



# St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

*The family of St. Joseph's loves, learns and grows together as followers of Jesus*

**Fortnightly Newsletter – Friday 26th November 2021**

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## **Statement to Live By**



### **Dear Parents, Guardians**

May I start by thanking all parents and pupils for our recent charitable donations towards the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Children in Need and the SVP Youth biscuit sale. We have raised a combined total of over £700 for these great causes.

Next week, as we enter into the liturgical season of Advent, we will begin to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas preparations and activities have already started with only three weeks left of the Advent Term.

It is a magical time in school with panto visits, carol singing performances, special lunches and Christmas disco. Throughout this term, as always, we have hugely appreciated your patience and support whilst we continue to navigate COVID as a community. We are also painfully aware that as parents, you have missed out on numerous events already and while we are determined to make sure our Christmas celebrations and preparations continue for our pupils, we have had to make the difficult decision to limit the Christmas Fair to pupils only.

Our Advent services will take place both in school and at St Mary's church with Y8 marking Advent for the last time at St Joseph's, by visiting church on 15th December at 1.30 pm. We know you will be sorely disappointed not to be part of this service but it remains impossible for us to organise parental attendance whilst COVID continues to circulate. We currently have 5 pupils awaiting test results self-isolating at St Joseph's. We have a well-ventilated school and seem to be managing COVID well to date.

Staying on the theme of Christmas, if anyone has a Christmas wreath they no longer want or if you would like to donate a wreath to school, please contact the office. I would love to have one for each class if possible. Fresh ones are beautiful but we will, of course, take artificial ones too.

The temperature seems to be dropping gradually at present. Can I take this opportunity to remind parents to make sure children have a warm coat each day as pupils will continue to go outside in the fresh air every day when possible.

We were delighted that our annual panto visit went ahead this year with our Y7 trip to the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, on Wednesday while our Y8 pupils go on 9th December. By all accounts Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was a big hit with both pupils and staff.

Our clubs are still extremely busy with the addition of Miss Mooney's Christmas craft club which started last week. Running, football, golf, music, games and lunchtime clubs are all full. However, if your child would like to join a club please ring the office and we will look into this for you.



Our football teams continue to participate in fixtures with our Y8 boys playing against Ovingham this week. Well done to all the boys that took part. Mr Secker is desperately trying to re-arrange the Y7/8 girls and Y7 boys fixture against Ovingham which was cancelled last week. Parents will be kept informed of any arrangements made.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank teaching assistant Kris Binns who has left us for pastures new. We wish her well in her new role.

A warm welcome must go to Mrs Lorraine Lawson who has joined us as teaching assistant and qualified teacher, Miss Jo McNamara, as our new Cover Supervisor.

### Advent begins:

Advent is the period of **four Sundays and weeks before Christmas** (or sometimes from the 1st December to Christmas Day!). Advent means 'Coming' in Latin. This is the coming of Jesus into the world. Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. As you can see the SVP Youth Team have been spreading their Advent message and the Spiritual Council are going to be leading all the readings and prayers in our Advent Masses.



### Advent Masses:

Both Father Jeff and Father Luke will be coming into school on Wednesday 1st December and Thursday 2nd December to celebrate the beginning of Advent with both KS2 and KS3.



### SVP Youth Team:

Going, going gone!

Our SVP Youth team made and sold 300 biscuits on Tuesday. They raised an astonishing £80.05.

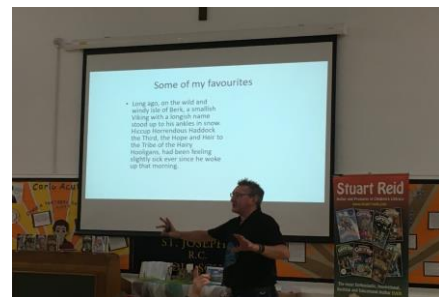
Well done to Miss Dodds and the SVP team for baking all those biscuits and thank you to everyone who bought them.

### Carols in the Car Park:

Following on from the success of last year's event, St Mary's Church Choir are once again hosting the Catholic alternative to T in the Park - Carols in the (Car) Park. This year's event will take place in St. Mary's First School yard from 3:30pm on Sunday 19th December. More details will follow very soon, so Watch This Space!

### Author Visit:

On Wednesday afternoon, our year 5 had a wonderful time listening to the highly enthusiastic Scottish author, Stuart Reid, who looked absolutely resplendent in his kilt! As well as talking about his books: the "Gorgeous George" series, Stuart inspired the children with how to create exciting stories themselves and he recommended other stories that they should read.



