



OFSTED SAYS GOOD!

The final Ofsted report on St Joseph's has finally been published. It is available on our website now or on Ofsted's website from Monday. Each family should get a hard copy of the report with this newsletter. The overall judgement is that **St Joseph's is now a 'Good School'**. We are very pleased with this judgement as it recognises our improvement since our last inspection in September 2013. The inspectors were very impressed with many aspects of life at St Joseph's but our greatest strength was our children. The way that our children treat each other and take pride in the school in general really stood out for the inspectors. Staff have worked incredibly hard to achieve this improvement in judgement and every one of them deserves my heartfelt thanks. Parents who spoke to the inspectors, or completed the Parent View survey, also played their part in forming the inspectors' opinion that this is a good place for children to come and learn in a safe and caring environment. Thank you to you too.

I have found it very difficult to choose quotes to highlight from the report because there are so many to choose from. Perhaps when you read the report you could try to pick out a quote which really strikes you as true or makes you proud and add it to our Twitter or Facebook page. For those regular social media users, it would be great if you could also include the hashtag #CASTSchools when telling us your views about us and the report. We can use them to celebrate the outcome of the inspection on our website.

Holy Boy

The choir have been working hard over the last few weeks with Mrs Norton and Mr Allen (who has been working with most of the Catholic Primary Schools) in preparation for the performance of Holy Boy. The performance will take place on Sunday afternoon at 3pm in the Cathedral. Everybody is welcome to come along and share in the start of the Advent season with us.

School Mobile Phone / Behaviour Ratings

We hope that the numerous problems with the school mobile phone are sorted out and we have been able to add names that were missing from the contact list to ensure that everybody receives the messages sent out from the phone. For those of you who have not been getting weekly messages about your child's behaviour they should start coming from now on. The number you will get a message from is 07794165080. Most people are told that their child's behaviour rating is a one which means they have been good for the vast majority of the week and any misdemeanours were small ones. Some children get a rating of two which means that either the child has been involved in a more serious incident, a number of smaller incidents or not changed their behaviour when asked to. A rating of three is rare and should not be a surprise to you because an adult from the school should already have talked to you about the reason which would be more serious such as hurting another child or showing a lack of respect.

The phone is not designed to be a second line for phone calls to the school but if you cannot get through to the school number you could text the school mobile to pass on a message.

Advent

The church's season of preparation for Jesus' birth, Advent, begins this Sunday. Unfortunately for those who have bought Advent calendars with 25 doors you won't have enough, and had better get a few extra sweets in!

Seven boys have begun their preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. This rite of preparation will be formally recognised by the parish at 11.00 Mass this Sunday. Joining the children at this Mass would be a good way of starting Advent well.

Attendance

The overall percentage attendance figure for the whole school at the moment is 96.8%. As we have been in school for ten weeks now that means that on average each child would have had one and a half days off school so far this term. However the majority of children have had no time away from school at all which is great because it means those children have been healthy all term. The Educational Welfare Officer visits me monthly to check on children's attendance. Overall percentage is the first thing she looks for. Any child with an attendance percentage less than 90% is classed as a 'Persistent Absentee'. I am quizzed as to the reasons for that level of absence and how we are going to improve it because it is seen as a safeguarding issue. Other things she looks for are the number of periods of absence. If a child is having a day or two off on a number of occasions that rings alarm bells. Unauthorised holidays of course are not allowed. Another pattern she looks for is days of the week that absence falls on. If absences fall on the same day more than twice, again this is an area of concern. She also monitors lateness as this has an affect not only on the late child's progress but it also affects all of the other children in the class. With this newsletter you will get a copy of your child's attendance record so far this year.

We realise that some children do suffer illnesses more than others but equally some parents have a lower threshold for keeping children off school and that may be reflected in your child's attendance record. Please have a look and see if your child's attendance meets any of the warning criteria that the EWO looks out for. If you have any N marks it means we do not have a reason for that absence so could you please call in and let us know the reason.

Term Dates 2017-18

Governors have agreed the term dates for the next academic year to give you plenty of time to plan your holidays so that they do not fall within term times.

Term 1 Tuesday 5th September - Thursday 19th October

Term 2 Tuesday 31st October - Tuesday 19th December

Term 3 Wednesday 3rd January - Thursday 8th February

Term 4 Monday 19th February - Thursday 29th March

Term 5 Monday 16th April - Friday 25th May

Term 6 Monday 4th June - Friday 20th July

**** Monday 7th May is a Bank Holiday****