

**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**DECEMBER 2023**



**ADVENT**

Advent is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas and is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas Day. 1J helped the school learn about Advent at their super class assembly. Well done 1J.

The liturgical colour for Advent is purple and we change our prayer cloths to show this special time.

We have an Advent wreath to remind us of the meaning of the season and to help us count the weeks until we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Each week we light a candle when we pray together.

**CHRISTMAS IN SCHOOL**

Please see the 'Christmas in School' email with more information about the activities and events we have planned to celebrate Christmas in School.

**GOVERNORS**

We are delighted to announce that Mr Richard Baker is our new Chair of Governors and leads the Local Academy Committee of Governors. He is a parent at our school as well as one of our Foundation Governors. Our Governors are really looking forward to getting to know you and chat with you in the coming months.

Please look out for information (to be sent by ParentMail) regarding Parent Governors and how you could apply to be one. This is a responsible role and Parent Governor training will be given.

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2023**

We would like to say a big 'thank you' to all our families for their generous donations to this year's Poppy Appeal. We managed to raise an amazing £153.58.

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL ADMISSIONS**

**STARTING SCHOOL – RECEPTION CLASS - SEPTEMBER 2024**

Parents of children born between 01/09/2019 - 31/08/2020 must apply online for a school place for their child/ren from 1st November 2023.

The closing date for online applications for school places in Reception for September 2024 via the Buckinghamshire Council primary portal is on 15th January 2024.

If you are supporting your application on faith grounds, please submit a completed Supplementary Form for Bucks Catholic Schools, along with your child's original Baptismal certificate. These faith documents should be submitted via the school office to support your application by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**[You must apply for a school place for your child by the deadline even if your child currently attends St Joseph's Pre-School.](#)**

Further information regarding the admission process is available on the Buckinghamshire Council website [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL ADMISSIONS**  
**APPLYING FOR JUNIOR SCHOOL - YEAR 3 - SEPTEMBER 2024**

Parents of children in Year 2 must apply online for a junior school place for their child/ren from 1st November 2023. The closing date for online applications for junior school places for September 2024 via the Buckinghamshire Council primary portal is on 15th January 2024. Please contact the junior school you are applying to confirm which supplementary forms and additional faith evidence they require.

**INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS** (All Classes)

JS Photography have advised us that orders of individual child photographs should be delivered to school by the end of this week.

We will let you know once the photograph orders are ready to collect. We will ask you to collect and sign for your photographs from the school office.

**COLD WEATHER**

We please ask that pupils continue to wear the appropriate school uniform but have a warm coat and hat etc for the cold weather, together with suitable footwear for the weather conditions.

**REPORTING ABSENCE (SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL)**

A reminder that it is important that you contact the school office at the start of the day on the first day of any absence, and then continue to keep in regular contact if the absence continues. Please use the Absence tab on your ParentMail account to send the school office a message. Alternatively the school office 24 hour answerphone service is also available for reporting your child's absence.

**CHILD ILLNESS**

It is essential for adult and children's health and wellbeing that pupils should be absent from school for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting if the cause is known to be viral or is unknown.

**ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL**

Requests for Leave of Absence during term time should not be made, in particular for holidays or extended visits to family. Absence requests should only be for truly exceptional circumstances. Parents have a legal duty to ensure their children attend school.

- Where we notice a decline in attendance, you will be notified of your child's overall attendance and the expectation to see an improvement.
- Where we have a concern, you will be requested to attend a meeting with the Headteacher to discuss your child's attendance.
- Where concerns are not addressed or parents do not work with the school to improve attendance we may refer the matter to the local authorities or the Safeguarding team.

**REMINDER - HOT MEAL ORDERS FOR JANUARY 2024 - RECEPTION, YEAR 1, YEAR 2**

Please remember to order hot meals via your online ParentPay account if you wish your child to receive a free hot lunch from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 when we return to school after the Christmas break.

The meal choices are currently available to book via ParentPay until the end of the Spring Term.

## **VACANCIES**

We currently have staff vacancies. Please see our website for further information via 'Our School' tab, Vacancies section.

<https://www.stjosephsrcinfant.bucks.sch.uk/our-school/vacancies/>

## **SCHOOL MILK – RECEPTION, YEAR 1, YEAR 2**

Our school provides a milk scheme which is available to all pupils via our milk supplier Cool Milk. Free milk is available to order for all children under five. When a child turns five, parents have the opportunity to pay a subsidised rate for their child to continue to receive milk in school.

Pupils entitled to Pupil Premium funding are entitled to free school milk.

If you would like more information or to register for your child to receive school milk please visit our milk provider's website [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)

Pupils in Pre-School receive free milk under the Nursery Scheme.

## **TERM DATES**

Last Day of this Term: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023

First day of Spring Term: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**We wish you all a healthy, safe and happy Christmas and New Year.**