



Head-lines

There's nothing like a good 'to do' list. But when it comes to my Christmas preparation this year, what I have is nothing like a good 'to do' list! Have I bought any presents? Nope. Have I sent out cards? Not yet. Have I ordered a turkey? Well, I'm going to my parents for Christmas, so I am sure my mum is much more organised than I am! If you are like me, and you have found that Christmas has suddenly come around, then I hope these last few weeks are productive for you. In school, in our lessons and assembly, we have been thinking about the important preparation for Christmas - based on the words of John the Baptist. We have been thinking about preparing a straight path for the Lord - in other words, making sure that in amongst the panic of shopping and business, we find moments of peace and stillness when we reflect on the true wonder of this time of year. Now, more than ever, these special moments are so important and a time of togetherness we should cherish. I wish you all peace, love, joy and a very merry Christmas. Mr Turner

In our Autumn 1 newsletter I wrote about how absolutely fantastic it has been this term to once again return to a full school offer; clubs, visits, trips, events, sports, whole school gatherings. The beating heart of our school is our wonderful children and we have all thoroughly enjoyed being able to once again offer more of the things they deserve. We have spent time really thinking about our vision and in particular, our WORKER values and how these are lived out each day. The children went on to produce posters all about our school and all the things that take place and the Opportunities they have. They produced some incredible artwork, and I thank all of them for their hard work and creativity. I would love to use some of their designs in some promotional materials, and our website and social media. Thanks children - I love your work and am thrilled to see all of the lovely, positive things you had to say about our school!



PTA

I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to our amazing PTA. They do so much for our school and the children, holding events, raising funds and supporting in so many different ways. This term we have had wreath making nights, Elfridges, Pantomimes and party supplies to name just a few. Throughout the year they also do so much to generate funds to then be spent on the children, and again, this term has been no exception! Thanks to the PTA, and all the parents who contribute to fundraising, we were able to take a group of Reading Ambassadors to Waterstones to purchase specially chosen books for class library corners. The children had a great morning shopping, and our book corners are brimming with gorgeous new books. So a huge thank you to our PTA and all of you for supporting. Earlier

this term, two of our long serving members also stood down from their posts; Liz and Chris, from me and all the staff and children, thank you for all your work over the years, and everything you have done. I am thrilled that it's not an absolute goodbye, and you are still heavily involved with events, and I welcome and give thanks to Laura and Clare who have taken on new central roles in our PTA.

Hello....

This half term we welcome Jaxson, Joseph, Helen, Tessa, Harlo and Joanna who have all joined us. I hope you have settled in well and are making lots of friends and feel part of the St Joseph's family



....And goodbye

Sadly, this half term, we also say good bye to one of our mid day team, Lynn Ward. Lynn has been part of our school for

over 17 years, and throughout her time has cared for, and supported countless children over the lunch period. Thank you, Lynn, for all your work, care and love and from me and all the staff and children, we wish you well for the future. Thank you.



In addition, it's not quite a 'good bye', more of a 'bye for now' to Max. As you may be aware, Max has been moved to a central finance role within our family of Trust schools. From January, that role will ramp up and she will be spending longer periods of time working from bases in the other schools. We are in the process of recruiting some additional staff to support in the St Joseph's office with day to day running.

Reminders.....

- Please can we remind parents about **parking and traffic**, particularly along Fairview Road, at the start and end of the day. Traffic outside schools is a national issue, and Fairview Road has always been tight and single file traffic. We are getting more reports from residents about parking over drives, blocking in the access lane to the side of the school, and general consideration. We all want the children to arrive safe and sound, and we want you to start your days without the stress of a road argument! So please can we ask that we treat each other with kindness, think about parking, and maybe park cars a bit further up Fairview and walk down. Many thanks for your support.
- Please can we keep encouraging you to sign up and use **Parent Pay** for all payments, and ordering school dinners. The system is convenient, simple and easy to use, and really helps us here. Without the need to handle cash, we have been able to end contracts with cash collection, saving money which can then go in to other areas in the school. The other really important thing is to use the site to order your child's meal - even if they are in KS1 or have a free meal - as this ensures that they get exactly what they want and the correct amount of food is prepared. Thanks for your help with this.
- Please can we remind you that we ask that **dogs** are not brought on to the playground. I would love to come over and say hi to any four legged friends (and if anyone can offer me any advice as my dog has so many bad habits!) but not all children feel that way. This does also include carrying small dogs, especially any new Christmas puppy arrivals. As much as I can see that they are being held, it starts to deviate. So if we all know where we stand, and ensure that dogs are not brought onto the playground, that makes things simpler. Please can we also ensure that any fouling outside, on the field or pavements are cleared up. Many thanks.
- **Attendance:** Our overall attendance for this term is 93.8% This remains below our target of at least 96% and we will continue to push for good attendance next term. **I can tell you that class 3BS have had the best attendance this term with 96.5% Well done 3BS!**

Thought for the term....

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2



Christmas is such a special time when we welcome the arrival of the Saviour of the World, Wonder Counsellor, The Prince of Peace.

Blessings on your children, you and all your family this Christmas.