St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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December 2024

www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk

Dear Parents

Please click on the links below to access calendar events and after school clubs:

School Calendar: https://www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk/Diary/
Term Dates 2024/25 https://www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk/2024-2025_Calendar.pdf
After School Clubs: https://www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk/Clubs_-_Autumn_2024.pdf
https://www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk/Clubs_-_Spring_2025.pdf

Welcome to new staff and pupils



A warm welcome to our new members of staff to St Joseph's – Mrs Hayes (new Year R teaching assistant), Mrs Wewlage Don (who will be taking on an additional role helping in Year R) and Mrs Jones (who will also be taking on an additional role helping in Year 1). We look forward to working with them.

We also welcome all the new pupils who have joined our school over the course of this term. St Joseph's will be all the more special by your presence!

Primary Reception Places – September 2025



The Bexley online site has now opened – www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions (for Bexley residents) and https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places and closes on 15th January 2025).

The school is holding a number of Open Events on the following dates:

- Monday 9th December 2024 - 5.00 pm
- Wednesday 8th January 2025 - 1.30 pm

A presentation by the Head of School will be followed by a guided tour of the school. Please remind friends and neighbours to put these dates in their diary. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2025. The school welcomes applications from Catholics and non-Catholic families (who are sympathetic to our values and practice).

Please note, if you are Catholic, Fr David, will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice (available from the school office or from our website) by appointment only. However, if you are not religious, you must still complete the Supplementary Form and return it to the school office.

Poppy Appeal



Thank you for all your contributions, St Joseph's raised £232.69 towards the Poppy Appeal.

Love, Learn, Live

Advent and Christmas



It is really lovely to be able to celebrate the season of Advent as we reconnect the children with the story and message of Christmas. The whole school have been working really hard on their rehearsals and I know the children are looking forward to their opportunity to share this with you as parents.

Urgent request to all parents of Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 children for donations of mince pies. After the Junior Christmas Carol Service, parents are invited into the school's main hall for some festive refreshments before home time.

Christmas Lunch



This year our Christmas Dinner will be on Wednesday 18th December 2024. Please see separate letter in your child's book bag.

School Council Christmas Charity



The School Council sent out a separate letter last week asking for donations for Bexley Box to help support vulnerable housebound residents during the winter months. Please give generously.

Christmas Own Clothes Day



Also on Wednesday 18th December 2024, children may come to school wearing their own clothes for the day, but please remember to dress sensibly for the weather, as children will be going out on the playground for breaks.

Parish Christmas Event and Raffle



Christmas Event and Raffle

St Mary of the Crays Church are holding a Christmas Raffle to raise funds for further expenditure in the Church. They are also planning a Christmas Event on Sunday 15th December 2024 12.00 – 300 pm. Raffle tickets are available from the Church after weekend Masses to buy or take away and sell to friends. The draw for the Raffle will take place during the Parish Christmas Event at 3.00 pm. The Parish Carol Service will also be taking place on Sunday 15th December at 3.30 pm. Please support these to celebrate the Parish.

Christmas Mass Times - 2024



Saturday 14th December

Churches Together in Crayford Advent Pilgrimage between the 3 churches at 4.00 pm.

Sunday 15th December

Parish Christmas Raffle Draw will be held in the Social Club (around 3.00 pm)
Parish Carol Service 3.30 pm

Holy Masses

Tuesday 24th - Christmas Eve	5.00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass
	12.00 am Midnight Mass
Wednesday 25th - Christmas Day	8.30 am Mass and 10.30 am Mass
Thursday 26th – St Stephen's Day	9.15 am Mass

Christmas Holidays



The last day of term is Friday 20th December 2024 and school will finish at 3.15 pm. Children return to school on Monday 6th January 2025 when the gates will open at the usual time of 8.45 am.

Parents and Teacher Association

Following the recent PTA annual general meeting. A massive thank you to the outgoing Chair, Mrs Hayes for her hard work and the donation of funds to support our school.

A big welcome to the new Chair, Miss Phillips. Please look out for future newsletters and offer your help wherever you can.

Parks Survey

Bexley has various parks and green spaces across the borough. Take park in this survey to share your experiences to help shape their future. The link for the survey is https://ask.bexley.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/parks-and-green-spaces The survey closes on Wednesday 18th December 2024.

Message from Crayford Police

If you are the owner of a Toyota, Lexus, Nissan, Kia or Hyundai, you need to use a secondary lock such as a wheel clamp / steering lock / OBD port lock or Bollards or a Ghost Immobiliser as the above vehicles are very vulnerable for thieves to get access to and steal your vehicle as the emulators these thieves have in their possession are being used to open and start the car using the signal generated from pulling the handle meaning Faraday pouches will not work.

The Audis and Mercedes will tend to be stolen from driveways not the road side as the thief will be using a relay device to obtain the signal from the key. Faraday pouches are a good form of defence. For more advice on protecting your vehicle please see the below website:
https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/crime-prevention-advice/vehicle-crime

Recently, an elderly lady had her purse stolen. CCTV showed that she was followed from the store to her car after. It is likely the suspect saw her enter her pin when making payment.

An elderly man parked at Pure Gym and was approached by a male saying he had to pay to park or he would get a fine. The suspect made the man scan his card, then said the card did not work and to scan another card. While the victim took a phone call, the suspect walked away. The victim then received a text from his bank to say that transactions had been made. Clearly this was a scam.

Sadly, we all need to be much more vigilant to keep ourselves and others safe, especially in the lead up to Christmas when we are maybe more distracted when out and about. When out shopping, please be aware of pickpockets and alert to people behaving oddly around you. Don't carry too much cash with you, if you do have to carry cash, keep it hidden inside an envelope and in an inside pocket or deep in a bag. If travelling by car, park in a well-lit area, lock all doors and windows and don't leave anything on view. Please don't engage with someone telling you how to pay/trying to assist you to pay for your parking.

ParentSafe

Learn how to use parental control settings on devices using the following link https://parentsafe.lgfl.net to explore 'Safe Settings, Controls and Monitoring' – especially if you are planning on purchasing new computers/consoles/devices as presents. Help keep your children safe online this Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Mark Hannon

Mr Mark Hannon
Executive Head Teacher

Mrs Truss

Mrs Truss
Head of School