



'Live, love and learn in a caring Christian community'

Newsletter 29th November 2024

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well. As always, it has been a busy couple of weeks at school, and I wanted to share some of our news with you:

School Attendance:

At St Joseph's, our aim is for children to be in school at least 96% of the time. The current national average of school attendance is 94.1%. From the beginning of this school year, our attendance figures are as follows:

Whole School	96.3%
Nursery	92.6%
Reception	95.3%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	96.3%
Year 3	96.9%
Year 4	97.2%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	97.4%

COUNTY BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS 2024!

On Thursday 28th November the Year 6 basketball team competed in the Hertfordshire School Games County finals. The top 12 schools from all over Hertfordshire were there to represent their local area. The standard of basketball played by all the schools was exceptional and it was a really exciting competition. Due to hard work, determination and lots of talent, St. Joseph's won every match in their group, progressing to the semi-finals and then winning definitively with a 28 – 6 win in the final! The teamwork displayed by St. Joseph's was commented on by many of the coaches and some members of the team were even identified by talent spotters! Well done team, we are very proud of you - county champions 2024!



Celebrating writing:

During a visit from the Hertfordshire Advisor for English, Miss Curran had been explaining how much the children enjoy using their free writing books. When the advisor looked at the books, she was so impressed with all of the children, but two boys in Year 5 in particular, and she asked if she could take a copy to share with other schools in the county. The boys' work was shared on the Hertfordshire sharing platform and received interest from several published authors.



Remembrance Events:

Our House Captains and Vice Captains did a wonderful job of representing the school at the Bishop's Stortford Remembrance Day events on 11th November. We received a lovely letter from the events organiser to praise the children for their behaviour. Thank you for being such good ambassadors for our school.



Christmas craft:

During the last week of term, each class will be getting wonderfully creative and making Christmas crafts. To cover the costs of the materials, we are asking for a donation of £3 per child to be paid via the School Shop tab on the Arbor app. Thank you to the parents of Early Years who have already contributed via the snack payment they have made. Thank you all for your continued support.

Key dates for December:

Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th December: Year 1 Advent liturgy for parents
Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th December: EYFS Christmas show for parents
Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th December: Year 2 Nativity for parents
Tuesday 17th December: School Association Christmas Disco
Wednesday 18th December: Christmas jumper and Christmas dinner day.
Friday 20th December: End of Term (1.30pm)

Our Advent Preparations:**Lighting the Advent Candles:**

This coming weekend marks the start of the Advent Season, when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Please encourage your child to spot the signs of Advent in the church, including the priest wearing purple and the Advent wreath.

Invitation to Pray with us:

All children, parents and grandparents are warmly invited to attend our reflective prayer sessions on Wednesday mornings at 8.40 in the studio between now and the end of term. These guided sessions provide an opportunity to be still and feel the presence of God before we begin our busy days.

***God of light and hope,
Look upon us in love,
And fill us with the spirit of Jesus
That we may love you and serve you in your kingdom.
Protect us during this week,
And keep us watchful in prayer
As we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who is the Light of the World.
Amen***

I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Ann Cassidy-Jones
Interim Headteacher