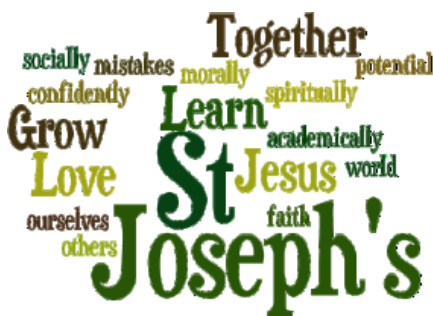


St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



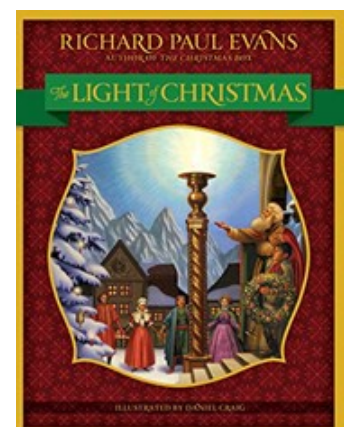
*Gospel Reading for
Sunday 3rd December
1st Sunday in Advent
Mark 13: 33-37*



Head Pupil Message

Evie and Harvey

This week we had our dress the tree assembly, where each class puts tree decorations on our humongous and very beautiful Christmas tree. Mrs O'Kane read a story called 'the Light of Christmas,' by Richard Paul Evans. The story was about a boy, Alexander, who travelled many miles by foot to a city called Noel to see the lighting of the Christmas torch. It was an annual event, except this year the keeper of the Christmas Flame was going to choose a new keeper. The villagers brought different offerings to show the truest gift of Christmas in the hope to be chosen. Whilst travelling to Noel, Alexander met an old man wrapped in cloth lying in the snow, alone and cold. Alexander stopped on his way to help him. He took off his gloves and rubbed the man's cheeks warm. He also gave him the hot cider from his backpack which his mother had intended for him. He left to get help as he was too small to lift the man. However, no-one would leave the city and help—the gates would close and they would miss the ceremony. Alexander went back only to find the old man gone! He trudged back to the closed city gates of Noel and started to weep. Suddenly, the gate opened just a crack and Alexander quickly jumped to his feet and dashed inside to the town centre. The keeper emerged with his bright torch and Christmas wreath and stated, 'Let the offerings begin!'. The people of Noel gave their gifts but only when all the gifts had been given, the keeper said, 'You have given much but only one of you has given well'. The keeper looked out to the crowd and called Alexander over to light the Christmas flame. When Alexander recognised him as the old man in the snow, the keeper announced, 'You all passed by me tonight lying in the snow outside the city gate. Only this boy stopped to help me. In your hurry to keep Christmas, you have forgotten Christmas.' The morale of this story is that the true gift of Christmas is not material gifts, it's love, something that we can all give this Christmas!



SCHOOL KEY INFORMATION

Attendance—Week Ending 1st December 2023

CLASS	%	CLASS	%
RA	81.3	RB	93.8
1JB	89.6	1EB	97.6
2E	93.0	2F	97.7
3GF	95.8	3B	78.8
4D	92.2	4H	99.2
5G	95.4	5C	94.6
6W	95.5	6MT	92.3

Our highest class attendance this week was 4H with 99.2%

They will have additional play next week

Well done!

Whole School Attendance figure this week. 92.4%

Reporting Absences

Please use absence@stjosephschalfont.school to report your child absent from school. Alternatively, 01753 887743 (Option 1) to leave a message on the absence line. Please report absences before 08.30am

Housepoints this week (Running totals)

St David 53 (508)	St George 45 (453)
St Patrick 72 (515)	St Andrew 44 (720)

SCHOOL KEY INFORMATION

FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST COMMUNION

Registration is now open for 2024

Children in Year 3 or above are invited to take part in our First Communion Programme. In a change to previous arrangements, there will be just one programme for all children in the parish, including those who attend St Joseph's School. [Click here for more detailed information and to sign-up.](#) The **deadline for registration is Monday 11 December.**

FOLLOW US



Social Media

Make sure that you keep up to date with all the wonderful and interesting things we are doing in school by regularly checking in to facebook / twitter (X).

