



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Challenged to be the best we can be, in our safe and happy school.

Newsletter 4th November 2022

Attendance

Our attendance target is 98% Please strive to make every effort to ensure your child attends school every day.

	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
w.c. 17.10.2022	92.3%	86.7%	91%	92.3%	94.5%	97%	96%
w.c. 31.10.2022	95.8%	92.3%	98.1%	98%	94.8%	97.3%	98%

Dear Families,

It's wonderful to have everyone safely back after our Advent half term as we begin the run in to Christmas. I am so pleased that the weather was unusually warm for everyone to enjoy. However, the weather seems to have turned this week and I am delighted that the majority of our pupils are coming to school in warm coats so they can enjoy their play times.

During half term it was heartening to see how many families attended the 'Friday Fun Night' organised by St Anne's Church on the Friday 28th October to enjoy fireworks and hots dogs. Many thanks to all who attended and organised such a wonderful family event.



This week Years 4 & 5 attended Mass at St Anne's for All Saints' Day. The children sang and behaved beautifully. My apologies for the late reminder to parents regarding the Mass time. Fr Adrian has also been visiting school this week to take part in whole class Liturgical Prayer with Year 2. We look forward to seeing Fr Adrian next week as he visits Year 1. Our next class Liturgy for parents to attend is Miss Cohen's Year 5 on Wednesday 16th November. Please pop this date in your diary.

Year 4 parents will receive a reminder from Fr Adrian this weekend about the deadline to sign up to First Holy Communion Preparation classes. We have a large number of families who have already

committed to the programme, and we would be disappointed if anyone was to miss out on this year's opportunity to join the Year 4 class make their First Holy Communion. Please can parents return the original letter of interest to either St Joseph's or St Anne's Parish Church.

This week we have been overwhelmed with club requests which will begin again next week. Parents will receive confirmation notification of their child's place this week. If you're not sure about clubs and would like your child to join a club, please ring the school office as they may be able to help. Can I again remind parents that pupils need warm / waterproof clothing for clubs that take place outside during the winter and a spare pair of shoes or trainers to change into following the club.

Many thanks to our PTA team for organising this week's Discos in school for KS1 and KS2 children. The children had such a wonderful time, and our PTA was able to raise some funds for opportunities later in the year. The PTA will also be providing sweets and refreshments for the forthcoming cinema trips during November.

On our sporting front I was delighted to take our Year 2 Athletics Team to the Gateshead Indoor Athletics Festival on Thursday. The team did brilliantly and had such a great time. In two weeks, we will select a team of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils to take part in a similar KS2 Gateshead Athletics Festival. Good luck everyone!!



In case anyone was surprised by the 30 Year 4 pupils that arrived on the yard in skeleton face masks on Wednesday evening, the children had all experienced a Mayan Day of the Dead Curriculum experience. Please see Facebook and below for further information in what was an incredibly exciting day.



Next week we look forward to welcoming parents to St Joseph's for our Autumn term parental consultations with class teachers. I will be around school during the evenings and please stop by if anyone would like to have a private meeting with myself. Can I remind parents that the timings as always are limited to 10 minutes and we apologise in advance for any consultations that are not kept directly on time.

Finally, I would like to invite any parents who would like to join us in a two-minute silence on Friday 11th November as we mark Remembrance Day with prayers and poems. If parents could arrive for 10:45 am on the top yard. Gates will be unlocked at this time and the children will be present at approximately 10:50 am. If any parents are British Army personnel or ex-army, we would very much appreciate if you could join us.



Breakfast Club

In breakfast club, the children have been learning about Remembrance Day and why we wear a poppy. The children have made their very own poppies and created a reef in remembrance of all

those service personal who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our today. We thank all those past and present for their service.



Extreme Haircuts / Accessories

Please can I ask that pupils have a sensible hair cut for their child.

We expect all children to come to school in full uniform and have sensible and tidy haircuts. The school does not permit children to have 'extreme' haircuts that could draw attention to them or serve as a distraction to other children.

Hairstyles and haircuts which are deemed to be extreme such as, tramlines, patterns, dyed hair and Mohican cuts are not permitted. Hair that is shaven at the back and sides and long on the top is also considered to be an extreme hairstyle.

Hair accessories should be functional and discreet. Ribbons, bows, hair bands and slides should be small and simple in style. Large hair accessories are not permitted.

If as a school, we feel a hairstyle is unsuitable we will ask for this to be rectified.

Absence

We are very concerned that some parents are not contacting school if their child is absent.

We would like to remind families about the correct procedure if a child is unwell.

