



ST JAMES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEBBURN

December 2024

Dear Families,

Our children and staff are really looking forward to a well-deserved Christmas break with their families. We still have lots to do and look forward to. We are excited for our Christmas performances, parties, and experiences together; it's a time of whole Catholic Community Spirit for everyone.

Christmas at St James

Advent is one of the most important celebrations in our Holy calendar and we use this as a time of preparation. The children and staff have been working tirelessly to perfect their performances and there is a real Christmas buzz around school. We cannot wait to showcase our talent to our parents and carers. Dates have been included below. A reminder that we do struggle with space during these performances and try to limit the amount of people in school at any one time; we know it quite clearly states that the parents and carers **only** are invited to attend however, we would never turn a grandparent away!

Christmas Eve Mass

Children and families are warmly invited to "Carols around the Crib" at St James Church before Christmas Eve Mass at 6:30pm. It is advised to arrive early as this is really a lovely and very popular service. There are plans for the children during the service. Please return your slip if you intend to come along at 6:30pm with your child. This is so that preparations can be made for those who take part.

Christmas Raffle

The school is holding a Christmas Raffle with chances to win a selection of wonderful hampers. The raffle will be drawn and winners announced on Wednesday 18th December. If you would like any extra raffle tickets please call into the school office; tickets are £1 per strip. The proceeds from the raffle will go towards the St James School fund, which helps subsidise opportunities for all of our children throughout the year.

Attendance

As you are aware Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust use a traffic light system to monitor the attendance of children in school. We know that this term we have been hit by some very unwelcome bugs in school and know that this is normal during the Autumn term. However, we have a responsibility to remain vigilant in our monitoring processes. You all have access to your child's attendance on Arbor, we will only correspond directly with you if your child's attendance has become particularly low or has hit further triggers within our system. We still have so many children in school who have managed to maintain excellent attendance during this term and those who have improved attendance. Thank you for always working so closely with us to achieve the standard level of attendance in school.

After School Clubs

A reminder that there will be no After School Clubs during the last week of term; clubs will run as normal next week. After School Clubs will commence from the **second week** of the Spring Term. These clubs are

Mrs Francesca Heslop
Headteacher
BSc (Hons) P.G.C.E.

Email:
info@stjameshebburn.co.uk
Tel: 0191 4832672

Solway Road,
Hebburn
NE31 2BP



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really popular and spaces are issued on a first come first served basis. Your child will be issued with forms on the first week back of the Spring term. These forms must be returned to your child's **Class Teacher** in order to secure a space. We cannot accept returns at the school office as the classrooms have their own individual lists. This is to keep it as fair as possible when allocating spaces to children.

Milk Spring Term

Milk will be available to order during the first week of the new term. It is really important to adhere to the deadline given from us for Milk as we cannot change the order once it has been submitted to the local dairy. If your child is in receipt of means tested free school meals they will receive free milk in school. We will update you once the payment is due and you can pay this via ParentPay to cover your child's milk for the whole of the Spring Term.

Uniform

A reminder we are no longer taking orders for school uniform at the school office. We know that there have been some recent supply issues, and this was because of material supplies which should now be rectified. Uniform orders can now be made directly with our uniform supplier Emblematic at [@studentuniform.co.uk/stjps099](https://studentuniform.co.uk/stjps099). This link can be found directly from our website with all information regarding our school uniform at St James. A reminder of the uniform which is published on our school website under the parent section. Children are not permitted to wear jewellery/earrings in school at all.

Website and Facebook

We work hard to update our Website and Facebook page as much as we can and hope you are enjoying being part of the daily life at St James. We have so much to be proud of. The Curriculum section will soon be updated on the website for the close of the Autumn Term. Please have a look at your child's class and see what they've been up to. We have been very, very busy.

We would like to reiterate...

We understand that the current financial climate is having a tremendous effect on our school community. If you are struggling, please reach out to us and we will endeavour to support you and your children in any way we can. We want to say that this is on a strictly confidential basis. Help is here, please reach out.

On this note we would like to reassure our parents and carers that there is absolutely no expectation to buy Christmas gifts for staff. Each year we feel really humbled by your generosity as a school community but we are at our heart, a poverty proofing school. We are more than aware that these extra gifts can cause further pressure to many families at what is already a tough time of year ♥

Christmas allows us the opportunity to pause and give thanks for the love, hope and joy found in Jesus.

We wish our families and children a safe, happy and warm Christmastime, filled with love and togetherness. We thank you as always for your support in all that we do at St James.

Kindest regards and best wishes

Francesca Heslop
Headteacher

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Reminders

- ❖ **Tuesday 10th December 1pm** – Year 3 and Year 4 will perform their Christmas Celebration for **YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4 PARENTS/CARERS ONLY**
- ❖ **Wednesday 11th 1:30pm** – Year 5 and Year 6 will perform their Christmas Celebration for **YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6 PARENTS/CARERS ONLY**
- ❖ **Thursday 12th December** - We will enjoy the pantomime Dick Wittington in school.
- ❖ **Friday 13th December** – Year 3 and Year 4 **Christmas Party**. Children should come to school dressed already for the occasion.
- ❖ **Monday 16th December** – Year 5 and Year 6 **Christmas Party**. Children should come to school already dressed for the occasion.
- ❖ **Wednesday 18th December** - Our Christmas lunch will be served by our wonderful Kitchen staff.
- ❖ **Wednesday 18th December at 1:30pm** – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will perform their Nativity R, **YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 PARENTS/CARERS ONLY**
- ❖ **Thursday 19th December** – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 **Christmas Party**. Children should come to school already dressed for the occasion.
- ❖ **Friday 20th December** - Christmas Jumper Day/Non-uniform Day to celebrate the end of term.

REMINDER - CHILDREN WILL BE DISMISSED AT 1:15PM ON FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER IN LINE WITH OUR TRUST SCHOOLS. THIS HAPPENS EACH FULL TERM (CHRISTMAS, EASTER AND SUMMER).

- Monday 6th January – First day of Spring Term.
- WB January 13th – After school clubs begin
- Admission to Reception Class 2025 Deadline for applications Wednesday 15th January 2024 If you know anyone whose children are due to start Reception Class in September 2025 please direct them to our ***close-knit and friendly school***

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