

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School St. Joseph's Way Jarrow NE<sub>32</sub> 4PJ

0191 5364311



🔲 www.stjosephsjarrow.co.uk ⊠ office@stjosephsjarrow.co.uk



@stjosephsjarrow



@st\_josephs\_rc\_eyfs

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# **Dear Parents and Carers**

I hope you and your family are all fit and well. As the Winter nights draw in, it definitely feels like we are approaching a busy time of the year (whisper it...Christmas!) and the preparation for all that happens in school and home has started. This time of year also reminds us of the importance of family, friends and other loved ones who have supported us or relied on us during the year. I know that I am indebted to the support of colleagues on a daily basis, as well as the encouragement from parents and our community.

### Dates for the rest of term

On Monday, you will receive an updated list of dates for the rest of the term. As you will understand, we have had to review the organisation of many of these events. We have today received notification from South Tyneside authority that restrictions in schools are to be extended for a minimum of three weeks, which obviously impacts on the plans we have made. We have tried to make sure that we have as many social and spiritual celebrations as possible, utilising St Joseph's Church when possible.

#### **Book Trail**

The half term book trail was a huge success. We were featured in a number of local papers and websites, but more importantly, the children who participated had a wonderful time searching the local area, excitedly sharing their 'treasure'. You can see a short video, which features photos and newspaper reports, at <a href="https://youtu.be/xRRplxU-iaw">https://youtu.be/xRRplxU-iaw</a> or using this QR code.

We have also shared some of the photos on the noticeboard outside Y2.

Mrs Bertram has a VERY exciting idea for Christmas - watch this space!

We are noticing an increasing number of pupils arriving late for school in the morning. It may seem to have little importance being 2-3 minutes late, but when children arrive on time it means they are not anxious about being late, and can enter the classroom calm and organized. Having to escort numerous pupils to different classes around school also impacts on the office staff, especially at a busy time of the day.

# **Year 4 Remembrance Mass**

On Monday, Year 4 will hold a Remembrance Mass in Church from 9.30am. All are welcome.

### **Clothing Bank**

You may have noticed that we have agreed to a clothing bank being placed outside the school gates. Each time the bank is emptied, the school receives £60 to £70. If you do have any clothing, shoes etc that can be donated, please bag it up and put it in our clothing bank.

# Parents' Evening

We hope the remote Parents' Evening was a positive one. We know that the face to face meetings are better, giving you the opportunity to look at books, as well as it being a more personable experience. We do hope that the meeting in Spring term will be in school.

I am delighted to let you know that Miss Lee has had a baby boy! Baby Sebastian was born on 3rd November, weighing 7lb 13 oz, and all are well! Miss Lee says he is 'perfect' and we can't wait to see him when they visit!

Take care!

Mr P Craig

