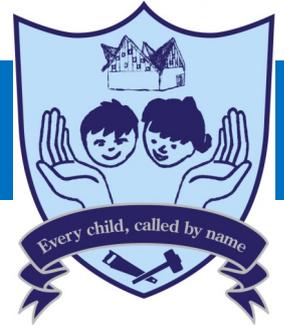


Term 2 1st November —17th December 2021



Newsletter

Dear Parents & Carers,

There is so much to be grateful for as we approach Christmas this year.

The performance of our KS1 Nativity was so joyful this week and it was wonderful to be able to share this with the rest of the school. I am sorry that we haven't been able to invite parents into school for any of the Nativity performances but both the EYFS team and the KS1 team have now made the recorded performances available to you and we hope that you will enjoy these together at home. I am very grateful to my colleagues in the Early Years and KS1 for all their hard work in preparing the children for their performances.

The Christmas dinner yesterday was delicious and it was lovely to be able to have this in the hall again this year rather than in classrooms as we had to do last year. Thank you to Mrs Judd and her team for all their hard work.

We are grateful that we have had a very small number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your vigilance around your children's health and around hand hygiene as this has definitely helped to keep our school community safe. We don't yet know what January might hold for us but we do know that we have some strong mitigation measures in place in school and excellent support from our parents – thank you!

We are also grateful that we have been able to enjoy more of our usual activities in school. This term these have included: swimming; clarinet lessons; sports festivals; Cherwell Theatre performances in school; an African drumming session and regular Friday Celebration assemblies as a whole school.

I am immensely grateful to my colleagues for their unswerving sense of purpose, their generous commitment of time and energy and their undiminished good humour. I am sure you will join me in thanking all the staff at St Joseph's for the incredible job they do even in these very strange times.

Please remember that we have an INSET Day on Tuesday, 4th January 2022 and therefore the school will be closed to children. We look forward to welcoming you all back at the usual time of 8.40 a.m. on Wednesday 5th January, 2022.

We pray that you will all remain well over the holidays and return fit and well in January.

In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the hope, love, joy and peace of Christ this Christmas and my best wishes for 2022.

Best wishes,

Clare Smith



INFORMATION



Teams access

Could you please check that you can access your child's TEAMS account over the school holidays just in case there is a need for children to move to online learning in the new year.



If you have any issues or need your password reset please email the school office and we will respond to you in the new year.

Dates for the diary



January 2022

Wednesday 5th —Start of term 3

Monday 10th—Little Wandle phonics teams meetings for KS1 and EYFS

February

Monday 21st -Friday 25th—Half Term



Phonics and early reading programme—Teams meeting

This is a reminder about the TEAMS meeting on January 10th 2022 which is being held for KS1 and Reception class parents so that you can find out more about our new phonics and early reading programme. We hope to run two sessions, one at 2pm and one at 6pm – please follow the link below to let us know which you will attend.

<https://forms.office.com/r/DzCbMgiZe>

Staying safe in the home if someone has Covid-19

Below is the link which contains guidance on staying safe

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1039983/20211207_Reducing_household_transmission.pdf

Virtues for next term: Curious & Active

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;

Reminder: There is a Carol Service at 5.30 p.m. Mass on Sunday 19th December in St Joseph's Parish Church





Year to date	93.94
Term 2	93.83
Reception	92.33
Year 1	91.14
Year 2	93.31
Year 3	96.26
Year 4	93.41
Year 5	95.84
Year 6	94.51

This has been a difficult term with many children being absent with colds, coughs and tummy bugs. This has been reflected in our lower than usual attendance rates.

Next term we will be introducing some incentives to try to improve our attendance figures so that they exceed the minimum requirements of 96% .

Below is some guidance to help you keep your child in school.

Medical appointments

Unless it is an absolute emergency dental, opticians and other routine medical appointments must be made outside of school hours. If this is not possible children are expected to attend school before and after the appointment where appropriate so that as little of the school day is missed as possible.

Illness (Not Covid-19)

When deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school. Ask yourself:

- Is your child well enough to carry out the activities of the school day? If not keep your child at home and consult your GP as appropriate
- Does your child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff? If so, keep your child at home
- Would you take a day off work if you had this condition? If so, keep your child at home.

Vomiting & Diarrhoea

Children should stay off school for 24 hours after their last episode.

Raised temperature

If your child has a raised temperature they shouldn't attend school. They can return 24 hours after they're feeling better.

Reporting Absence

You must report your child's absence by 9.00 am by either emailing the school office or leaving a message on the school absence answerphone (option 1).

