



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Headteacher: Dr N Fernandes Viana
Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mr K Bowles



Jesus said: 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'.

19th December 2023

Dear Children, Parents, Staff and Governors,

This is our final newsletter of the calendar year, and indeed a special one. In the past ten days or so, our fantastic children from **Nursery to Y2 have performed Nativities** with reverence and joy. They have been a credit to themselves, parents and indeed all members of our school community. **Additionally, our KS2 Carol Service** was wonderful and children across the school performed and read beautifully. **Thank you to all who helped facilitate this wonderful service which brought hope, joy and the true meaning of Christmas to us all.**

Some children from year 6 visited Leonora House last week to delight the elderly residents with their beautiful carol singing while a group of **Y4 children joined in the multi-faith celebrations of Hanukkah at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue on St. John's Wood Road.** In both events, our children were complimented and praised for their reverence, respect and willingness to develop their understanding of other faiths.

Our Year 5 children visited Lord's to sing Christmas Carols as part of their community outreach project. I have had a wonderful emailing thanking the class for their beautiful singing **Thank you to all the children for their participation and representing our school.**

After school clubs will resume in the New Year. On our second week back, week beginning 15th January. For externally provided clubs, please see their respective websites for booking details. For Monday clubs which are run by school staff please see Mr Bowles or Mrs Harrington.

I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs. Moulinet and Sr. Brigid for their help with our Pupil Chaplaincy Group. It is wonderful to see children taking ownership in this way.

Thank you also to Fr. Kevin and Fr. Alex for their wonderful work with the children guiding them through Bible Stories, the Rosary and Advent, to name but a few. Our children and staff have benefited greatly from the close interaction enabling us all to grow closer to Jesus.

I would like to say a special thank you to all of our staff. Their commitment, dedication and adaptability to ever changing circumstances ensures that our children are given the most enriching and nurturing curriculum experience possible. I am sure you will join me in thanking our wonderful team here at St. Joseph's Catholic school.

Fit for Sport will be running their usual holiday club from Tuesday 2nd January until Friday 5th January 2024. Booking details are on their website as usual.

Finally, we say a very fond farewell to Steve Turner who has been an invaluable member of the St. Joseph's team since 2009. We have been truly blessed to be given so much dedication, support and expertise through all of the countless Summer Fairs, Nativity preparations, Coffee Mornings and innumerable fundraisers. Steve's commitment, loyalty, steadfastness and devotion to St Joseph's have been proven through the countless Nativity productions – stage up, stage down, stage this way, stage that way – the innumerable Summer Fairs – giving up his precious weekend to ensure all runs smoothly – and weekly

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assemblies, parties – for children and parents – charity initiatives – Macmillan Coffee mornings – Winter Galas, Auctions, Stars in their Eyes and so much more.

Steve's understanding of the workings of the fabric of the school is laudable and, his vast knowledge encompasses so much from ladder locations to coffee urns, barbecue grills and outdoor heaters to extra tables and chairs, central heating switches to fire drills, boilers to bunting and SO MUCH MORE.

I know you will join me in wishing Steve every possible happiness in his retirement and it would be wonderful if parents could join **us tomorrow morning at 9am for Steve's farewell assembly**. We know that you will join us in thanking Steve for everything that he has done to ensure that the school runs smoothly, that the staff are supported, that the children are safe and happy and that the parents have successful events and fundraisers.

From all the staff here, we all wish you and your families a **Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Children return to school on Monday 8th January**. We look forward to welcoming you all back then.

With best wishes,

Dr N. Viana
Mr K Bowles