniform

There are couple of specific items that I would appreciate you checking when you are getting your child ready for school each day or buying new uniform.

- **Shoes** – Please make sure your children are wearing suitable black school shoes. There should be no trainers (except PE days) and no boots please.
- **Coats and Jackets** – The school dress code does specify that coats should be plain black or dark navy. We obviously want children to be warm in the school playground so please make sure they have a coat in school every day.
- **PE Kit** – On PE days, the children should wear plain navy leggings, joggers, shorts or skorts. They can wear a school hoodie instead of their school jumper. However, if you do not choose to buy a school hoodie, the school jumper is the only other option.

ParentPay

Please can you check your ParentPay account at the beginning of the term for any outstanding payments? For those in Y4 and Y5, the payments for Kilve Court (Y5) and Mill-on-the-Brue (Y6) can be made throughout the year to spread the cost.

School lunch balances should be kept topped up and kept in credit.

ASC and Pre-School charges will be added for T3 so if you have any outstanding payments for T2, please clear them as soon as possible.

Dropping off in the morning

Please use the drop off zone by the Keystage 2 gate and not stop in a random position in the middle of the car park. We have seen some near

misses already this term with children crossing the flow of traffic and the view of pedestrians and driver obscured by stopped cars.

Despite previous requests, there are still parents allowing their children to walk across the car park. This is dangerous and puts them at risk of being hit by another car driving, reversing or parking.

WANTED!

Nativity Costumes

To help save money for families and reduce the pressure next year, please send in any unwanted nativity costumes. For those who came to our EYFS and Key Stage 1 performances, you will realise that we need lots of costumes! Rather than ask parents to buy new from Amazon, please help by recycling unwanted outfits. They can be dropped off at the school office.

Emergency Clothes

We always welcome spare clothing for accidents including getting wet and muddy!

- Pants/socks
- Navy joggers
- School PE Shirts

Thank You

Thank you for any donations sent into school. We are not collecting any other donations at present but will update in subsequent newsletters. I would be grateful if you could only send in items that have been specifically requested.

Uniform

Our PTFA uniform team are always happy to collect items but please only send in the following:

- Badged items – Jumpers, cardigans, PE shirts, hoodies, bookbags
- School ties

If you have other items (shorts, shirts etc,) please let other parents know via your class

WhatsApp or Facebook groups rather than sending into school.

PTFA

“Thank you!”

We are really grateful for the fundraising efforts and hard work of the PTFA committee especially Mrs Gale and Mrs Winward.

As a small school, we can make sure all the children have fun at Christmas in school and this can only happen with the commitment of the helpers on the PTFA.

There are lots more events being planned so please volunteer to help whenever possible.

Church News

The church website is:

www.josephfrancis.org

Here is the link for this weekend's church newsletter:

https://www.josephfrancis.org/files/ugd/f6caaf_8367f5e7b75c45119736b41e0f76470e.pdf

Children, Youth And Families Worker Fund

We are really grateful at school for the hard work of our Children, Youth and Families Worker Anne-Marie. If you have not considered supporting this important ministry in the church, school and parish, standing order forms for contributions towards the Children, Youth and Families Worker fund are still available at both churches.

If you would like to help, please contact Elaine Shiel (Parish Administrator) by email:

stjosephandstfrancis@cliftondiocese.com

Local News, Events & Services

We are asked by local groups and organisations to share events and activities which might be of interest – we include this for your information if you are interested. We will update this section in the next newsletter.

Safeguarding

Domestic Violence

Each year there is a reported spike in domestic violence with fears that this will be further impacted by the financial pressures and other difficulties, leading to an increase in the thousands of children exposed to domestic abuse over the 2 week festive season.

If you need help, you can contact the North Somerset Family team:

<https://nsod.n-somerset.gov.uk/kb5/northsomerset/directory/family.page?familychannel=8000>

And Finally...

We come to the end of the 12 days of Christmas are we remember the Wise Men who visited the maby Jesus at the feast of the Epiphany.



I hope you have enjoyed your holiday and took advantage of sunny moments between the storms and showers!

See you next week.

Mr Bath

Headteacher