



St Joseph's News

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School
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Newsletter 08

Friday 27 November 2015

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

Advent

At Mass on Sunday, we will begin the four week period of Advent in which we follow the events leading to the birth of Jesus Christ.

In your family prayer time this week, you may wish to reflect on the thoughts and feelings of the Virgin Mary. Like all expectant mothers, we can be sure Mary was excited as she waited for the day her son would be born. In addition to all of the excitement, Mary would undoubtedly have been thinking about the responsibility of raising the Son of God.

Please ensure you attend Mass regularly during the Advent period to follow the journey which Mary and Joseph undertook so that we too can journey with Christ today.

Charitable Giving

Some 30 years after the birth of our Saviour, John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ's ministry by telling people to share with others and to show mercy. John the Baptist told the crowds who had gathered to think about those who are suffering and to do something to help.

While our own school community has faced recent difficulties, we have been humbled by the kindness of others. Therefore, we feel that it is appropriate to help others who need assistance this Christmas so we will be supporting three charities with their current appeals.

Acton Homeless Concern is based in Acton at Emmaus House. Each week, this charity feeds over 1,000 homeless people from the local area. They also have shower facilities for those who do not have access to them. In order to help Acton Homeless Centre during the festive period we are asking each child in the school to donate non-perishable goods and toiletries Please see the [letter sent yesterday](#) for a list of appropriate items to donate.

The **Salvation Army** have also launched their Christmas appeal and are desperate for donations to help families who are in poverty. To support those families, we are asking for donations for gifts that can be given to children on Christmas Day. Please note that these items must be new and not have been used already.

St Joseph's has supported the **Catholic Children's Society** for a number of years as they "**aspire to a world in which the material, emotional, psychological and spiritual needs of the young are recognised, respected and met**". These values echo those of our school and we were extremely grateful when they responded so promptly to our situation in September by donating £10,000 towards the replacement of the children's uniforms. If you feel that you would like to give something back to this wonderful organisation, please send in a financial contribution to the school office in an envelope clearly marked **Catholic Children's Society**.

All donations should be handed in at the School Office by Thursday 10 December 2015.

Attendance

Please ensure that your child aims for 100% attendance this year. Every lesson counts so your child can benefit from the excellent learning opportunities at St Joseph's.

Children must also arrive on time every day to ensure they access the full curriculum. Poor punctuality affects your child's learning, the learning of others and is very inconsiderate.

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)