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Newsletter no. 4

20th November 2020

Upcoming events

Tuesday 24th November

Flu Vaccines
Reception - Y6

Friday 27th November

Bad Hair Day!

Tuesday 1st December

School joins BCCET

Monday 7th December

Reception Christmas Party

Tuesday 8th December

Y1 Christmas Party

Wednesday 9th December

Y2 Christmas Party

Thursday 10th December

Y3 Christmas Party

Friday 11th December

Nursery Christmas Party
(morning)

Y4 Christmas Party

Monday 14th December

Y5 Christmas Party

Christmas Carols video to
be shared

Tuesday 15th December

Y6 Christmas Party

Nursery & Reception
Nativities to be shared

**Wednesday 16th
December**

Christmas Dinner
Reception, Y1, Y3 & Y5

Thursday 17th December

Christmas Dinner
Y2, Y4 & Y6

Friday 18th December

Christmas Jumper Day
Christmas Stories with Mr
Craig
End of Term

Dear Parents

As we approach another Autumnal weekend, under our second National lockdown of 2020, I wanted to wish you all the very best for this weekend whatever you are planning to do. Although it continues to be difficult for all of us, I know our special community will look after each other. There are many things I need to communicate with you, so here goes!

Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust (BCCET)

Following consultation with everyone involved in our school, Governors agreed that we will join BCCET on Tuesday, 1st December. From that date, we will be known as **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**. Initially you should see very little change around school. As the year goes on, there may be some things that are different, such as a different logo on the uniform, but you will be informed of these changes when they are due to take place. On the same date, St Aloysius Infant & Junior School will also convert, with St Bede's Primary and Ss Peter and Paul's Primary Schools in South Shields consulting to convert at Easter 2021. This is an exciting time to be part of Catholic education in the North East and will present us with many opportunities.

Journeys of Hope

An example of this is the 'Journeys of Hope' project that we are involved in. Information about this has been shared with the local press.

Nursery & Reception places

If you have a child who is due to begin Reception in September 2021, application packs have been sent by South Tyneside Council. The closing date for applications to Reception is January 15th 2021. If you know of families who are looking for places for their child in September, I know I can rely on you to 'spread the word' about our lovely school! We have produced a new prospectus which is available on our website, while our current Nursery parents will receive a shiny new paper copy!

If you would like your child to attend our Nursery, or know of a family who would like this, application forms and prospectuses are available from the office. Usually we would be happy to show prospective parents around our school but with current restrictions, we are unable to do this. As a result, we have asked a local film company to make a promotional video sharing the excellence of St Joseph's. This will be available soon!

Christmas Organisation

It's (nearly) the most wonderful time of the year! As I mentioned last week, we are unable to offer the usual celebrations this year, but we are trying to make Christmas as meaningful and enjoyable as possible. Information regarding parties, Nativities etc was shared in last week's letter, which is available on our school website, but we have also agreed to a couple of extras!

- **Christmas baubles** - as parents and the community will not be able to see our lovely school Christmas decorations, we are going to bring them outside! We will be 'decorating' our school fence outside Year 5 and invite our school community to help us. Please feel free to add a bauble to our decorations. We ask that you add them when you drop your child in the mornings as this is usually the quietest time of the day. We also have outdoor baubles available for £1 which you can decorate with your child's name if you wish.

- **Hope for Christmas** - we have had a couple of queries regarding children bringing in Christmas cards to distribute to friends. As you will understand, we can't do that this year due to our protocol. With that in mind, we have decided to link up with the Children NE Hope for Christmas appeal. Instead of buying cards this year, staff are going to donate the costs of the cards to this worthy appeal (there is a link to the appeal on our school website and on Facebook) If you would also like to donate the costs of cards, you can do so on - <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/St-Joseph-s-Primary-School-Jarrow-Tyne-and-Wear>
- **Nora's North Pole** - we are supporting the efforts of the elves at Ss Peter & Paul's School to ensure some families receive extra support in the form of presents for their children. If you know of a business who would be willing to support this cause in the form of a few donations, please let us know.

Easyfundraising

I know that this is possibly a little late, but if you do need to buy a last minute present for Auntie Edna, please can you consider going through the Easyfundraising page which benefits our school

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjrctyneandwear/>

Isolating

I would just like to remind parents of the expectation that if children are sent home to isolate as a result of COVID within school, children must remain at home for the stated period of days. This means not leaving the family home or playing out with others.

Google Classroom

We are now using Google Classroom through the school for both homework and remote learning. The expectation is that children access the classroom to complete their homework or reading consistently, as they would with paper versions. We do realise that you are missing the normal opportunities of seeing your child in their class so we are currently developing our 'Window into' sections which, as the title suggests, will give you a window into what your child is doing. This has been piloted by Reception with very positive feedback.

Bad Hair Day

The Friends of St Joseph's are holding their annual Bad Hair Day on Friday 27th November. Further details will follow.

Breakfast Club

A reminder that we now offer morning child care provision from Monday 2nd November 2020 in the form of a Breakfast Club (charges apply). Breakfast Club runs Monday to Friday during term time from 7.45am to 8.45am. Details have been emailed to all parents but please contact Mrs Lloyd if you need more information.

Take care,

Mr P Craig

