Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”  Luke 2:13-14

Winter Wonderland

Thank you to all the wonderful children, parents and extended family members who joined us at St Joseph’s on Friday 7 December for our Christmas Winter Wonderland. Many of you helped us prepare for this annual event by preparing foods and donating prizes for our stalls so your support was very much appreciated. Donations are still coming in but we anticipate a final total of over £2,000!

Here are the raffle prize winners:

1st Prize of x2 tickets to see Lemar at the Indigo 2 - Mr Romaine
2nd Prize of a Luxury Xmas Hamper - Natalia Graca
3rd Prize of a Luxury Xmas Hamper - Mr O’Kane
4th Prize of Family Christmas Dinner at The Beaten Docket - Micheal Okafor
5th Prize of Spanish Hamper - Nicole Gogol
6th Prize of Cuddly Teddy - Miss Martina
7th Prize of Cuddly Teddy - Jermaine Lule
8th Prize of Chocolates - Miss Jo

Finally, a very special mention for Mr Romaine who was our DJ on the day and for Mr Joel who worked tirelessly to ensure that all the areas were kept neat and tidy.

December Events

**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

**Children return to school on Monday 7 January**

Holidays In Term Time

Holidays during term time are banned and any requests to remove a child from school for this reason will not be authorised.

National government and the local authority have made it very clear that children should be in school every day to ensure they reach their full potential.

In his report to the Secretary of State for Education, Charlie Taylor stated “focus on unauthorised absence deflects attention away from the most important issue - that all absence is bad for children’s education”.

Please ensure your child attends school every day and that you book your family holidays and special events during the 14 weeks of official school breaks.

Attendance

During week beginning 3 December 2012, Classes 3A, 4O, 5NW and 6N achieved 100% 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.
Nativity Performance - Nursery & Reception

On Thursday 13 December and Friday 14 December, the children from the Foundation Stage presented their Nativity performances.

It was fantastic to see our youngest children (aged 3 to 5 years old) acting with confidence and singing beautifully with the carols and songs which were part of their plays.

Parents, grandparents, siblings and other family members joined us to see these wonderful children in what was for many, their first public performance. It is really encouraging to watch the children grow and develop in the short time they have been at St Joseph’s so we have high expectations for the future!

Please check the school website for more photographs of these memorable occasions.