If a child is absent, parents are required to telephone school by 9:30 am on the first day of absence stating what is wrong with the child and predict, if possible, when they think their child will return to school.

If the school does not receive a message regarding the child's absence by 9:30 am on the first day of absence, then the school will send a text message to the parents/carers.

If no reason is received by 10:00 am, then a senior member of staff will visit the home address of the child to ascertain where the child is.

If there is no contact made at the home address, the school may contact Children's Services, the police and other agencies.

Sickness and Medication Policy

A reminder that if your child has had sickness or diarrhoea, they must stay off school for 48 hours after the last episode.

If your child has medication to take while in school, a parent is required to complete a medication form with details of timings and dosage etc. Forms are available from the school office.

Games

The Breakfast Club would be very grateful if any families have any board games they no longer use that may be suitable for the children to use while at Breakfast Club. Any donations will be gratefully received and if we receive several games of the same type then we will pass them onto the Friends for the Christmas Fair.



Cinema Visit

Reception and Year 6 children will be visiting the cinema on Wednesday 9th November.

Year 5 Visit to Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens

Year 5 children will be visiting Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens on Friday 11th November.

Years 3 & 4 Cake Sale

To raise class funds, we will hold cake sales at regular intervals throughout the school year. Different classes will host the cake sales at break time, and all of the children will have the opportunity to buy a cake in exchange for a small donation (50p - £1 is the suggested donation).

On Friday 11th November, Years 3 and 4 are invited to bring in a small number of cakes/biscuits to sell if they are able to do so. At break time, we will arrange for all classes to visit and purchase cakes.

All money raised will be used to fund extras for the children, such as Christmas crafts, items for Christmas parties and other activities and resources.

Year 5 Class Liturgy

Year 5 Class Liturgy will take place on Wednesday 16th November.

All parents, carers and grandparents of Year 5 children are welcome to attend in the school hall at 9:05 am.

Children in Need

On Friday 18th November children may come to school in non-uniform and make a small donation to Children in Need. Reception children will still be doing Forest School so clothes need to be suitable.



Healthy School

We are proud to be a healthy school and, as part of our commitment to promoting healthy eating, we only allow fresh fruit and vegetables for break time snacks. Please support us with this by

ensuring no other snacks are provided from home. All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are offered fruit or vegetable snacks daily and this is free of charge.

Reception 2023 - 2024

Applications for Reception Class places starting September 2023, need to be made before 15th January 2023.



Children's Achievements out of School

If your child has achieved an award in an out of school activity, we would like to hear about it and we will mention it in our newsletter, please email details to blaydonstjosephscatholicprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk

Monty Year 6 - has gained his brown belt in karate.

Amelia Year 2 - has gained her green belt in karate.

The Kelly Hendry Studios Christmas Party



Kelly Hendry Studios are holding a Christmas Party for local families on 27th November from 12pm - 3pm. Children £7 includes a face paint, party games, dancing and singing with Santa's Elf and meet and receive a gift from Santa, adults £2, under 2s free. Text 'Party' to 07380607173 to order your tickets.

Awards

Pupil of the Week		
	21 st October	4 th November
Reception	Oliver - for working very hard in maths. He focused using his numbers and was very eager to learn.	Mia - for working very hard to listen carefully during whole class carpet sessions and has impressed us with her phonics and reading skills this week. Well done Mia.
Year 1	Jovitta - for working very hard in phonics and working more independently.	Lacey - for working very hard with the presentation of her work, thinking carefully about the size of her letters and sitting them on the lines correctly. Wonderful work Lacey and a great example to others. Well done Lacey. Keep it up!
Year 2	Archie - for growing in confidence and independence.	James - for working hard in English and making lots of progress.

Year 3	Oraiya - For being such a delightful and hardworking member of the class.	Lilly - for always trying her best in lessons and producing beautiful work.
Year 4	Charlie - for a conscientious attitude and working hard across all subject areas.	Rosie - for always showing kindness and care towards others. Well done!
Year 5	Reggie - for a stunning improvement in handwriting. Well done! Keep it up!	John - for excellent work on finding common multiples in maths, including a real effort with presentation.
Year 6	Caolan - for excellent work on world war 2 poetry.	Neve - for being an excellent, supportive learning partner

