



# St Joseph's News

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Newsletter 09

Friday 21 November 2014

*Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple... Malachi 3:1*

## CAFOD Appeal

From 24 November to 17 December, children are encouraged to raise money for CAFOD by undertaking small chores under parental supervision. Alternatively, you may choose to 'reward' your child for acts of kindness or exceptional behaviour.

We suggest that children receive 20p per task with the aim of them 'earning' around £1 a week. Children should then bring in the money **every Thursday** so the class can see the collective donation growing every week.

To support the children's understanding about the true spirit of giving at Christmas, we suggest that you speak with your children about giving to others, particularly to those who are less fortunate than ourselves. You may also wish to discuss how this is modelled in the Bible with these examples:

***Deuteronomy 16:17, Proverbs 14:21, Matthew 25:40, Luke 3:11, Hebrews 13:16***

## Congratulations Thomas!

We are delighted to announce the wonderful news that Thomas (6R) has been awarded a place at The Centre for Young Musicians (CYM) - a division of Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

On Saturday 15 November, Thomas auditioned for a place at CYM where, as part of the entrance requirements, he had to perform three pieces of Piano at Grade 2-3 standard, answer questions on music as he heard it and have a short interview.

Thomas was very successful in his assessment and can now look forward to continuing his education and developing his musical talents under the expertise of Guildhall. Congratulations Thomas!

## Religious Education

This week, it will support your child's RE learning if you could continue to talk at home about the themes of preparation and expectancy.

The start of Advent also marks the start of the Church year. At mass, we will be finishing the Gospel of Matthew and the priest will start reading from the Gospel of Mark.

You may find the resources on [www.catholic.org/clife/advent/](http://www.catholic.org/clife/advent/) helpful in finding out more about this very special time in the Catholic calendar.

## Attendance

Classes 3A and 3F achieved 100% attendance this week.

A high number of late marks were recorded this week. We understand that there are some local traffic problems but if you are aiming to arrive by 8.30am then your child should still arrive on time even if there are any unexpected circumstances. Please also note that weather conditions are not considered to be an acceptable excuse for lateness. ***The gates close at 8.55am so all children must be in school by this time. Late arrivals cause disruption for the school and it is also embarrassing for the child.***

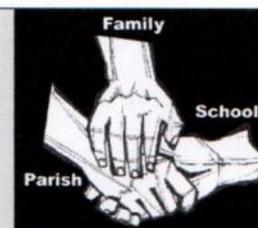
While we enjoy celebrating excellent attendance, we must remember the long term benefits of your child being in school every day - they will access all aspects of the curriculum and reach their full potential.

Please arrange routine appointments out of school hours and remember that holidays are banned.

***Parents who choose to take their child out of school during term time will each be issued with a £120 Education Penalty Notice Fine per child (reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days of issue date)***

# From Advent to Christmas Year B

## Linking School, Parish and Home



### Religious Education

#### Key Idea: From Advent to Christmas

This topic is intended for the second part of the Autumn Term 2014/2015. As the days shorten and winter comes upon us we are invited to consider the light of Christ who came into the world at Christmas. As the Gospel of Mark has no story of the birth of Jesus, this topic looks at how Christians around the world celebrate the coming of God into the world.

#### Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

**Spiritual Outcomes:** *It is hoped that pupils will develop:*

- A sense of the importance of prayer
- A willingness to pray
- An attitude of respect for the many traditions of Christmas
- Appreciation for the gift of God at Christmas

#### Activities to try at home

You are the first educator of your child in faith. Your child's learning in religious education will be much greater if you and the school are engaged in talking about the same ideas and beliefs. Help your child by trying this activity while this topic is being taught:

- This topic focuses on how different cultural groups celebrate Christmas. Talk to your children about any particular practices you and your family might have, particularly if, and how, your culture might be evident in what you do. If you can, encourage your children to share your cultural customs with their peers at school.

#### An idea for prayer at home

##### Prayer Activity



Loving God, you created people full of dignity still more wonderfully restored our dignity when we failed. At this time of Advent help us remember Jesus who humbled himself to live like us, so that we might be able to share his divinity. We ask this through Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Adapted from the Opening Prayer of Christmas Day Liturgy.

#### School Uniform Reminder

The School Uniform Policy is very clear about expectations for the children's presentation and the expectations for parental support in this matter. If you are unclear about any aspect of the school's position on the matter of hairstyles, you should err on the side of caution and ensure that your child's hair is all one length with the exception of styles with a fringe which must be cut above the eyes. Longer hair must be tied back with a simple black or navy elastic band.

All children **must** now be wearing the official school coat - no other outdoor coat or jacket is allowed. For a limited time, these will still be available from the school office at the special price of £15.

With the colder weather now upon us, children should also be wearing the St Joseph's hats and scarves to keep warm. These are still available at £5 a set from the school office.