



St Joseph's Catholic Primary

Newsletter

Term 2 30th October—19th December 2017

TERM 3 STARTS: Thursday 4th January 2018 at 8.45am



Dates for the Diary

Thur 4th January at 8.45 —Term 3 starts
Fri 5th Jan at 9.30—Mass of the Epiphany
Fri 12th Jan—Maths session for parents TBC
Thur 18 Jan—Aladdin Pantomime in school
Wed 24th Jan—Year 6 to St Chads
Fri 26th Jan—Year 4 to Sheldonian, Oxford
Thurs 8th Feb—Years 5 & 6 at Outreach Hockey Project
Fri 9th Feb—end of term 3
Mon 19th Feb—INSET Day
Tue 20th Feb at 8.45—term 4 starts
Mon 26th Feb 3.30-5.30—Parents' evening
Tues 27th Feb 5.00-7.30—Parents' evening
Wed 28th Feb—Massed pop singing concert—TBC
Thur 1st Mar—World Book Day
Thur 22nd Mar—Year 1 Multiskills at BGN—TBC
Tues 27th Mar at 6.30—Year 3 & 4 Easter Performance
Wed 28th Mar at 1.30—Year 3 & 4 Easter Performance
Thur 29th Mar—End of term 4



Dear Parents & Carers,

I'd like to begin this letter with a huge thank you to our EYFS and KS1 teams who have worked so hard and with such cheerfulness to ensure that our Nativity plays have been as enjoyable as they have for the children, as well as for those of us who have watched them. Having a snow day at the beginning of this week added an extra challenge but they were not deterred and the performances have been wonderful. It's always very moving to witness the Christmas story being brought alive for us by our youngest children.

We are very proud of all the children who have represented the school in local events this term. Our newly formed choir performed extremely well at St Mary's Church in November in the annual Children Singing for Children event and we understand that in the region of £8,000 was raised by that event this year for the charities supported by the Banbury Rotary Club. Our netball team also did well this term and we have qualified for the Banbury finals in the spring of 2018. I'd like to thank those children and their families who represented St Joseph's School at the Academy Mass to celebrate the Feast of St Francis and also, more recently, at the Christ the King Mass in St Joseph's Parish Church. We raised just around £300 for the NSPCC this term.

I would also like to thank all those who helped to make our Christmas Fayre such a success this year. It was great to have a larger group of people to plan and prepare beforehand and I know that some of you have given many hours preparing our grotto for Father Christmas and making the magnificent Christmas decorations for raffle prizes and for sale. Santa's grotto this year was simply magical and I know the children have continued to enjoy it during this past week – even though Santa himself had to make his way back up to the North Pole! Thank you to all the parents who came in to help the children make their special items for sale and for your support in preparing for our Christingle Service as well.

There have been many trips and extra activities organised this term; many of which are featured in this newsletter and all of which are captured in our News feed on the school's website. You will find a number of future events listed in this newsletter and we look forward with anticipation to the New Year and exciting new challenges.

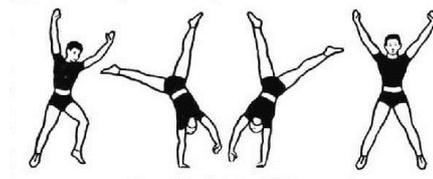
We were sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Doyle on Friday and wish her well in her new role. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Thompson back to share the teaching with Mrs Gill in year 1.

In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a joyful and blessed Christmas.

Best wishes,

Clare Smith

GYMNASTS OF THE FUTURE!



Year 1 has been very busy this term! In PE, we have been working on becoming super gymnasts with Mrs Gill and Mr Pemble!

We have been learning new ways to travel, shapes that we can make with our bodies and building up our strong cores. We have then used these techniques to learn new skills. We have been learning how to safely jump off equipment and land on our feet, controlled rolling and how to carefully use and set up gymnastic equipment.



We have also been learning how to link these skills into a sequence. We have then performed our routines for our friends and have been giving each other positive feedback.

We have had a fantastic first term and are already excited about the next!



This term Year 6 was lucky enough to have Freestyle gymnastic instructor Tom come in for a workshop. He showed us his amazing stunts and taught us to do free running with flips and jumps. It was really cool!

