



The Messenger



November 2019

St Joseph's RCP School.

Limes Avenue,

Darwen,

Lancashire.

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www.stjosephsdarwen.org



Christmas Diary Dates



Fri 6 th Dec	9:00 a.m. Assembly
Wed 11th Dec	2:45 p.m. & 6 p.m. Infant nativity performance
Thur 12 th Dec	Christmas Dinner
Fri 13 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day <i>(Please can Y5 & 6 bring their Christmas jumper in a carrier bag)</i>
Fri 13th Dec	1:45 p.m. Year 5 & Year 6 Carols – at St Edward's R.C. Church
Mon 16th Dec	2:30 p.m. Year 3 / Year 4 Christingle Service
Tue 17 th Dec	PM Infant Christmas Party
Wed 18 th Dec	PM Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas Party
Thur 19 th Dec	PM Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Party
Fri 20th Dec	9:20 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.- Carols around the Christmas Tree with Infant Tableau
Fri 20 th Dec	School closes for Christmas Holidays 1:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

21st December 2019 – 5th January 2020

We're starting to get just a little bit excited in school now as the preparations for Christmas have begun in school. On Friday of course we had our opening event – our Christmas Market. What a fantastic turnout we had, and such a wide variety of lovely stalls to browse.

This has been the first of our big fundraising events this school year. Each year parents support us in so many ways as we try to teach children the importance of helping people in need. This year, like so many schools, we are finding that the cuts to school finances are really beginning to bite deep. We want the very best for all our children – all the time! New technology moves so quickly, and there is so much now that children can learn using devices such as i-pads. Not just having the opportunity to practise on Times Tables Rock Stars and so on, but wonderful apps that enable them to upload their learning into programmes such as Seesaw, which in time will mean parents can login to see their child's learning whenever they want to. Teachers can give feedback to children about their work, without having to spend hours marking each piece. Not only that, but children can enter into new worlds (Mrs Harvey thought we should go on a school trip) – underwater kingdoms, virtual tours of the Rainforest and so on which mean that learning can be brought to life in classrooms in a way that books, however beautiful, can't. In order that we can support the children in this way – we need to add to our i-pads. We need another 28 to make sure that we have one i-pad between four children. Our school funds can buy us 15, but we are hoping to make all our fundraising this year something that is just for us. We want to raise enough money to buy another 13 i-pads – which will cost approximately £4,500. The proceeds from our Christmas market will go towards that target, as will a simply unbelievable anonymous donation of £500 which we received recently. We'll keep you up to date as we move towards our target.

Finally, I want to say how proud I am of all our children. We are currently reviewing our behaviour policy as part of our three year cycle of policy development. Our Junior children have been proving just how independent and sensible they can be by showing us how they are able to come in without having to be lined up from the playground. As always – the children are an absolute credit to you.

Don't forget if you want to know how your child is getting on with their learning, login details are available for Times Table Rockstars and Accelerated Reader alongside the weekly dojos. Let us know if you need them resending!

Reception

Reception children have now settled into school life well! Here is an update of what they have been up to:

Reception just love Wellie Wednesday. Last week they scavenged for autumnal items and made some forest friends which they then stuck to trees.

They have also been looking at different types of buildings and finding the best way to put blocks together so they stand firm. They had a walk around the area to look at all the different types of houses.

Reception are fantastic team players in PE and work together to keep all their treasure safe.



Friday Assembly

All Parents/Grandparents are welcome to join us for Assembly each Friday from 9.00am in School.



Primary School Admissions September 2020

The online application service is now open for Primary School Admissions for September 2020.

If your child is due to start school in September 2019, please follow the link below to apply for a place:

<https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/School-admissions.aspx>

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2020. All applications received before this date will be considered with equal preference using our Admissions Policy 2020/21 which can be found on the school website: www.stjosephsdarwen.org
Offers of places will be sent out in April 2020.



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs from **7.30am** each day until **8.45am**. It costs £2.50 per day or £10.00 per week. If you only need to access the club occasionally this is fine, just bring your child up to the school on the morning you need our exciting service and we will keep them safe and provide a lovely breakfast. If you wish your child to attend Breakfast club please use the side door near the top of the junior playground.

Unfortunately, as we have more children attending Breakfast Club and we have to close the kitchen at 8.25am, breakfast cannot be served to children arriving at or later than 8.20am.

Please ensure that your child has already eaten if arriving after this time.
Thank you.

Some of our children appear to be quite confident that they might be on Father Christmas' 'Good list'. If you think that Santa might possibly call at your house and you are intending to have a bit of a clear out of the toy box, please bear us in mind. Breakfast club are always on the look out for lovely toys that might have been outgrown. Please either pass into breakfast club directly or via the school office. We would be so grateful.



Parking outside school

We are currently having a number of issues with people parking on the yellow zig zag lines outside of school **especially at the end of the school day.**

Please **do not park or stop** on these lines. It is not only illegal but dangerous for our children who need to be able to safely walk on the pavements and cross the road when making their way home.

The voluntary one way system (up Limes Ave and down East Park Ave) is in place to try to ease traffic congestion.

Please be aware that Parking attendants regularly carry out random checks in the area.

Thank you for your consideration.

