



Friday 16th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

A couple of reminders:

As per holiday term dates which were sent out last year, school is closed on Friday 23rd December 2022 and Monday 9th January 2023, for staff Inservice Training (INSET). **We reopen to pupils on Tuesday 10th January 2023.**

Parking:

We know that parking is problematic for both schools; however, we particularly ask you to not park in residents' bays at St. Joseph's Catholic Junior School. We know that recently, several parents have parked in bays marked: 'Residents only' (the first two bays closest to the houses). We have good neighbours who understand the schools' parking difficulties but please help us to keep a positive relationship with them, by finding alternative places to park.

Key Stage 2 Carol Service:

Our Key Stage 2 Carol Service commences on Tuesday 20th December, at 5pm. We respectfully request that you arrive no earlier than 4:30pm and no later than 4:50pm. To keep everyone safe on the evening, we ask you to handover the children to staff members, who will be standing at the side-altar - awaiting their arrival. Once children have been handed over, you will be able to find a seat.

When all of the children have arrived, we will then put them into position on the sanctuary.

At the end of the performance, and to ensure everyone's safety, children will be dismissed class by class so that staff are confident that children are handed over to their parents/carers, at the end of the service.

As you enter church, you will also be able to support our Christmas raffle, at £1 a strip. We have some fantastic prizes including: signed NUFC football shirt, 4 tickets for a Birtley Town Football Club match and a Birtley Town FC scarf, board games, tutoring vouchers, a Teepee sleepover courtesy of TTents, as well as an alcoholic beverage (or two!), hair products and vouchers (from Hair Flair) and a month's free Irish dancing introductory course courtesy of the Fagan School of Irish Dancing. **A huge thank you to all those who have donated towards our raffle – we are very grateful for your support.** The raffle will be drawn on the last day of term.

Reminder: After-school clubs are not on next week! Thank you!

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE - 5.00pm St Joseph Birtley (Carols from 4.30pm)

SUNDAY 25th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY - 10.00am St Joseph Birtley 10.00am

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

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)

Tuesday 10th January – School open to pupils for spring term return

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

St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School
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Email: stjosephsjuniorslearning@gatedu.org

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



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