



Monday 28th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome to Advent!

"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

Jesse Tree Service:

The parish of St. Joseph's has now decided to amend the time of the Jesse Tree Service to coincide with the **2nd Sunday of Advent**, which will enable the maximum number to join in this wonderful Advent celebration. On the 2nd Sunday of Advent the first reading is Isaiah 11:1-10 which begins "A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse" – how appropriate for our Jesse Tree celebration!

Everyone is invited to join in the decoration of the Jesse Tree **which has now been rearranged for Sunday 4th December @ 10.00 in St Joseph's church**, as a part of our Service of the Word of God, Prayer and Music, including a Children's Liturgy. After the service, the celebration will continue over tea and coffee in the parish centre.

E-Payments:

We are finally able to accept e-payments for school dinner monies! From January 2023, we aim to go cashless for all dinner money and breakfast club payments, and, wherever possible, extra-curricular visits, trips and residentials. Miss Thompson and Mrs Handley have added all outstanding balances to the system so that it accurately reflects the account system. As always, should you have any difficulties, then please contact us so we can resolve your query.

Parents of Year 6 children – you can now pay for Robinwood online.

Parents of Year 3 children – you will shortly be receiving a letter detailing an educational visit to the Great North Museum on 13th December 2022 – you can send us your contribution via SchoolGateway.

Parents of Year 5 children – due to the cancelled visit to St. Mary's Heritage Centre, your contribution has been carried forward and put towards a new visit to the Discovery Museum on Wednesday 11th January 2023, in which school are heavily subsidising the workshop and transportation (we won't put this on SchoolGateway as you have already paid for this).

Thank you for your patience.

Nativity Tickets:

We set-up our Nativity Tickets on the understanding that parents could buy more than one ticket per transaction – but unfortunately, it appears that this hasn't been the case! Therefore, we've amended the payment request so that you can select the number of tickets in one go, rather than having to purchase each ticket on a separate transaction. For Reception pupils, due to the size of our hall, we ask you to bring a maximum of three people per child – thank you for your understanding!

Message from Liz Twist MP:

Over the last few years, we have had an annual Christmas card competition among the schools across the constituency and the entries have always been incredible. I am excited to say that I will be holding another competition this year. 2022 has been a year with lots of twists, but we have also had a lot to celebrate, England's Lionesses won the European Championship, the Queen celebrated her 70-year platinum jubilee and Britain also hosted some incredible events, such as Women's European Championships and the Commonwealth Games. This year I thought it would be good



for a theme of 'celebration of 2022' to give the children a chance to show what they have loved and appreciated of the year 2022.

Should children wish to participate in the competition, then please complete them at home and return them to school and St. Joseph's will choose four winners (two from both schools, by Friday 2nd December) to go forward to the overall competition for the winning submission

Yours sincerely, Liz Twist MP Member of Parliament for Blaydon.

All submissions should be on an A4 sheet of paper.

Admissions:

Our admissions policies for both St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and St. Joseph's Catholic Junior Schools are now live for consultation for 2024-2025. Please contact the school office by January 27th should you have any queries or questions to make.

Dates for the Diary (Please note that dates are subject to change):

Thursday 1st December – Gymnastics Club Gymnastics Festival

Friday 2nd December – Year 2 and Year 5 Reading Buddies – PM session

Sunday 4th December – Jesse Tree Service in St. Joseph's Catholic Church – 10:00am

Tuesday 13th December – Reception Performance - 10am – at St. Joseph's Infants

Tuesday 13th December – Year 3 Visit to Great North Museum

Thursday 15th December – KSI Performances - 10am and 2pm – at St. Joseph's RC Church

Tuesday 20th December – KS2 Carol Service – 5pm at St. Joseph's RC Church, Birtley (arrive 4:45pm)

Wednesday 21st December – Singing Clubs to sing at Komatsu, Magician at both schools

Thursday 22nd December – Christmas party day (non-uniform)

Wednesday 11th January – Year 5 Visit to Discovery Museum

Tuesday 24th January – Reception Rocket Phonics Workshop – 8:45am for a 9am start

Friday 3rd February – Year 1 Mathematics Workshop - 8:45am for a 9am start

Friday 3rd March – Reception Mathematics Workshop - 8:45am for a 9am start

Sunday 15th January 2023 – Admission portal closes for Reception and Year 3 admissions – parents need to apply for places for infant pupils transferring to junior school

Please note that St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Saturday Night Vigil Mass commences at 5:00pm on Saturday evenings – you would be most welcome to attend.

Weekday Masses occur at Church, on most Tuesdays (7pm), Thursdays (12 noon) and Fridays (10am).

Visit: [St Joseph's Birtley Bulletins \(stjosephsbirtley.co.uk\)](http://stjosephsbirtley.co.uk) for more information