



Head-lines

My goodness what a busy term it has been! This Autumn 2 term is always jam packed, but this has seemed even busier than usual! Advent is a time of preparation, but I hope that in with the practical preparations, you have all found some peace and stillness to prepare hearts for this special time. During our assemblies, we have been lighting the candles on our Advent Wreath, and learning about the different themes they represent. We started with the candle of Hope, then week two represented Peace. This week we have lit our rose coloured candle and thought about the Joy that Jesus' arrival brings. As we finish Tuesday, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the theme of our fourth candle - Love. From me, and all of us at St Joseph's, we wish you a very Happy Christmas, with all the Love in the world. Mr Turner.

What a Performance!

Over the course of this term, we have had several opportunities to be wowed by our children's star performances! We kicked off with our choir performing at the Oxtou Village Lights Switch on, where we were treated to a programme featuring traditional carols, as well as some much loved classics! Our choir then performed alongside our partner schools at a special event at St Michael's Church. As always, we were really proud of them, and I want to thank Mrs Lester and Miss Barrie for all their hard work and rehearsals.

Then this week, our fabulous Key Stage One children shone on stage in their production of 'Lights, Camels, Action!' I thoroughly enjoyed the show and was so impressed by the acting, singing, dancing and confidence! They really are super stars! This felt even more special, as it was our first Christmas performance with an audience since the pandemic. We absolutely understand what a key moment in their, and your, lives an infant

Christmas production is, so we were all genuinely moved and so happy to put it on this year. We were incredibly proud of the children and how well they did, and I would also like to say a big thank you to all the staff who made it possible - from rehearsals to staging and props, an incredible amount of work goes into productions, so thank you to all the staff for your hard work.

We were also thrilled to start what we hope will be a new yearly tradition with our Carols by Candlelight event. We hope you enjoyed the evening and it put you in the Christmas Spirit!

We also had a fabulous day out at the Floral Pavilion last week to watch their production of Cinderella. Thanks to the PTA we embarked on a mission like we have never done before and took the whole school out! A lot of time, planning and preparation went into coordinating six coaches, helpers, volunteers, refreshments and much more! But it was absolutely worth it as the children had an amazing time! I want to say a big thank you to Mrs Corr who did all the planning, and to Janine from the

PTA for organising the afternoon. Thank you to all the helpers who came with us and did a brilliant job of supervising and helping. Just as we were setting off from school, the hail started, and by the time we arrived in New Brighton, we were greeted by a frozen, white landscape! This just added to the magical feel, and it was an afternoon the children will definitely remember! The PTA made it possible, but I also want to say thank you to everyone, as it has been your generosity and support at PTA events over the years that allowed it to happen. So on behalf of all the children, thank you.



OFSTED

As you know, on 1st and 2nd November, we received our Ofsted inspection as part of the schedule of inspection of all state schools. The report is now available on the Ofsted website. I hope you enjoyed reading it and we are delighted with the outcome of 'Good' in all areas.

The opening line of the report reads "Pupils love coming to school". We couldn't be happier with that statement as it captures so much of what we strive to achieve at St Joseph's – a school where children are happy, safe and thrive. I want to say a massive thank you to my caring and dedicated staff, and all the parents who support us and entrust their precious child into our care. And of course, I thank the children as it is such a joy to work with them. I am so proud of all that we have achieved, and this Ofsted judgement is external validation of a great school.

Welcome

This term, we say hello and welcome to Ave, Karol, Padre, Pedro, Dawin, and Jasper who have all started with us during this half term. It has been lovely meeting you and I hope you have settled in to life at St Joseph's.

Catering

I would like to share with you that when we return in January, we will be moving to a new catering provider. From January, our catering will be provided by Innovate (part of Impact Food Group IFG). Innovate will be launching exciting new and delicious menu options. We will write to you with more details in the New Year. As our current provider, Edsential, have some stock to use up we may be altering next week's lunch options to use up produce.

Head Boy and Head Girl

It brings me great joy to introduce our new Head Boy and Head Girl. These positions are elected from our team of Year 6 Prefects and are voted for by their

peers. Our New Head boy is Finley and

our new Head Girl is Olivia. We also have a Deputy Head boy, James, and two Deputy Head Girls, Grace and Jennifer.

Congratulations to all of you. I am extremely grateful to all of our Year 6 Prefects and Play Leaders who give up their own time to help with key jobs across the school. So thank you.



Fundraising

We are regularly given reason to be amazed by our children and this half term has been no different. In amongst all of their day to day hard work, care and great attitudes, the children find time to organise fundraising and charity events for good causes. Thank you to everyone who has donated items for the Charles Thompson Toy appeal, for our uniform Free Cycle system and for various other events and collections.

Early in November we participated in the Poppy appeal and had poppies available for the children to make donations towards the British Legion. One of our Year 5 girls went the extra mile and painstakingly made hundreds of paper chains to sell alongside the poppies and raised an extra £70 towards the cause!

I have also been made aware of an amazing feat of kindness and compassion by Sienna in Year 1. Sienna was listening to the radio and heard an advert for Claire House. She was really moved by this amazing charity and so has taken on the task of a sponsored 20 mile walk with all proceeds going to support the poorly children at Claire House. So far she has raised more than £200! Sienna has a Just Giving page - 'Sienna's fundraiser for Claire House Children's Hospice'.

Thank you to both of these girls for going that extra mile, Stepping Up and really putting our Mission of 'Love One Another' into action.

Prayer 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.