Entry to school in the morning

Gentle reminder to everyone that only parents of children in Pre-school and Reception should come onto school grounds in the morning. Children in all other year groups should make their way independently into school. **Under no circumstances should adults enter the school building without coming in through the office and signing in.**

Read Write Inc Phonics

Over the course of next fortnight children will be re-tested and regrouped in line with RWInc protocols of assessing every 6 weeks. Once new groups are established we will send out the usual letter in the book wallet to let you know the group your child has been placed in.

We endeavour to have phonics every morning in the assigned groups, however, there will be occasions where staff absence or alternative activities will impact on this. We never compromise and don't have a phonics input each day. During times when it is not possible to have group phonics we have to adapt, for example, doing whole class phonics or merging groups. There is a virtual classroom from RWInc that supports with this. Therefore, there may at times be disruption to the usual cycle of book changing. Please be assured that we are prioritising sound work and word work on these days—which underpins all reading. Please continue to read together from books outside the scheme to foster your child's love of reading.

All books will be collected in on 8th December and no further books issued this term. Please make sure any books you have at home are sent in so that we can audit this resource.

Children in Grey Group will be assessed on Accelerated Reader before the end of term.



Head Pupils Update

Evie and Harvey

EXCITING NEWS!

Next week our two head pupils will be live on air at 'Radio Christmas' with other pupils from our Academy. We are not quite sure what they will be talking about but will update once we have further information. Watch this space!

On Saturday we had our Christmas Bazaar with many fun games and stalls. Even Santa came to talk to us all. The choir put on an amazing performance and sung 'Walking in the Winter wonderland' and 'All Because Of Him'. The theme for our bazaar was 'Polar Express' and the train and decorations were amazing—all created by FOSJS. The competition of designing a self portrait was judged. The winners were:



Emily Marsh—Year 1



Penelope Glynn—Year 3



The Polar Express



Christmas Hampers

An email attaching these flyers has been sent home giving details of each class's recipient. Donations can be received until Friday, 15th December on which day representatives from St Vincent De Paul will collect the hampers. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Christmas Hampers

This Advent, we will continue to work with The St Vincent de Paul Society at the parish. Please provide one of the following items to help support those in need this Christmas.

RB

Family of 3
Mother in her 50s/son of 18/daughter in her 20s



1

Ideas:
Christmas goods, food tokens, socks, hot water bottle, family game
No toiletries
No alcoholic items

Christmas Hampers

This Advent, we will continue to work with The St Vincent de Paul Society at the parish. Please provide one of the following items to help support those in need this Christmas.

RA

Family of 3 generations
Grandad in late 80s/mother/sons aged 13 and late 20s



2

Ideas:
Christmas food/goods, milk chocolates, anything with the theme of: music, camping, cycling, adventure for the boys
No alcoholic items

Christmas Hampers

This Advent, we will continue to work with The St Vincent de Paul Society at the parish. Please provide one of the following items to help support those in need this Christmas.

1JB

Family of 3 generations
Couple in their 50s/son aged 14/daughter in early 20s/granddaughter of 5



3

Ideas:
Any groceries, sweets, cakes, chocolate, food tokens, toiletries (gel/shampoo/hand cream) socks, gloves etc.
No alcoholic items

Christmas Hampers

This Advent, we will continue to work with The St Vincent de Paul Society at the parish. Please provide one of the following items to help support those in need this Christmas.

1EB

Mother with daughter in her early 20s



4

Ideas:
Christmas food/goods, food tokens, scarf, gloves, toiletries, accessories etc.
No alcoholic items

Christmas Hampers

This Advent, we will continue to work with The St Vincent de Paul Society at the parish. Please provide one of the following items to help support those in need this Christmas.

2E

An elderly lady



6

Ideas:
Mostly non-perishable items, Christmas goods
No alcoholic items

Christmas Hampers

This Advent, we will continue to work with The St Vincent de Paul Society at the parish. Please provide one of the following items to help support those in need this Christmas.

