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Friday November 24th 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Advent is a very special time of preparation for all of us. It's a time to prepare for the arrival of family and friends, going to special places, doing special things and most of all preparing for the coming of Jesus. We are already well into our preparations for our Christmas plays and concerts, I can hear the lovely singing and music in the hall and I'm already looking forward to sharing this special time with everyone.

As Advent is just around the corner the **Advent bags** will be coming home from next Wednesday for you and your child to create a special prayer table in your home. There will be a book for your child to draw, write or stick a photo in (this is not obligatory), a crib, cloth and trinkets to make the prayer table special. The school chaplains will be coming around the classes to show the children how to make a prayer table using a chair. Please make sure the prayer bag is returned the next day as everyone in the class will not get a chance to use them if they are kept at home for more than one night.

*Luke 1:14-17 "He will be a joy and delight to you and many will rejoice because of his birth"*

### **Chaplaincy**

Congratulations to our year 5 chaplains, we went to Downside Abbey today where they pledged their commitment to God and to helping everyone in our school to come closer to Jesus.



***"Together we love, together we hope, together we learn."***



### **PTFA**

**The next meeting is on Monday the 4th of December at 7.30pm at Hall and Woodhouse** on the Harbour front please come along for a Christmas social and planning for next year.

### **PTFA Up and coming events**

Friday 1st December **School Christmas discos:** R and KS1; 4.30pm-5.30pm, KS2; 5.45pm-7.00pm

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December **Christmas Shop and drop** 10.30am- 12.30pm

**Christmas Hampers** will be appearing in your child's class soon please fill them up with goodies for Christmas. The PTFA will be selling raffle tickets and the draw will take place on the **15<sup>th</sup> of December. The children can wear a Christmas jumper on this day.**

**Don't forget** when doing your Christmas shopping on line you can go to the **Just Giving website**, find St Joseph's PTFA and any purchases you make on line a % goes to the school PTFA.

Please be aware that you can set up a yearly or monthly standing order to the PTFA. Not everyone can take part in fund raising and this is another way to show your support. Please contact the office for further details.

**Please support the PTFA they do so much for our children.**

### **Applying for Reception school places 2018-2019**

Parents can apply online on [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions) or they can contact the School Admissions Team on 01275 884078 for a paper application from 12<sup>th</sup> September. The closing date for reception applications is 23:59 on 15 January 2018.

### **\*\*School Uniform Reminder:**

Winter uniform requires girls and boys to wear a white long sleeved shirt with a school tie.

**However I am seeing a number of girls coming to school wearing fancy white blouses with rounded collars and puffy sleeves with no tie, they are not in the uniform code.** Please ensure that your child is wearing what is stipulated in the uniform list. We pride ourselves on our uniform and smartness here at St Joseph's.

### **E Safety**

There is an attachment with regards children's You Tube, please take time to read it as some children are coming across very disturbing scenes whilst accessing children's You Tube.

### **St Andrew's day November 30<sup>th</sup>**

The blue house can wear blue mufti on this day.

### **Christmas dinner**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of December we will be celebrating with Christmas lunch, this is a uniform day but children can wear Christmas accessories-hats, badges, tinsel, etc.!

### **Free School Meals**

North Somerset Council has recently changed the process for applications for Free School Meal entitlement. This must be completed at the beginning of every term, online with an instant decision being given. If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals for your child please follow the link <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/schoolmeals/freeschoolmeals/> or come into the school office and we can assist you with your application.



Please also be aware that if your application is successful the school receives other additional funding to support your child's learning experience. Therefore it is beneficial to your child if you apply even if your child is currently in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and receiving Universal Infant Free School Meals.

### **Church Christmas Fair**

The Parish Christmas Fair will be on **Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>** in the school Hall. Father Christmas will be in his Grotto and there will be plenty of stalls to spend your pennies.

Raffle tickets will be coming to each family after half term, please return any unwanted raffle tickets in plenty of time for their resale. Sold raffle tickets can be returned to the school office with monies.

**Week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> November**- Good quality toys, books and games for the White Elephant - leave in the school entrance.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December MUFTI day** bring a bottle for the bottle stall

**Week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> December** Bathroom goods- leave in the school entrance

### **School admission policy 2019-2020**

Please check the website as our school Admissions Policy for 2019 – 2020 is now open for consultation, with the deadline for comment being 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Full details of how to comment are also on the Admissions page of the website.

### **Guy Hutton in Year 6 is fundraising for Muscular Dystrophy**

If you wish to sponsor Guy for his run you can go to the Just Giving web site link below:-

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nicola-hutton2>

### **Lock Down Procedures**

In the next couple of weeks we shall be practising our lock down drill the children have been prepared by their teachers and understand the drill. We try and make it a non-threatening drill and it's explained that when the children hear the bell they must sit quietly at the back of the class room whilst the teacher locks the door and draws the blinds. Any children out of the class room at the time are instructed to go to the nearest classroom which can be locked.

### **School Led Mass**

Will be on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December at 9.00am. Children can wear their school uniform in exchange for a mufti day on Monday. Please come along its lovely to see the children in their uniform in church. This special Advent mass will be a celebration and rededication of all the staff that work at St. Joseph's.

### **Community Events**

HOME-START NORTH SOMERSET ARE RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS NOW

Now the children have settled down at school have you got time on your hands to help a family who may be struggling to cope with family life? Home-Start North Somerset is a local charity who supports parents with at least one child under 5. That's where you come in. As a parent or grandparent already you will be perfectly qualified to support a family in need. Our service offers emotional and practical non-judgemental advice and support. If you can spare 2-4 hours a week helping families to enjoy family life again please call our team for an application form on

01934 419396 or visit [www.home-startnorthsomerset.org.uk](http://www.home-startnorthsomerset.org.uk). In return we offer a comprehensive training programme with ongoing support and further training. Our next training course starts on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018. We would appreciate that you return your completed application by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November so we are able to process it in time for the start of the course.

All successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced DBS (police) check and referenced.



### **IMPORTANT DATES Ahead**

#### **Christmas performance dates:-**

Reception Nativity: Monday Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 8.50am

Years 1 and 2 Nativity: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm and 6.30pm

Years 3 and 4 Victorian Christmas Extravaganza: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm and 7.00pm(with refreshments)

Years 5 and 6 carol service: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm, St Joseph's Church

God Bless

Mrs Jackson

## **Academic year 2017-2018**

### Term dates

- term 1: Monday 4 September 2017 to Friday 20 October 2017
- term 2: Monday 30 October 2017 to Tuesday 19 December 2017
- term 3: Thursday 4 January 2018 to Friday 9 February 2018
- term 4: Monday 19 February 2018 to Friday 23 March 2018
- term 5: Monday 9 April 2018 to Friday 25 May 2018
- term 6: Monday 4 June 2018 to Tuesday 24 July 2018

### INSET DATES:

30<sup>th</sup> October 2017

9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018

24<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Unless otherwise stated, Praise Assembly takes place every Friday at 8.30am. Parents/carers are welcome to attend these assemblies.