And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.  Luke 2:12

December Events

Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 December
Year 5 on visits to London Archives Centre

Thursday 13 December
Nursery Nativity for parents
9:45am and 2:00pm in Nursery

Friday 14 December
Reception Nativity for parents at 9:30am

Monday 17 December
Year 1 Nativity for parents in 1O at 9:30am

Tuesday 18 December
Year 1 Nativity for parents in 1P at 9:30am

Wednesday 19 December
Year 1 Nativity for parents in 1F at 9:30am
KS2 Carols at the Church at 11:00am
Children’s Christmas lunch

Thursday 20 December
Year 2 Nativity for parents at 9:30am

Friday 21 December
Last day of term

Holidays In Term Time

The school has received a number of requests for children to be absent from school before the official Christmas break as families have booked holidays abroad. We have also had requests for children to be granted leave before the official summer holiday break in July.

Parents are reminded that holidays are banned during term time. If you choose to ignore this school rule, you will be reported to Brent’s Education Welfare Officer (EWO) and you can expect to receive a penalty notice fine.

The reason why you should not take your child out of school for holidays is because this will have an adverse effect on their learning.

All children should be in school every day to ensure they access all the learning opportunities on offer and reach their full potential.

The only school absences which will be authorised are personal illness and family bereavement (up to 3 days compassionate leave will be granted).

Please make an appointment to see Mrs Studd if you need to discuss any attendance issues.

School Website

Parents and children are reminded to check the website frequently for the latest information, news and learning resources.

We frequently update the content on the webpages to reflect current government policy and the latest educational initiatives. As we continue to develop this resource, we will be looking at ways to use the website for interactive and family learning.

It has been wonderful to read the comments from present and past pupils of St Joseph’s on the ‘Guestbook’. Parents are also invited to leave a brief message on the website. If you are a past pupil, you may wish to share your memories of your time at St Joseph’s.

We hope that the website is proving to be useful for our families but please feel free to e-mail Mrs Studd with any ideas at info@stjo.brent.sch.uk

Attendance

During week beginning 26 November 2012, Class 4D achieved 100% attendance. Classes 3F and 5M achieved 99% attendance. It is important that children attend school every day to ensure they access all the innovative and creative learning experiences on offer at St Joseph’s.

The number of late arrivals in the morning is still too high. Children should be in school so they are ready to learn by 8.55am at the latest. Please remember that children in Year 3 to Year 6 may arrive as early as 8.30am for quiet reading in the middle and upper halls. We are also now inviting parents of Year 1 and 2 children to arrive at 8.45am and your child will be taken to the school hall to be supervised by school staff until the classes are collected by the teachers.
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today the Church begins a new liturgical year, a path that is further enriched by the Year of Faith, 50 years since the opening of the Second Vatican Council. The first Time of this journey is Advent, composed, in the Roman Rite, of the four weeks that precede the Birth of the Lord, that is, the mystery of the Incarnation. The word “Advent” means “coming” or “presence.” In the ancient world, it signified the coming of the king or the emperor into one of the provinces; in the language of Christians, it referred to the coming of God, to His presence in the world; a mystery that involves the whole of the cosmos and of history, but that recognises two culminating moments: the first and the second coming of Jesus Christ. The first is the Incarnation itself; the second is the glorious return at the end of time. These two moments, chronologically distant – and it is not given to us to know how far apart they are – touch us deeply, because by His death and resurrection Jesus has already accomplished that transformation of humanity and of the cosmos that is the final goal of creation. But before that end, it is necessary that the Gospel be proclaimed to all nations, as Jesus says in the Gospel of Saint Mark. The coming of Christ is continuous; the world must be infused by His presence. This permanent coming of the Lord in the proclamation of the Gospel requires our continual collaboration; and the Church, which is like the Betrothed, the promised Bride of the crucified and risen Lamb of God (cfr. Rev. 21,9), in communion with her Lord collaborates in this coming of the Lord, in which His glorious return is already begun.

It is to this that the Word of God recalls us today, tracing out a line of conduct to pursue in order to be ready for the coming of the Lord. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus says to the disciples: “Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life . . . Be vigilant at all times and pray.” So: simplicity and prayer. And the apostle Paul adds the invitation to “increase and abound in love” among ourselves and towards everyone, to strengthen our hearts and to be blameless in holiness (cfr. 1 Thess 3, 12-13). In the midst of the turmoil of the world, or the desert of indifference and materialism, Christians accept the salvation of God and witness to it by a different way of life, as a city set on a hill. “In those days,” the prophet Jeremiah proclaims, “Jerusalem shall dwell safely; this is the name they shall call her: ‘The Lord our justice’” (Jer 33,16). The community of believers is a sign of the love of God, of His justice that is already present and working in history, but not yet fully realised, and that therefore should always be awaited, invoked, and sought after with patience and courage.

The Virgin Mary perfectly embodies the spirit of Advent, which consists of listening to God, a profound desire to do His will, and joyful service to others. Let us be guided by her, so that God who is coming may not find us closed or distracted, but might extend to each of us a small part of His kingdom of love, of justice, and of peace.