### English:

Year 6 are currently reading "The Explorer" by Katherine Rundell, which is set in the Amazon Rainforest. As a homework task, Mrs Coulson's English class created wonderful models to capture their favourite scene from the novel. Well done Y6, you all worked really hard!

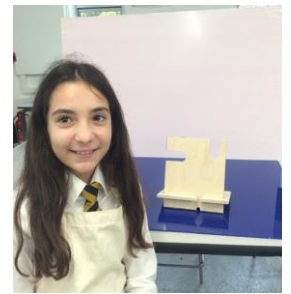


### Y7 Design Technology:

Year 7 pupils have just finished a unit on the sustainability of timber products and the impact of logging on the environment. The unit culminated in the design and make of a Birch Plywood Tablet Stand. Pupils really enjoyed being back in the workshop and learning new practical woodworking skills. For example, learning how to use the wood plane, tenon saw and pillar drill. It was great to see pupils developing the confidence to use tools and machinery independently whilst learning new life skills.

Y7 pupils proudly showing off their finished products:





### **STEM Workshops**

Both year 7 pupils and year 8 pupils participated in a STEM workshop presented by Newcastle University STEM outreach team.

Year 7 had a presentation called 'Chemistry in your shopping basket' which was designed to raise awareness of chemistry and potential careers in chemistry through the idea that chemistry is involved in everything around us, including the content of your supermarket shopping basket. Curriculum links to states of matter, changes of state & properties of materials.

Year 8 had a presentation called 'It's elementary, my dear Watson'. This presentation looked at the properties, reactions and uses of a range of chemical elements. It included an interactive PowerPoint presentation with electronic voting handsets, some spectacular demonstrations and audience participation.

Thanks to Dr Hoare for delivering it and letting the pupils see chemicals and reactions they wouldn't normally see from dry ice to the 'whoosh bottle'!



### **Book Amnesty:**

If you have any children's books that you no longer require Miss Mooney would love them for her class book corner. These can be sent to the school office.

### **Poppy Appeal:**

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. We raised an amazing £252.00 for this very worthy cause.



### **SVP Food Donations:**

The pupils in each class have been very busy this week bringing in food items for the SVP project which is running in school. The SVP are collecting food to give to the vulnerable within our community. Each week the food is weighed and the class with the most is announced in assembly. So far we have accumulated 162kg of food which is an amazing achievement. Thank you to all of the parents for their kind donations. Please keep them coming over the next few weeks.

### **Y6 Trip to Lockerbie Manor:**

The closing date for deposits for the Y6 trip to Lockerbie Manor is Monday 29th November . This is a fantastic opportunity for our Y6 pupils to have fun while learning some new skills. We are looking forward to this residential trip after nearly two years of staying at home.

### **Y5 Trip to Great North Museum - Hancock:**

As part of the Ancient Egypt topic in Y5, we are taking the children to the Great North Museum: Hancock. We will be going on the following dates:

5S: Tuesday 30th November 2021

5M: Wednesday 1st December 2021

The trip will help pupils to understand the value of our local museums as well as bring the ancient civilization to life. We have a variety of activities planned for the pupils to engage them with actually studying the artefacts on display and help enrich their understanding of the topic from their learning in the classroom. Payment for this trip should be made via ParentPay.

### **RSHE learning at St Joseph's:**

We continue to use the 'Life to the Full' programme for the main delivery of our statutory, RSHE curriculum. There is a parent platform available through 10:10, in order for you to keep up-to-date or reflect with your child on the teaching taking place within RE lessons: -

visit: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

And log in:           Username: opp-stjoes-46  
                                  Password: rse-parent-yellow

Should you have any questions regarding any of this, or problems accessing the portal, then please seek help through the school's parent contact email or telephone number.

We also look forward to seeing Dave Burns from BeSafe in the Summer Term to work across all year groups and Sarah Donnison from the Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit to deliver further workshops within KS3.

N.B. RSHE = Relationship, Sex and Health Education

### **Christmas Dinner:**

Christmas dinner at St Joseph's will be on Tuesday 7th December. You have been sent a form via ParentMail to book your child's meal preference for that day. This form must be submitted no later than 7pm, Sunday 28th November to allow the unit manager to place her food orders. Can this also be a reminder to parents to keep dinner money accounts topped up and always in credit.

