



END OF ADVENT TERM 2020 NEWSLETTER

Season's greetings to all our school community

It has been an amazing term here at St Joseph's and St Gregory's. You, our children and our staff have coped really well with the challenges of keeping safe and working in different ways, including at times working remotely from the classroom. Thank you for all your support.

In this last week we will be:

Videoing the children's Christmas performances... although we are unable to perform live to families and friends this year, the children have continued with the important learning involved in preparing for and performing in a collaborative production of song, word and action. Each year group will be videoed performing their part and these will be combined to produce three Christmas productions: Early Years, Years 1, 2 & 3 and Years 4, 5 & 6. The DVD, including all three performances, will make a lovely present for yourselves or family members who may not see your child this year. Please order as soon as possible.

Eating Christmas lunches.... On Wednesday (Years 4, 5, 6) and Thursday (Reception, Years 1, 2, 3) the children will be invited to wear a Christmas jumper to school instead of their school jumper. This will be the day they share the great British tradition of pulling crackers, wearing paper hats and telling jokes whilst eating Christmas dinner.

Sharing a Christmas Liturgy... Our final community gathering this term will be online on Friday morning, when we listen to the Word, listen to or sing carols and reflect on the power of faith in bringing people together in times of challenge and celebration.

All this, as well as using our creative and literacy skills in card making and maths and general knowledge skills in puzzle solving, listening to or reading stories and reflecting peacefully on ourselves and the world around us.

Sadly we will be saying goodbye to two of our teachers this term;

Miss Ward who has been with us since she started as a trainee, who has taught in Y4, Y5 and Y6, and developed the reading experience for children across the school

And **Mrs Symonds**, who is known and loved across the school by staff, children and parents who have been supported, nurtured and taught by her. She will be greatly missed and I know she will miss us to. Please see a message from her below.



Dear parents, carers and children of St Joseph's and St Gregory's,

December 17th will be my last day at St Joseph's and St Gregory's. I am leaving so that I have more time to spend with my family and more time to do some of the other things that I like doing.

I love drawing and painting and sewing but, when you're a teacher, it's very hard to have time to do those things. Teaching takes a lot of energy too. I want to have the drive to try different adventures.

I have loved working with your children; loved working with you. Thank you, children, for sharing your ideas and smiles (and sometimes tears) with me. Thank you, parents and carers, for trusting the school and trusting me with your most precious thing, your children.

I will always care about St Joseph's and St Gregory's. I will still live in Bedford. I will visit sometimes and I might see you in town or in the park.

But for now, goodbye, and thank you for sharing your lives with me.

God bless you,

Alison

Alison Symonds - Senior Assistant Head Teacher

Advent Charity Collection... It is a tradition in our school to support those in need with prayers and gifts during this special time. This year it has been a challenge to organise our usual collections, and we recognise that many of our families will have been hit hardest by the current crisis. Therefore we have combined the tradition of buying a school photograph of your child with charitable giving to CAFOD World Gifts. ***Each child has had a Christmas photograph taken which has been printed and is available to purchase from school. The money collected will be used to buy World Gifts chosen by the children.*** Please see <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> for more information. We will continue to pray for the needs of our community and the wider world at this time.

Thank you once again for your positive support both of your child and the staff across our school this term. We look forward to working together next term in the new year of 2021.

We hope and pray it brings comfort from the current state of anxiety, a safer environment for everyone and peace in our communities, wherever they may be.

The blessings of Christmas wished for you all

Lisa Sumpter

Headteacher

SCHOOL CLOSERS FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER from 1.30pm

SCHOOL OPENS MONDAY 4TH JANUARY 2021 8.30am