

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had an excellent start to the festive season in school. The PTFA Christmas Fayre was a huge success with lots of families enjoying the evening. Thank you to the members of the Parent Teacher and Friend Association for your hard work in organising such a fantastic event.

Staffing

Miss Atthey, our wonderful Reception class teacher, leaves St Michael's next week to take up a Special Educational Needs Coordinator role in a school in South Tyneside. We wish Miss Atthey the very best in her new role. She will be sorely missed by staff, pupils and parents.

In January, Miss Fowler, who currently teaches in Year 2, will teach in Reception class and lead our Early Years unit. Miss Fowler is very excited about the move to Reception and has already met her class and worked with them to ensure the transition is smooth for our children. Mrs Dolan will join our school as Year 2 class teacher in January. I know you will make Mrs Dolan feel very welcome.

Spreading Christmas Cheer

Our wonderful Year 4 class are spreading Christmas cheer on Friday by singing carols at the city library.

The Key Stage Two Mini Vinnie group have made cards and will deliver them to St Joseph's residential home in the coming days. The mission of the Mini Vinnie group is to 'See, Act, Do'. Their thoughtful, handmade Christmas cards will bring joy to those who receive them over the festive season.

Gifts at Christmas

We know that Christmas can become a very expensive time of year for families. With that in mind, we politely request that children do not bring presents in for school staff. It is enough to share in their joy and excitement during the build up to Christmas!

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper at St Michael's is on **Thursday 22nd December**. Children can wear non-uniform on this day with a Christmas jumper if they wish to do so. There will also be a party afternoon for the whole school. Every child will receive a sweet treat to end the term.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Mass and blessing of the crib will start at 4pm. All are welcome to attend.

I have really enjoyed the nativity plays in school this week. They have been fantastic!

A reminder of key dates:

Key Stage Two Carols by Candlelight on Monday 19th December at St Michael's Church (1.30pm)

All pupils break up for the Christmas holiday on Thursday 22nd December (*usual time*)

All pupils return to school for the Spring term on **Tuesday 10th January 2023**

Thank you, once again, for your support, positivity and commitment to our school.

On behalf of the school staff, I wish you a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.