### **Cross Country:**

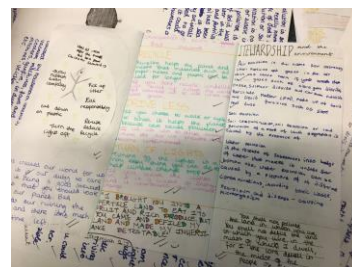
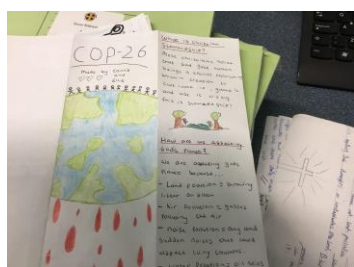
On Monday 15th November 47 of our pupils took part in the Area Cross Country at Ovingham Middle School. Mr Secker was extremely impressed with how all of our pupils performed in the wet and cold conditions. A special mention to Madeleine from 6D who finished third in her race. In Y7 and Y8 the top 16 finishers qualify to compete in the County Cross Country in the new year. The following pupils from our school qualified:

Rose 7H  
Casey 7H  
Max 7H  
Olivia 8C  
Harry 8S

### **ECO Committee**

In Yr 8 RE, we have been studying how God created the world and everything upon it. We understand that He

wants us to be responsible for our planet and all upon it. The pupils have made some excellent Christian Stewardship leaflets full of how and why we need to save our planet. The links to COP26 have been excellent.



### **Year 7 Pantomime Trip:**

After the theatres were closed last year we were delighted to be able to attend the Theatre Royal performance of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs yesterday. The children had a wonderful time being entertained by the likes of Danny Adams and X Factor winner Joe McElderry. Our next trip will be with our year 8 pupils on December 9th.

### **Lost Property:**

We have a number of items in the lost property including this Berghaus coat. If your child is missing anything please ask them to check lost property.



### **Easy Fundraising:**

Fundraising is a little difficult at this particular time whilst we're unable to hold events in person. The school is now registered with easyfundraising, so you can raise FREE donations for us when you do your everyday online shopping. All you have to do is find the retailer you want to shop with on the easyfundraising website or App, shop as usual and the retailer will donate to us when you make a purchase – at no extra cost to you.

Sign up for free at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjosephsmiddlepta/>

### **PTA News:**

#### **Upcoming events:**

03/12/2021 - Christmas Fair - pupils only

10/12/2021 - Christmas Disco

**If you can help out at the fair or disco please contact Eleanor Stoves Tel: 01434 605124**

**Class hampers for the Christmas raffle are as follows:**

5M - Green	7H - Red
5S - Purple	7S - Blue
	7RG - Pink
6D - Silver and Black	8C - Smellies
6H - Orange and Gold	8D - Bottles
	8S - Sweets

Children are asked to bring into school something for their class hamper and Mrs Stoves will be selling raffle tickets every day in school at £1.00 per strip

Donations can be sent into school week beginning 22nd November for the Christmas Fair. Donations needed will be toys, games, soft toys, gift bags, bric a brac, books and one the day cakes and biscuits.

Each class will also be holding their own stall so donations will be needed for your child's stall depending on what they plan to do.

Thank you all for your ongoing support with the PTA .

**Upcoming Events at a Glance:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>Tuesday 30th November</b>	<b>5S to Great North Museum</b>
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>5M to Great North Museum KS3 Advent Mass in school, 2pm</b>
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	<b>KS2 Advent Mass in school, 2pm</b>
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Fair 1pm (pupils only)</b>
<b>Monday 6th December</b>	<b>Assessment Week</b>
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Lunch</b>
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Outreach workshops for Y7 and Y8.</b>
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Year 8 trip to Theatre Royal</b>
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Jumper Day Santa Dash Christmas Disco</b>
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Y5/6 to the cinema</b>
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Y8 to the cinema Y7 film in the hall</b>
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Y8 Christmas Mass at St Mary's Church</b>

### **KS3 Lateral Flow Tests**

Please continue to test twice a week and record your result at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

### **Reporting your test**

You should report your results online straight away, even if your result is negative or void. It's easy to do at: [gov.uk/report-covid19-result](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result)

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

If you have tested positive, you can also check to see if you are eligible for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment.

### **Gospel**

Today's reading is from the Gospel of Luke 21: 25 – 28, 34 – 36

Jesus said to His disciples: "There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand tall, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand. "Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man."

On behalf of Governors and staff, may we wish you a happy weekend.

*Mr P Naughton*

