



St Joseph's News

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Newsletter 14

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The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a saviour has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. Luke 2:10-11

Headteacher's Christmas Message The Christ In Christmas

If you ask most people what they like best about Christmas, I suspect that one of the top answers would be "the presents": the surprise of the unexpected gift, the delight of just the right toy, long awaited special something's. All of these contribute to the joy associated with the bundles left wrapped beneath the tree.

If you ask others what they dread most about Christmas, I suspect that one of the top answers would again be "the presents": the unbearable weight of expectation, the fear of disappointment, the burden of debt and the cost of wish-fulfilment.

It is ever so easy, but grossly mistaken, in today's society to believe that our valuing of the worth of another person can be measured through the cost of how much we spend at Christmas. It is not the cost of *presents* that demonstrates the depth of our love, but rather the quality of our *presence* amongst those we love that shows whether we truly care. It is easy to swipe the card and punch in the digits for the purchase; not so easy to spend time bringing joy to others by doing what we would not normally do in order to bring pleasure to another.

There will be those families whose hearts turn to men and women serving abroad, and to those who are spending the day working in emergency services. These families know more than most, how even the most wonderful present cannot replace or make up for the absence of a loved one. Whilst for the bereaved, the first Christmas without their loved one can be one of the hardest times. The recollection and celebration of lives past for those who mourn can never substitute those whom they miss so deeply.

For me and also for you there must be little doubt that the best thing about Christmas is not so much presents, but remembering the **Christ in Christmas**. However you or I encounter the Christ-child this Christmas time, may the joy of Christ, born anew, keep our hearts peaceful and happy.

God bless, Mrs Titus

Christmas Message From Head Pupils David Branco and Vanessa Morales Bonilla

*Dear Pupils, Parents and Staff of
St Joseph's Roman Catholic
Primary School,*

*May the peace and the joy of
Christmas be with you at this
time of year. We wish you all a
season full of blessings from
heaven above.*

*Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year!*



Message From Father Stephen Mass Times

Next week, all families will receive details of the masses to be held at Our Lady Of Willesden over the Christmas period.

The Family Vigil mass at 6pm on 24 December will be a very special mass for children. If your child has a 'baby Jesus' at home (from a nativity scene or crib), please bring him to this mass to receive a blessing! REMINDER: All children who wish to take part in the Family Vigil mass should attend church at 2pm on Saturday 17 December for practice. Children preparing for their first Holy Communion are particularly welcome at practice.

**Last day of term is Wednesday 21 December 2011
Children return to school on Wednesday 11 January 2012**

Year 1 and Year 2 Nativities

Following on from the great nativities that Nursery and Reception children presented for us, we were treated to a fantastic performance from children in the Year 1 and Year 2 classes.

As a Roman Catholic school, we place such importance on these wonderful religious celebrations as they are a reminder of the wonderful saviour who was born to save us from our sins.

As Mrs Titus stated in her Christmas message, we must remember CHRIST in Christmas so we can fully appreciate the gift God gave to us through his son, Jesus Christ.

Parental Concerns

We would like to remind parents that the appropriate manner in which to raise a concern about your child is to speak with the class teacher in the first instance - you may make an appointment at the main school office.

Parents must be aware that staff are entitled to feel safe in the school environment and should not feel intimidated or threatened. Therefore, I remind all parents to discuss their concerns in a respectful manner to ensure the matter in hand is resolved in the best interests of the child..

Attendance

This week, 300 children from Years 1 to 6 came to school every day and the whole school attendance for the week was 96.5%. The best class attendance is awarded to Class 4K with 100% attendance all week. They were closely followed by Classes 1G, 4O and 5NW .

Well done to Classes 2B and 4O 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
- Please remember to telephone the school before 9.00am every day your child is absent. This helps us with safeguarding procedures
- When your child returns to school, please complete the 'Reason For Absence' form which is available from the main school office
- Please complete the 'Reason For Absence' form in advance when you have prior knowledge that your child will be away from school
- Please arrange appointments for as late in the afternoon as possible to ensure your child does not miss out on their 'core' learning which takes place during the morning and early afternoon