



NEWSLETTER

*We are growing together on our journey of achievement
with Jesus in our hearts, heads and hands.*

www.stjosephs.bracknell-forest.sch.uk

Dear Parents:

Although this term seems to have gone by very quickly, it has been a **very** long term and the children and staff will all be more than ready for the holidays to begin on Friday 20th December. School will close at 2.30 pm on Friday afternoon. Please remember that there is no After School Club on this day.

Our festive celebrations began with The Matchstick Girl's Christmas' which was one of the best nativity plays I have experienced. Thanks must go to the Key Stage I teachers and Teaching Assistants as the singing and atmosphere are just right. Next week we will be treated to the wonderful Nativity performances from our Year R and Footsteps Nursery on Monday, 16th December at 2pm and on Tuesday at 9.15am.

Carol Singing: We will have our joint Parish Carol Singing at St. Joseph's Church on Tuesday 17th December at 6pm. We expect all KS2 children to attend this event as it is a chance to support the parish and Fr. Danny. Light refreshments will be available in the Church Hall after the Carol Singing.

On November 26th, all the children enjoyed the Christmas Pantomime 'The Wizard of Oz'.

YR and Y1 have the extra treat of travelling to Norden Farm Theatre to watch the 'The Bear' this Thursday.

We have an extra and final treat for all the children on our last day of school Friday 20th December.

After School Activities: You can sign up for After School Activities for the Spring Term up until Wednesday 18th December on Parentmail.

Registrations close on Wednesday 18th December and clubs will start the **first** week back Tuesday 7th.

After School Club (ASC): We have reviewed the cost of the After-School Club. We have not increased costs since 2012 despite the increases in staff salaries. For all children booked in on a pattern of nights, we will keep our present cost until the end of the Summer Term. From September 2020, we intend to increase the cost from £8 per session to £10. I would strongly urge all parents to apply for TAX -Free Childcare. You can get up to £500 every 3 months for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. You can get Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as 30 hours free childcare if you're eligible for both. Tax- Free Childcare is only available for parents who attend the After-School Club and is not available for the After-School Activities.

For more information about Tax Free childcare and how to apply, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

AD-HOC After-School Club: We have increased our places in the ASC and have more availability for AD- HOC bookings. However, the cost for AD- HOC will be £10 from January 2020 and will rise to £12 in September 2020. This is due to the extra administration ad-hoc booking take.

Birthdays: We would like to remind parents that Birthday Treats are no longer allowed. On their special day, the children wear a large Birthday Badge so that everyone can wish them a Happy Birthday throughout the day.

IDL: The school have purchased a highly recommended online programme – IDL - to help with English and Mathematics. A number of children in KS2 have access to the site. This online programme can be used instead of having a tutor.

If your child has access, please encourage them to go online at least twice a week. Please read how you can download the app using an iPad or Android.

Using an iPad: If you are using an iPad to access IDL then you will need to install the FREE app available from the **Apple App Store**. To find this you can browse the App Store for IDL2 Mobile or if you are on the iPad now just click the link below:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/idl2-mobile/id1439882415?ls=1&mt=8>

Using an Android tablet such as a Samsung

Galaxy: If you are using an Android tablet to access IDL then you will need to install the FREE app available from the **Google Play Store**. To find this you can browse the Play Store for IDL2 Mobile or if you are on the tablet now just click the link below:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.idlsgroup&hl=en_GB

RYG: The Year 6 children returned from their residential trip to Rhos Y Gwaliau on Saturday afternoon. They had had a busy, exciting, (not to mention refreshing!) week in the Welsh mountains but everyone felt it was well worth it! The children were all very well behaved – a credit to themselves, their parents and St Joseph's School. A very special thank you must go to the members of staff who attended with the children; Mrs Dunlop, Mrs. Perrett, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Moloney, Mr. Roberts and Mr O'Connor. It would not be possible for the children to go on these activity weeks away were it not for the generosity of the staff prepared to give up their time to accompany them. A special thank you to the parents who provided a goodie box for the adults – this was very thoughtful, and the staff really appreciated the contents.

ESAFETY: During the holidays, many children enjoy immersing themselves in games - and some will even get new ones in their stockings. But did you know that lots of games include features such as loot boxes which can introduce children to gambling-like behaviours?

