**St James’ Pre-School Newsletter**

**November 2023**

**FUNDRAISING NEWS**

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Fundraising so far, as a Not-for-profit Charity we rely heavily on fundraising. We really do appreciate all of your support.

Everyone had fun at our **Spooky Autumn disco** and we raised £326 thanks to your generous support.

 

**Roberts Recycling**

Our next Roberts Recycling collection has been arranged for Friday 24th November. This is another opportunity for fundraising, so if you’re planning a clear-out of good quality clothes, paired shoes or handbags before Christmas, we would be glad of any donations. **Bags can be brought into Pre-School on Friday 24th November and will be collected at approximately 9.30am**

**Staffing News**

Suzanne Welsh will be leaving us on Friday 10th November to start a new chapter in her career. Suzanne has been a member of the team at St James’ for 12 years as both a key person and in more recent years, as Assistant Manager. On behalf of the Governing Body, staff, parents and children past and present, we would like to say a huge thank you. We would like to take this opportunity to wish her health and happiness in the future and good luck in your new job! Our Butterfly children will continue to be cared for by Kelly and Gemma and Deb will join Vicky in the Caterpillar room for the remainder of the autumn term.

**NATIVITY AND CHRISTMAS FAIR**

Our Nativity and Christmas Fair will be held on **Friday 15th December** at **9.45a.m.** in **St James’ Church**. We would like to ask that the girls come dressed as **angels** and the boys as **shepherds**. Costumes should be kept simple with angels wearing as much white as possible (e.g. white top, white tights and silver tinsel for headdresses etc.) Shepherds can be dressed in dad’s striped shirt or pyjama jacket with a tea towel and tie for the head. Costumes can be bought or made so it’s time to get creative!

All of our boys and girls help to make the Nativity a success – some of the older children will be allocated a part – we’ll let you know, as soon as possible, costumes will be allocated shortly. The children will be working hard in Pre-School learning the songs for the Nativity, but we would be grateful if you could also practise the songs at home. A song sheet is attached – we want the boys and girls to enjoy themselves and have fun, so it doesn’t matter if they’re not word perfect; *it’ll be alright on the night!*

We ask that you drop the children off at Pre-School for registration at **9.15** as usual and then make your way over to Church. We also ask that the children come already dressed in their costumes, ready for their performance. Parents will be given the opportunity to take photographs at the end of the performance and then you will be able to collect your child back at Pre-School where they must be signed out by a member of staff. Normal fees will apply, but as it is an extremely busy morning, we would be grateful if you could let us know if your child will be attending the Nativity and, if possible, pay the fee in advance.

Following on from the Nativity will be our **Christmas Fair**. Stalls will include tombola, books, bottles, chocolate, cakes etc. (volunteer cake makers needed please!) If you have anything to donate (new or good condition items to be used for prizes in the tombola) please bring it to Pre-School during your child’s normal attendance on the run up to the Nativity and Christmas Fair.(Cake donations can be brought along on the morning of the Fair).

We will soon have tickets on sale for a Luxury Food Hamper, a lovely selection of Christmas treats, donated by the St James’ Staff team to raise funds. Tickets will be on sale daily for £2 per strip.

We will also be selling raffle tickets for our general Christmas raffle for £1 per strip. Both raffles will be drawn at the end of the morning of the Christmas Fair so please buy some tickets and Good Luck!! There will also be a Café available selling various refreshments and Santa will be paying a visit and is looking forward to meeting the children.

Programmes for the Nativity will be on sale shortly at a cost of £2.00. Everyone attending will require a programme to gain admittance.

We will also be holding a **Fancy Dress Week** from **Monday 4th December – Friday 8th December.** The children can come to Pre-school on these dates dressed in fancy dress or as their favourite character. We’d be grateful if children taking part could donate an item to be used as prizes on our tombola stall (**bottles/new or nearly new gift sets/chocolates etc**.) **One** donation covers the whole week and donations can be brought in at any time during the week beginning Monday 4th December.

**The Nativity and Christmas Fair is our main fundraising event of the year and your support is extremely important to us** **so please donate generously.** Thank you for your continued support, if anyone is able to give some time to help on our stalls on the day we’d love to hear from you. 

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**Christmas Jumper Week** this year will be **Monday 11th December – Thursday 14th December**. For a donation of £1, the children are welcome to wear their best festive jumper all week. One £1 donation covers children for the whole of Christmas jumper week.

Our **Christmas party** will be held on **Friday 22nd December**. All Pre-school children are welcome to attend and should arrive at Pre-School at the usual time of 9.15 a.m. **Children can be collected after the party at 11.30 a.m.** Normal fees apply and we would be grateful if you could let us know if your child will be attending and pay fees in advance.

**Pre-school will finish for the Christmas break on Friday 22nd December and children will return on**

**Monday 8th January 2024**

We would like to thank you all for your support. We wish you all Health, Wealth & Happiness for 2024.

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**Dates for your diary**

* Roberts Recycle collection - Friday 24th November
* Dress up days - Monday 4th – Friday 8th December
* Christmas Jumper week - Monday 11th – Thursday 14th December
* Nativity - Friday 15th December
* Pre-school closes for Christmas break - Friday 22nd December (Party day)
* Pre-school returns - Monday 8th January 2024

The Team at St James’ would like to thank you for reading this newsletter.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

St James’ Pre-School

*A non-profit organisation*

*Charity number 1160127*

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