



## St. Joseph's School - Headteacher Message

As we near the end of term and celebrate the joy of Christmas, we look back and reflect on the work we have done and we prepare for the new term and the New Year to come.

### Attendance

There has been a lot of illnesses across the school and the reason why many children may have been absent from school. This has also affected staff as they work closely with the children on a daily basis. We hope that by being more aware of your child's attendance you will support your child's learning by making sure they are in school when they are well. This means avoiding holidays and lengthy visits to relatives during term time, avoiding keeping the children at home due to work commitments or because they have had a busy weekend. It may also help you think about how often your child is unwell and perhaps seek medical reassurance that all is well.

A big thank you for the efforts people are making to get children to school on time – a big challenge in cold weather, traffic issues and the darker mornings – keep up the good work.

If you do struggle with getting your child to school we ask that you share this with us before we raise concerns, as we can note this on our records and often we can help with short term or longer term solutions.

### Christmas Nativity

The performances across the school that helped us to know about and understand the Christmas Story were wonderful. The children's singing was a joy to hear and the passion with which they sang was visible on their faces. We are proud that all our children had the confidence and eagerness to stand in front of such a big audience and they were rightly proud of themselves. **Well done everyone!**

### Prayer & Reflection Time

This term Mrs Jones (Our RE Governor and Chaplaincy support) has been running a voluntary prayer and reflection time for children to attend on a Wednesday lunchtime. The children have been very enthusiastic and many have attended. They have learned more about the rosary, made Christmas cards for people in the community and prayed for issues that the children have suggested. Some of the children wanted to write down their prayers and these have been added to our prayer tree in the hall.

### Gift from the Legion of Mary

We are delighted to have received a most beautiful present of a framed picture of Our Lady of Guadeloupe from the Legion of Mary Association. We were also presented with a matching cushion which will be placed for use by children in the Wednesday prayer group. We thank the community for this lovely gift.

### Reminder

Please be reminded of the start and finish times for School and Pre-School

#### Pre-School Sessions

Morning session 8.40am-11.40am

Afternoon session 12.10pm - 3.10pm

#### School Day - no change

8.45am - 3.15pm

### And Finally...

There is no set home learning for over the Christmas break. Please try to find time to do the following with your child:

- *Read, read, read, read with your child and to your child – let them practise their phonic skills!*
  - *Write about a special day*
  - *Learn how to play a new game*
  - *Rest and relax*

We look forward to seeing you all back in school on  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

From Mrs Taylor & All the Staff