2F

Ladies in their early 40s and 50s



5

Ideas:
Christmas food and small goods, chocolate, toiletries, candles
No alcoholic items

Christmas Hampers

This Advent, we will continue to work with The St Vincent de Paul Society at the parish. Please provide one of the following items to help support those in need this Christmas.

3GF

A group of care home residents



7

Ideas:
Little useful gifts - little hand creams, little toiletries, soft cakes and biscuits, items to make them smile
No alcoholic items

Christmas Hampers

This Advent, we will continue to work with The St Vincent de Paul Society at the parish. Please provide one of the following items to help support those in need this Christmas.

3B

Mother with 4 children
Girls 9 & 11/Boys 14 & 17



8

Ideas:
Non-perishable items: pasta, rice, soups, noodles pack, jam, tuna cans, chocolates, cakes, Christmas goods, food tokens, little things for children
No alcoholic items

Advent Calendars

Christmas Hampers

This Advent, we will continue to work with The St Vincent de Paul Society at the parish. Please provide one of the following items to help support those in need this Christmas.



9

4H

Mother with 7 children
Girls aged 1, 10, 11, 13, 14, 18 and boy of 15

Ideas:
Christmas food/goods, toiletries
No alcoholic items

Christmas Hampers

This Advent, we will continue to work with The St Vincent de Paul Society at the parish. Please provide one of the following items to help support those in need this Christmas.



10

4D

An expectant mother with a son aged 4

Ideas:
Christmas food/goods, something for the
mum, kids books, toys
No alcoholic items

Christmas Hampers

This Advent, we will continue to work with The St Vincent de Paul Society at the parish. Please provide one of the following items to help support those in need this Christmas.



11

5G

A couple with 4 children
Girls 8 & 13/Boys 15 & 16

Ideas:
Christmas food/goods, toiletries, girls leg warmer,
anything pink, any therapeutic, colouring book,
socks, anything with tennis or basketball theme
No alcoholic items

Christmas Hampers

This Advent, we will continue to work with The St Vincent de Paul Society at the parish. Please provide one of the following items to help support those in need this Christmas.



12

5C

Six refugee women of 30s-60s

Ideas:
Christmas goods, treats, sweets, chocolate, little
cakes, any useful items, little bags, rucksacks
No cans or no big food items
No alcoholic items

Christmas Hampers

This Advent, we will continue to work with The St Vincent de Paul Society at the parish. Please provide one of the following items to help support those in need this Christmas.



13

6MT

Seven refugee women of 30s-60s

Ideas:
Toiletries: shampoo, shower gel, hand cream,
body cream etc. Stationery (writing paper, pens,
notebook, diary) socks, tights, scarves, gloves,
things to keep them warm.
No alcoholic items

Christmas Hampers

This Advent, we will continue to work with The St Vincent de Paul Society at the parish. Please provide one of the following items to help support those in need this Christmas.



14

6W

Five refugee children
Girls age 8 & 13/Boys aged 8/1yr old baby boy.

Ideas:
Toys, hats, scarves, books, toiletries

Christmas Hampers

This Advent, we will continue to work with The St Vincent de Paul Society at the parish. Please provide one of the following items to help support those in need this Christmas.



15

Pre School/Staff

Three elderly ladies

Ideas:
Non-perishable items, some small
Christmas goods, cakes, tiny plants
No alcoholic items

Christmas Hampers

This Advent, we will continue to work with The St Vincent de Paul Society at the parish. Please provide one of the following items to help support those in need this Christmas.



15

Staff

Three elderly ladies

Ideas:
Non-perishable items, some small
Christmas goods, cakes, tiny plants
No alcoholic items

Each class, from Pre-school to Year 6, will be creating an Advent Hamper. Children will have the opportunity to contribute a special item of food or a gift to a hamper, which the parish representatives for St Vincent de Paul will deliver in time for Christmas.

Stationery Shop

The stationery shop is open every morning from 8.30-8.45 at the Key Stage 1 Hall door.

Please see items on sale below and the price list.



Pritt Stick Glue £1.50

Sharpener 70p / 30p

Eraser 30p

Pencil 30p

White board marker 70p

Highlighter £1

Ruler 50p

Handwriting Pen £1

Purple Pen 50p



*Have a lovely weekend -
St. Joseph's School*

