



St Joseph's News

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School
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Newsletter 13

Friday 09 December 2011

...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

Pie Corbett Visits St Joseph's

On Monday 5 December, the school was closed for an INSET day where we were joined by over 200 colleagues from Brent and Barnet schools. The INSET (staff professional training) was delivered by the renowned primary literacy expert, Pie Corbett. The strategies discussed at the INSET will be put into place at St Joseph's to enhance the teaching of English.

On Tuesday, Pie Corbett worked with children in their classes and told us amazing stories in his unique and captivating style which excites children and heightens their enthusiasm for reading and writing.

Father Stephen Visit To Year 3

On Wednesday of this week, Father Stephen spoke with some of the Year 3 children about St Nicholas and Santa Claus, who are actually the same person!

Father Stephen told the children about the kindness St Nicholas showed to his community while he was the Bishop of Myra in Turkey.

One story about St Nicholas is about the time when he threw bags of gold down a chimney to help a poor father who had three daughters. It is this image that remains when we think of 'Santa Claus' today - bringing gifts through our chimneys!

At all times, but particularly at this time of year, we should try to follow the example of St Nicholas by being kind to others and thinking about ways in which we can help those who may not have as much as we do.

Christmas Spectacular

A final reminder that we are still accepting items for the Christmas Spectacular which takes place from 2pm to 5pm on Friday 16 December.

Please donate the following items

- Bottles of drinks
- Cakes (homemade or shop bought)
- Toys
- DVDs
- CDs
- Items to sell on stalls - unwanted gifts would be ideal
- International food - please bring this to school on the morning of the event

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. Your generosity helps us to make a success of the events and to generate funds for the school.

School Uniform - Official Hat & Scarf Set

At this time of year, it is sensible for children to wrap up warm to keep out the cold weather! With this in mind, Mrs Titus has been able to source the official school hat & scarf set for a price of £5. This is not only fantastic value for money but will also ensure your child looks smart during the colder months. The sets are available to purchase now from the school office so buy one for your child today!

All other hats and scarves are no longer permitted in line with our uniform policy.

Attendance

This week, 335 children from Years 1 to 6 came to school every day and the whole school attendance for the week was 97%. The best class attendance is awarded to Class 4K and Class 4O with 100% attendance all week. They were closely followed by Class 2M and Class 5E.

Well done to Class RS (Shooting Stars) who did not receive an official late mark all week !

Please ensure your children are at school every day when they are well enough to attend and please remember that lessons start promptly at 8.55am.

Christmas Celebration Events

Please note the following dates for the wonderful Christmas celebrations taking place at St Joseph's:

Date	Event
Monday 12 th December 2011	Class RS (Mrs Smith) – Nativity 9.30am
Monday 12 th December 2011	Christmas lunch for the children
Tuesday 13 th December 2011	Class RH (Ms Hughes) – Nativity 9.30am
Wednesday 14 th December 2011	KS1 Nativity 9.30am – Year 1 Parents
Thursday 15 th December 2011	KS1 Nativity 9.30am – Year 2 Parents
Friday 16 th December 2011	Children finish School at 1pm Christmas Spectacular at 2pm
Monday 19 th December 2011	KS2 Carol Service at Our Lady of Willesden at 1.30pm
Wednesday 21 st December 2011	Christmas parties and own clothes day
Wednesday 21 st December 2011	Last day of term School finishes at the usual time
Wednesday 11 th January 2012	Pupils return to school

Nursery and Class RJ Nativity Plays

On Wednesday and Thursday morning, we were treated to wonderful performances from the youngest children at our school. The Nursery and Class RJ children presented beautiful versions of the traditional nativity story which made all the staff and parents very proud! Thank you to all the family members who were able to join us for these very special occasions.



Reports Regarding Community Crime

We have received reports from the community that there have been a number of muggings in our area very recently. It is even more disturbing to hear that some of the incidents were violent.

Please ensure that you all remain vigilant and take precautions to avoid becoming a potential target. Keep your valuables secure and out of sight and please remind your children that they should not be attending school with any valuables such as mobile phones or portable video game systems. These items are not needed at school and will only cause arguments between children or make them a potential victim of crime.