

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you for everyone’s support this term, I would like to thank everyone again and for the very warm welcome, it has been a pleasure speaking with parents and carers daily on the playground. The children have been wonderful! I was especially filled with pride at our recent school pantomime visit: Our pupils’ behaviour was outstanding. As always, please feel free to pop to the school office anytime if you would like to speak with me or a staff member.

**Praise Assembly:** It has been great to see so many parent/carers and family members at Friday’s Praise Assembly. This takes place at 2.40 every Friday and all are welcome.

**Volunteers / Parent Teacher Association –** I cannot express my gratitude enough for our AMAZING PTA volunteers. Our Christmas Fair raised almost £600 (We all loved meeting Father Christmas too) and this week’s disco was greatly enjoyed by all! These vital funds will allow us to continue to subsidise trips and events. If you could spare a little time to be involved in any way please contact the school office. Also we would welcome volunteers to support with reading with children and classroom activities.In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education legislation all volunteers will be required to undertake a vetting process which will include clearance through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

**Parent Governor:** We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor, no previous experience is needed and full training will be given. If you are interested and would like to have an informal chat about it please give your details to our school office. This is a great opportunity to help shape the future of St Joseph’s.

**Stella Maris (formerly Apostleship of the sea):**  We were blessed with a recent visit by Steve Willows to tell us about how the Stella Maris charity supports seafarers from all over our world. 90% of all imported goods reach our country via cargo ships whose crews spend many months away from their families. In January we will be asking for donations of toiletries, toothpaste etc and bags of boiled sweets or chocolate to support this wonderful charity. A very practical way of living out our Catholic Mission.

**Catholic Life:** Special thanks to our Lay Chaplain Ms Libby Mellows and to Father Andrew for all their support this year. Everyone is welcome to our school Masses and Liturgies. It was a joy be present at this week’s two joint school carol services. “The Love certainly shone down” on us! Thank you for the amazing turnout to our 2pm & 6pm Nativities last week. I would welcome feedback about the timings to help us plan for next year.

**Safeguarding Team:** If you have any worries or concerns about a child please report this to a member of our Safeguarding team: The DSL is Mr McDonnell, and our Deputy DSLs are Miss J Thorpe, Mrs Scott and Miss C Westfield. There are posters around school and in the reception area with the DSLs photographs and contact details. If you have a concern about a local family over the Christmas period (or throughout the year)  you can also contact the Local Authority 'Front Door' safeguarding team:   01472 326292 (option 2) [NELCChildrensFrontDoor@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:NELCChildrensFrontDoor@nelincs.gov.uk) **‘Never Do Nothing’**

**School places:** We currently have **116** pupils on roll and our full school capacity is **230**. Any positivity that you can share with other families to encourage them to choose St Joseph’s would be eternally appreciated.

**Thank you – staff:** We wish Mr Wrigley the very best in his new ventures. He has been a great asset to St Joseph’s. We also look forward to welcoming our new Deputy Headteacher Mrs Stacie Barnsley and our new Year 1 / 2 teacher Ms Chloe Bates. Our whole staff team have been amazing and do so much hard work behind the scenes which is greatly appreciated. I would like to give a special mention to our office team: Linda Halloran and Lyndsay Gresham – this *dynamic duo* are the backbone of our school and I would be lost without them.

**Advent reflection:** This beautiful time of year when we gather to exchange gifts, share food and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour is a very precious time. We’ve talked a lot in school about this time of preparation and how we are preparing our hearts and souls for the return of Jesus. A time for forgiveness, good deeds and prayer. We hold especially in our prayers the residents of all faiths in the Holy Land. Sadly the very land upon which Jesus walked is at war with thousands of lives lost over recent months. Please keep world peace within your prayers.

**Foodbanks:** Should you find yourself in difficulty over the festive period please do not hesitate to reach out for help. There is no shame in falling upon hard times and there are many organisations ready to help: A quick Google search for ‘Cleethorpes foodbanks 2023’ brought up this great website listing lots of places providing food and support: <https://navigocare.co.uk/what-we-do/advice-and-support/food-banks>

**Dates:** Please see below for all currently known dates. There has been some changes to allow to us act upon ofsted’s recommendations. I know as a working parent how important as much notice as possible is needed to attend events.

Wishing you all a happy and Holy Christmas and a prosperous New Year, and looking forward to welcoming all our families back in 2024, Kind Regards, God Bless, Francis McDonnell, Headteacher.

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| **Every Friday** | 2.40 Praise Assembly: ALL WELCOME |
| **Wednesday 3rd January** | **Pupils and staff return to school** |
| **Friday 19th January** | **School closed to pupils: St Joseph’s and St Mary’s staff teams are having a joint curriculum training day as part of our post Ofsted Action Plan** |
| **Thursday 8th February** | **3.10 School closes for half term** |
| **Monday 19th February** | **Pupils and staff return to school** |
| Thursday 22nd February | 2.30 Reconciliation service in school ALL WELCOME |
| Wednesday 6th March | World Book Day: EVERYONE TO DRESS UP! |
| Tuesday 19th March | 1.30 Mass in school for St Joseph’s Feast Day: ALL WELCOME |
| **Thursday 28th March** | **3.10 School closes for Easter** |
| **Tuesday 16th April** | **Pupils return to school** |
| Monday 6th May | Bank Holiday: School closed |
| Thursday 9th May | 1.15 Joint school Mass at Corpus Christi Church ALL WELCOME |
| Week Beginning 13th May | Year 6 SATs Testing week (Mon – Thurs) |
| Friday 17th May | Year 6 SATs party day! |
| **Friday 24th May** | **3.10 School closes for half term** |
| **Monday 3rd June** | **Pupils and staff return to school** |
| Week Beginning 3rd June | Year 4 Times table testing two week period begins |
| Friday 7th June | Class and Leavers Photographs |
| Monday 10th June | Year 1 Phonics testing / screening week. |
| Mon 1st – Wed 3rd July | Y6 Briars Residential Trip - Further details to follow |
| **Friday 19th July** | **3.10 School closes for summer** |
| **Still lots more dates to be planned 😊** | |

