



**St. Joseph's
Catholic Infant
& Junior Schools**
Birtley



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Friday 13th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas Cards

This year, we are delighted that our children have taken part in the exciting School Fundraising Company Rudolph Cards Personalised Merchandise Extravaganza. At the beginning of the week, your child(ren) were sent home with their Christmas card design order form. Please remember to fill out your order forms and return them to the school no later than **Monday 16th October**. This is to ensure all orders can be taken and that there is plenty of time your personal products to be made and arrive for the festive season. Unfortunately, if any orders are given to us after this date, they will not be accepted by the School Fundraising Company.



Harvest Festival:



We are fast approaching Harvest Festival time. Normally we celebrate Harvest Festival with a wonderful Mass. This year, our efforts are required more than ever and we have received requests from a number of charities who have asked us donate to their causes. Our staff have collectively decided that 'The People's Kitchen' will receive the school's Harvest collection, whose mission is to support homeless and disadvantaged people in the Newcastle area.

We will celebrate Harvest Festival on **Friday 20th October at 2pm in St. Joseph's Church**. As our Harvest festival is later in the day, we will have time to drop off items at church on the day for our Harvest display – so please feel free to bring donations to school.

The list this year specifies that The People's Kitchen are particularly short of:

<i>Tinned Curry</i>	<i>Tinned Chilli</i>	<i>Tinned Meatballs</i>
<i>Tinned Bolognese</i>	<i>Tinned Burgers</i>	<i>Tinned Potatoes</i>
<i>Tinned Pies</i>	<i>Cereal</i>	<i>Long life Milk</i>
<i>Jars of Italian, Indian, Chinese cooking sauces</i>		<i>Bottles/Cans of drinks</i>

Winter Discos



The winter discos will be taking place on Tuesday 14th November, at The Catholic Club in Birtley. The first disco will start at 4pm-5:15pm for the infants, and the junior disco will run from 5:15-6:30pm. The discos will be run by Candy Kids Entertainment, the children will have the chance to take part in games to win prizes, sing along to their favorite songs and dance with their friends. Alongside the entertainment provided, we will have a face painting station and a tuck shop for the children to get a drink and some treats at a small cost if they would like. If any parents/carers would like to volunteer to support us e.g. running the tuck shop, or face painting (we hear some of our parents have excellent artistic skills!!!), then please contact us ASAP and we will arrange for you to have a DBS check. For those children in attendance at an after-school club in the INFANT school (only) – we will arrange to take children across the road.

Tickets can be purchased on Arbor for £2.50 per child from today until Friday 10th November. If anybody is financially struggling, please contact the school office.

Side by Side Arts

There are still places available for musical peripatetic tuition. The tuition is carried out during the school day and run by the very talented and experienced Side by Side Arts team. Please use the link to sign-up – if anybody is struggling financially but would like their child to access piano or guitar tuition, then please contact the school. These paired lessons are available for all pupils in Year 1 upwards.



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc3_E90rcEbWkl2vsa67I5UHB9hV5bwLO3HBF62timeuBlh3w/viewform?usp=sf_link

Parents' Evenings

All parents' evening appointments are available to book for Monday 6th and Wednesday 8th November. These appointments can be booked through Arbor, under the 'Guardian Consultations'. If you have any difficulties booking through Arbor, please contact one of the school offices and we can assist you. The appointments are starting to fill up quickly so, if you haven't already, book your slot. When booking, please remember that you only need to book one appointment for one day. The appointments are running over 2 days to hopefully accommodate everyone.

Arbor – Personal Information Updates

Now that we are fully using Arbor as a school and everyone is getting used to it, please could you check over all your child's personal data, allergies and dietary requirements. Please also ensure that all their emergency contact details are correct (email addresses and telephone numbers) along with contact details for any friends or relatives that may be collecting your child from school. This will help us keep all records up to date, accurate and ensure that no communications are missed. If you are experiencing any problems doing so, please contact or visit one of the school offices. Also, if you are still not signed up to Arbor, please visit one of the school offices as a matter of urgency to ensure you are not missing any communications or payments.



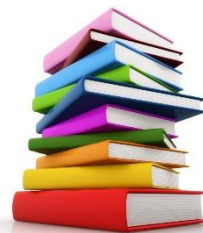
Children in Need

Together, we will all be celebrating Children in Need on Friday 17th November 2023. We invite everyone to dress up in their best spotty or yellow outfits for Pudsey and to donate through the QR code here. We are supporting BBC Children in Need raising money to make big changes to little lives across the UK. No donations are too big or too small. There will be more information to follow. As well as the children wearing their spotty, yellow outfits, the school cook at the infant school will be providing a Pudsey themed lunch for the infant children, dressing up herself and making some wonderful themed sweet treats.



Scholastic Book Fair 2023

Starting on Thursday 16th November until Thursday 23rd November. Both schools will be hosting a 30-minute book fair every day from 3:15pm for the infants and 3:30 for the juniors. This will be inside one of the classrooms with all the books for you and your child(ren) to browse and purchase. As we are now operating as a cashless school for the most part, there will be no cash taken for this event as Scholastic have provided online payment details which will be displayed around the rooms for you and are very easy to use. The book event will also be supervised by members of staff who can help if needed at the online checkout.



Dates for the Diary

(Please note that these dates are subject to change – Masses will be arranged once our new Parish Priests have arrived):

- Tuesday 17th October – Year 1 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
- Wednesday 18th October – Year 2 Class Visit to The Life Centre, Newcastle
- Thursday 19th October – Mr Taylor Bible Story – 1pm
- Friday 20th October – Harvest Mass – 2pm at St. Joseph's Church
- Wednesday 1st November – Year 4 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am (or as close to as possible)
- Thursday 2nd November – Mr Taylor Bible Stories KS1
- Monday 6th November – Parents' Evenings
- Tuesday 7th November – Reception Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
- Wednesday 8th November – Parents' Evenings
- Monday 13th November – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Parental Workshop – 9am
- Tuesday 14th November – Winter Disco - 4:00pm - 5:15pm for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and KS1, 5:20pm - 6:30pm for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Tickets are available to purchase via Arbor for £2.50.
- Wednesday 15th November – Year 5 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am (or as close to as possible)
- Thursday 16th November – Scholastic Book Fayre
- Friday 17th November – Year 6 Nourish Food School (three sessions)
- Friday 17th November – Reception Phonics Workshop – 9am
- Tuesday 21st November – Year 2 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
- Wednesday 29th November – Year 6 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am (or as close to as possible)
- Tuesday 12th December – EY Christmas Performance - 10am and 2pm (Venue TBC)
- Thursday 14th December – KS1 Christmas Performance – 10am and 2pm in St. Joseph's Church
- Tuesday 19th December – KS2 Christmas Carol Service – 5pm in St. Joseph's Church

Wednesday 20th December – Whole-school to see pantomime at Little Theatre, Gateshead (afternoon)

INSET days:

Friday 22nd December 2023, Monday 24th June 2024, Monday 22nd July 2024, Tuesday 23rd July 2024

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