LIFE EDUCATION BUS

Despite the snowy weather the Life Education Bus came to school and children from Reception to Year 6 had the opportunity to learn valuable life skills covering topics relating to physical and mental health. Year 6's session touched on the dangers of drugs and alcohol.





Attendance and Punctuality

Beat the Gate—Don't be Late!

Attendance for Autumn Term

Term 2 Overall Attendance	97%
Number of lates	28
Reception	95.97
Year 1	97.87
Year 2	97.57
Year 3	96.69
Year 4	97.05
Year 5	97.89
Year 6	96.83

Keeping School Informed

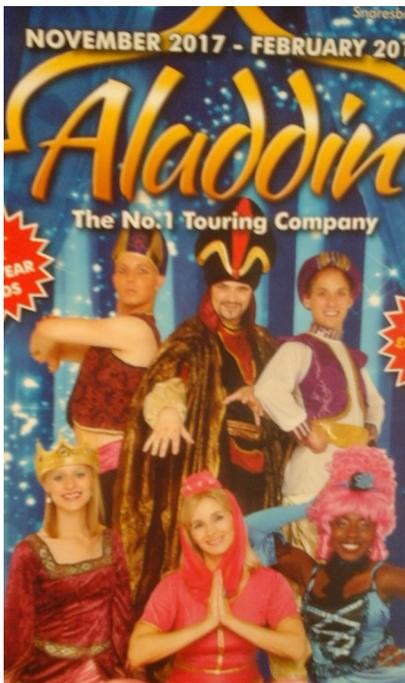
It is important that you let school know before 9.15am if your child is not attending school due to illness. If they have suffered from sickness or diarrhoea they must have 24 hours clear before returning to school.



Medical Appointments

We ask that medical appointments e.g. visits to the dentist are made for after school or during the school holidays. In the event of appointments having to be taken during the school day please inform the office in advance of the appointment and where possible provide us with a copy of the appointment card or letter for our records. Children are expected not to miss a whole school day in this case.

What has been happening in Year 4



The production, Aladdin, will be coming to school on Thursday 18th January. This event is always a hit with pupils and staff alike. More details to follow next term.

It's been fun learning about the Vikings. We've tried things out for ourselves to see if we can work out how they worked like the sun compasses and Viking games. We really enjoyed writing our Beowulf stories, there was lots of detail and adventure to make you think this might be his last chance but it isn't. Learning about the crimes and punishments in Anglo-Saxon England was disgusting did you know they would cut off your hand for stealing?

We loved going to the Museum in Term 1 and then coming back and trying to make all the things we had seen - making dyes for wool was interesting and actually worked.

Learning the clarinet is really interesting and difficult but we love it!

We also really enjoy our maths learning and have especially enjoyed finding out more about our times tables.



In PE we have been improving our football and hockey skills and have a motto "Team work makes the dream works!" Which has become our class motto!

Some members of Year 4 are also in the choir and one person said "The choir is great - its exciting performing in different places to different people."

Next term we will practise being curious and active because we believe that:

if we nurture curiosity in our pupils and engage them actively in their learning, they will become lifelong learners who are tolerant and respectful of difference and diversity;

CONTACT NUMBERS



As was demonstrated by the bad weather last week it is vital that we have up to date contact numbers and email addresses for all parents and carers. We have had instances where parents/carers were unable to be contacted when their child became ill during the school day. We have been using emails for correspondence for some time and the majority of parents have provided an email address. As paper copies of correspondence are no longer



sent home you may be missing important information about your child and the activities taking place at school. Please ensure that we have an email address for correspondence.

As a school we will be implementing an online payment and consent system from February 2018 so it will be vital that email addresses are provided.

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre was once again a very popular event. Thanks to the hard work of a group of parents we raised £1200! Thank you to everyone who gave their support both before the event and on the day. As usual we were overwhelmed with the donations of decorations, bottles, cakes, biscuits, chocolates and sweets that were sent into school on the weeks leading up to the Fayre.



News from the Reception class

The children walked to St Joseph's Church where they each lit a candle and said a prayer for their friends and family.

'We are getting ready for Baby Jesus' Birthday. I open my advent calendar everyday.' said Aurora.

