



## Head-lines

Sadly, I write this edition of our end of term newsletter from isolation as I tested positive for Covid last week. I hope I'm over the worst of it and feeling better for Christmas. It has served as a timely reminder to be grateful for what we have. Letters to Father Christmas and presents are special and lovely, but this Christmas, let's also be grateful for those who care for us, look after us and love us. Health and happiness are the things that truly matter. I wish both of these in abundance to you and your families this Christmas. With best wishes, Mr Turner

## Opportunity



Here at St Joseph's, our Vision and Values thread through everything we do. We have so much to be proud of, and this term we have lots of occasions where our core value of Opportunity has been lived out. From singing to sports, the children have absolutely dazzled us with their amazing talents and gifts.

The choir have been particularly busy, performing at a range of events, including the annual switch on of the Oxton Village Christmas lights. Earlier in the year, we were contacted by Wirral Council asking our choir to perform at a very special event. Paul O'Grady was posthumously awarded the Freedom of the Borough for all his amazing work for our region. His family were presented with the award at a special ceremony at

the Town Hall and our choir were asked to perform a medley of some of his favourite songs.

Our KS1 children worked incredibly hard and put on an absolutely amazing show for our Christmas concert. The Bethlehem Bakeoff had it all - comedy, song, great acting and a special message about the meaning of Christmas. We were all so proud of the children and thought they gave an amazing performance.

We are really excited to be working with the Liverpool Empire Theatre on a special performance of Madagascar. Mrs Lester is running an after school drama club and rehearsals are well underway. Our young thespians will be performing a scene from the play on the actual stage at the Empire, with a real audience! Then later in the Summer, Year 6 will take the lead roles with support from KS2 as the Summer production.



We have also had lots of sporting success, including football at an EFC tournament, the return of the annual darts championship, and several cross country meets, with our own Sophia even placing first at a big Wirral event in Birkenhead Park!

We are so proud of all the children, and we think it is really important to give them lots of opportunities to show their talents and skills outside of the classroom. We look forward to many

more events next term.



# Welcome!

A very warm welcome to Lydia, Lucas and Daniel who have started with us this half term. I hope you have all settled in and feel part of the St Joseph's family



## Parent Governor

Earlier this year, we recruited for a vacancy we had on our Governing Body for a Parent Governor. I am delighted to let you know that Miss Beth McDevitt came forward and has joined the team. Beth joins Mrs Dawn Crawford as our Parent Governor representatives and the rest of our Governing Body.

## Curriculum Projects

This year, there are two exciting curriculum projects we would like to share with you. The first is our work with the Laurel Trust, looking at the impact of 'authentic' learning experiences to share and celebrate children's work. Research has shown that providing learners with opportunities to share their work with wider audiences, particularly with 'experts' in the field, has a positive impact on engagement, motivation and retention of learning. This includes opportunities for children to share their work with each other, with parents/carers, and the wider community. Previous work we have done on these lines has seen children write letters to their local MP about the importance of environmental issues. These letters really motivated the children, and even resulted in Mick Whitley MP visiting the school to talk to the children about what he hopes to take back to Parliament about the issues they raised. Over the course of the year, staff will be looking at planning and finding opportunities to create this 'authentic audience' approach so we can't wait to share more with you.

We are also delighted to be working alongside Speech and Language UK on a project on Vocabulary, Communication and Language across the school. Having good levels of language and communication is really important so that we can convey thoughts and feelings. Boosting children's vocabulary across the school is a central piece of work we are undertaking, supported by Speech and Language UK who have visited and delivered staff training on questioning to promote vocabulary development. This is a really fascinating area and staff enjoyed the challenge of reflecting on how questions can be adapted. We are sure this project will have a huge impact and we will be sending home further materials over the next two terms.



A reminder that we close for Christmas on Thursday 21st December and re open on Monday 8th January 2024. To finish the term, next week we have our Carols by Candlelight event on Tuesday 19th at 6.30pm in school. PTA Grotto on Wednesday 20th and then the last day is Thursday 21st. On the 21st, the children will join in with class Christmas parties and celebrations.

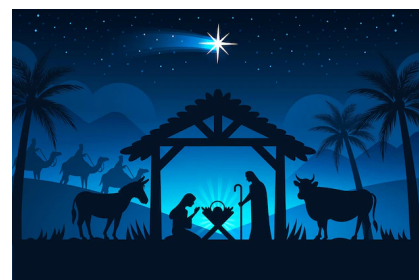
## Attendance

Overall attendance for the Autumn term is 94.6%

Thank you for working with us and ensuring your child has good attendance. Please do keep this up during the Spring term as it is really important that children are in school regularly .

## 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.