Golden Chair		
	21 st October	4 th November
Reception	Hallie - for listening well and following instructions this week. She has set a great example to her class mates.	Joe - for working very hard to plan his play carefully this week resulting in some superb learning taking place. Well done Joe.
Year 1	Boux - for great independent writing and fantastic listening.	Deacon - for working more independently and working with more self-confidence. Well done Deacon.
Year 2	Ethan F - for working hard to be independent.	Caitlin - for trying her very best at the athletics festival.
Year 3	Olivia - for always putting 100% into her learning and modelling to others how they can do the same.	Eloise - for making a fabulous effort to volunteer her answers and ideas in class.
Year 4	Amelia L - for amazing progress due to the effort she has applied to her work.	Alex - for being a fantastic role model to his peers.
Year 5	Jack - for writing a beautiful litany thanking God for all the unique talents and qualities he gave us.	Alfie - for explaining to the class his excellent ideas about possible products for 'Make £5 Grow'.
Year 6	Layton - for fantastic progress in maths.	Ella - for making such an excellent effort in English, showing a great understanding of our class text

Reception

Reception have had a busy few weeks with lots of new learning opportunities and exciting events in school. We have consolidated our number knowledge, started playing basketball in P.E, enjoyed pumpkin fun, identified signs of autumn and had great fun at the spooktacular disco. We are very impressed with how well children returned from their half term break getting straight back to learning with fantastic attitudes. Keep it up Reception!



Year 1

We had lots of fun at the 'Spooktacular' disco this week and we enjoyed dancing and playing with our friends. We all looked fabulously spooky and at times very scary! Thank you to the 'Friends of St. Joseph's' for organising such a wonderful night for us.



Last half term, in art, we worked very hard and very carefully on our self-portraits. We looked closely at the shape of our head, eyes, ears, nose and mouth. At first, we sketched our portrait. Then we thought about the colour of all of our features, and we carefully painted them. Finally, we embellished our work using wool, paper, pom poms and many more jazzy resources. We have now displayed our portraits in our corridor for you all to see. We think they look fabulous, and we hope you do too!



Year 2

This week Father Adrian joined Year 2 for a class liturgical prayer. We enjoyed worshipping together and learning about The Feast of All Saints. Thank you for coming to pray with us Father Adrian! And well done Year 2 for a fantastic liturgical prayer session.



Year 3

What a super start to the half term Year 3 have had! We have recently started our new geography topic looking at neighbours near and far. We are going to be practising our atlas/map skills over the next few weeks locating cities, rivers, mountain ranges and much more. This topic will link into our next history topic looking at the Anglo-Saxons. The children can't wait to get started!



Year 4

We had a fantastic day on Wednesday learning all about the Day of the Dead and completed activities relating to our Creative Curriculum topic, Ancient Maya.

We started the day having our faces painted as skeletons as we listened to Day of the Dead music, then we made temples out of card.

After break, we played a traditional game Pok ta Pok which was really tricky! We then made dough using flour, oil, water and salt and we left it to prove over lunchtime. Maize made up 80% of the diet of Ancient Maya people. In the afternoon, we watched the film Coco. We rolled out our dough into round tortillas, fried them and decorated them with chocolate spread and sprinkles. They were delicious! We also had hot chocolate, and some of us tried cinnamon in it. We had great fun and learnt lots!



Year 5

Year 5 have begun their work in the 'Make £5 Grow' initiative. We had Mrs Scott from Virgin Money in school, talking to the children on Monday. The children then had lots of ideas about products that we could make and sell to make a profit. They have come up with lots of fantastic ideas for the sale. We are very excited for the day we go to the Grainger Market on Thursday 1st December.



Year 6

Year 6 enjoyed hosting their cake sale before half term. The children would like to thank you all for your generosity in donating cakes and supporting us in raising £165.70. All funds raised will go directly towards resources for the children.

The children are really enjoying their new book, *Boy in the Tower*, by Polly Ho-Yen. They are engrossed in the story of the dreadful Bluchers and the tale of one boy's survival. Some wonderful writing has been produced. We are on high alert for killer plant invasions!



Gospel

Sunday 6th November

The Sadducees' Riddle Some Sadducees - those who say that there is no resurrection - approached Jesus and they put this question to him, "Master, we have it from Moses in writing, that if a man's married brother dies childless, the man must marry the widow to raise up children for his brother. Well, then, there were seven brothers. The first, having married a wife, died childless. The second and then the third married the widow. And the same with all seven, they died leaving no children. Finally, the woman herself died. Now, at the resurrection, to which of them will she be wife since she had been married to all seven?" Jesus replied, "The children of this world take wives and husbands, but those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection from the dead do not marry because they can no longer die, for they are the same as the angels, and being children of the resurrection, they are sons of God. And Moses himself implies that the dead rise again, in the passage about the bush where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all men are in fact alive."

Luke 20:27-38

On behalf of Fr. Adrian, Governors and Staff, we hope you have a lovely weekend.