The **Gaming or Gambling resource pack** from Parent Zone and Gamble Aware is full of info and expert advice that **parents, carers and**

professionals can use to help children be safer and have fun over the Winter months. For further information please [Download now](#)

Santa @ The Lane: Junior Robins' partner Bracknell Town will be holding a very special event for our younger players and their siblings - "**Santa @ The Lane**". The event will be on *Saturday December 21st from 9:00am - 11:00am* and The Junior Robins would love to see as many players from our programs as possible come down and visit. It will also give you the opportunity to see Bracknell Town FC's amazing facility and family orientated environment. The address is: Bracknell Town FC, Larges Lane, Bracknell, RG12 9AN. Hoping to see you all there!

Family Learning, Bracknell Library:



Mondays 9:30am-11am
18th & 25th Nov 2nd, 9th &
16th Dec

Literacy, numeracy & practical activities to support your child's learning with qualified teacher, Anika. **£1.50 per child**
Book your place via the Library or www.bracknellforest/libraries/events

AUTISM

Thinking Autism Road Show: Thinking Autism are holding an event for Autism Parents on Thursday 6th February from 10am – 2pm at the Reading Quaker Meeting House, 2 Church St, Reading, RG1 2SB. The cost is £10 (but TA members will receive a refund after they attend the event). For details on how to book visit: thinkingautism.org.uk/events.

Family Matters Training – ASD Family help: FREE six-week training course – January 2020 in Bracknell. Skills to help with relationships, financial understanding & to improve mental well-being for families affected by autism at the The Open Learning Centre, Rectory Lane, Bracknell, RG12 7GR from 9.45-11.45am, every Friday starting on 10th January to Friday 14th February 2020. All 6 sessions should be attended to complete the course, as each session interlinks. Refreshments available. To book a place please email: jayne@asdfamilyhelp.org or phone 07733601755

Domestic Abuse: Refuge is proud to have run the 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline as a sole

provider since 1 November (having run the Helpline in partnership with Women’s Aid for over a decade). This life-saving service answers around 250 calls a day and our expert women only team provides free, confidential support to women experiencing all forms of domestic abuse. Our team links women to emergency accommodation, as well as to other forms of domestic abuse support that exists across the country. We provide emotional support and empower women with information about their rights and options, helping them increase their safety and that of their children – and begin to rebuild their lives. Created by an expert global digital agency, www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk is a beautifully designed and easily-navigable space where women (and friends, family and professionals supporting women) can:

- Find out about their rights and options - for example, in relation to housing, child contact, criminal and civil remedies
- Contact Helpline workers via a secure web contact form, that puts the power in women’s hands to decide the best time to talk to us. The webform is a safer alternative to emailing, and the first step in giving women more ways they can reach out for support
- Find support to recognise the signs of domestic abuse and begin to process their own experiences
- Gain reassurance about what it is like to call the Helpline and what they can expect

The Freephone, 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline **0808 2000 247**, run by Refuge - and www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk are here to provide support every day of the year’

Christmas Prayer

We pray for joy in our hearts, hope in our God, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth. ... We pray for the forgiveness of sinners and abundant life in Christ. Holy Spirit fill our hearts with your love and power. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

Wishing you all a very safe and peaceful Christmas

From all at St. Joseph’s Catholic School

December	
Tues 10	KS1: 1.30pm Afternoon Performance of The Match Girl’s Christmas
	KS1: 6. 00pm Evening Performance of The Match Girl’s Christmas
Thur 12	10.30am Years R & 1 Trip to Norden Farm Theatre to watch ‘The Bear, Raymond Briggs’
Fri 13	National Christmas Jumper Day – Wear a Christmas jumper to raise money for Save the Children
Mon 16	Monday is pink day - wear pink for the 3rd week of Advent
	No after school activities this week After School Club as normal Monday-Thursday
	Purple/Pink Day – children may wear purple or Pink to symbolise the third week of Advent
	2pm Footsteps & Year R Nativity
Tues 17	9.15am Footsteps & Year R Nativity
	6pm Church Carol Concert (KS2 children)
We 18	Christmas Lunch
Fri 20	Last Day of the Autumn Term – School ends at 2.30pm.
	CHRISTMAS SURPRISE!!! - Be there or miss out! Clue: Red noses better watch out!
January	
Tue 7th	Children return to school
	After School Activities Starts After School Club Starts
Spring Half Term: 17th – 21 st February	
Easter Holidays: 6 th – 17 th April Children back to school on Monday 20 th April	

Attachments:

- Applying for a Primary Place September 2020
- Apply for Primary Poster
- Your new childcare account journey
- Christmas Camps
- Holy Trinity Christmas Camp
- CYPIT Bracknell Area
- Bracknell Cobras Basketball
- Bracknell Matters
- Youth Line Counselling Poster