



# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

*We will love one another in Christ knowing that Jesus loves us very much*



*Newsletter 19th January 2024*

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

Attendance	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
w.c. 8.1.2024	94.5%	95.9%	95.3%	94.8%	95.2%	96.6%	96%
w.c. 15.1.2024	99.1%	94.6%	95.3%	97.1%	97.1%	95.6%	95%

Dear Families,

It was wonderful to welcome the children back last week following the holiday period. I do hope everyone had a chance to rest after a busy Advent Term. As I write we are currently experiencing a very cold Artic blast which hopefully won't last too long. May I remind everyone that children love to play outside and the warmer they are the happier they play. Please can parents ensure that a warm coat is provided ideally with an accompanying hat and pair of gloves.

It was wonderful to start the new term by celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany. Fr Endre on this occasion led the Mass in our school hall which was supported by children from all classes who contributed readings and Hymns. I was also delighted to welcome Deacon Martin into school who visited Year 1 on this occasion. Next week we look forward to Mrs Douglas Year 6 class Liturgy on Wednesday at 9am. I would love to see as many parents as possible supporting the children especially now they are in their last two terms of Primary School.



We have been blessed to have had a series of visitors into school since the term began including Northumbria Police who visited KS1 to carry out some very important workshops which also included a peak inside a real police car. Thank you to Whickham Police! Also, it was lovely to welcome NHS nurses talking to pupils in KS1 about visiting hospital.



This week Mrs Parish's Year 3 enjoyed their attendance treat by having a lovely free Science Workshop Visit to the Science Museum in Newcastle followed by McDonalds. At St Joseph's we are committed to rewarding good attendance and Year 3 thoroughly deserved their attendance prize.



On the subject of attendance, I have written to many parents this week regarding pupil attendance. Our Trust is in line with Government targets of above 96% school attendance. I will also be inviting parents into school this term to discuss attendance as it's such an important issue if a child is to make progress and succeed.

I was delighted to see how many children have signed up and started clubs in school this week. I believe the attendance at clubs is now a new record! I do apologise for cancelling this week's football club due to a frozen pitch. However, we do have some space left in a number of clubs if your child would like to sign up, please contact the school office.



Finally, I do hope everyone enjoyed this week's Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust Census free meal. The feedback from the children was fantastic and everyone seemed to enjoy their chicken burger meal.

### **Term Dates 2023/2024**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February - Half Term

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Holidays

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May - Bank Holiday

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Half Term

### **Dates for Diary**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January - Year 6 Liturgy, Year 6 families welcome from 9:00am in the school hall

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April - Year 4 Holy Island Residential

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May - Year 5 Weardale Adventure Centre Residential

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June - Year 6 Youth Ministry Trust Residential

### **Breakfast Club**

Children attending breakfast club could we please ask children to be booked in via Arbor. Could parents or family members dropping children off at breakfast club please park outside of the school gates and walk their child across the school car park to the main hall door. Children should not be walking across the school car park on their own for safety reasons. Children's safety is our main priority and with the mornings being dark and sometimes wet or slippery it is not safe for children to walk on their own.

### **Pre-Loved First Holy Communion Wear for BWCET Schools**

The Trust will be holding their very first Pre-Loved First Holy Communion Event. They are hopeful that the event will be the first of many and will be as successful as their Year 11 Prom event for pre-loved prom wear they held. Families will be able to borrow items and return in the same condition. Year 4 families will receive further information from the Trust.

If anyone has any Holy Communion items which they would like to donate, they can be brought into the school office, and we will arrange for them to be collected for the pre-loved event.

## 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 will mention it in our next newsletter. Please email details to [info@stjb.bwcet.com](mailto:info@stjb.bwcet.com)

### Awards

	Pupil of the Week	
	12 <sup>th</sup> January	19 <sup>th</sup> January
Reception	Femia - for growing in confidence, trying her very best and setting a fantastic example to her peers.	Coraline - for settling in beautifully and making lots of new friends.
Year 1	Thomas - for being a classroom superstar. He is the first to help, encourage and even support the teachers!	Feso - for having a fantastic first week at St Joseph's.
Year 2	Brooke - for having good explanations in maths.	Eve - for always being happy and kind to her friends.
Year 3	Kimberly - for working so hard in her maths and English lessons this week.	Noah - for trying so maths lesson this week.
Year 4	Olly - for great maths this week using column method for subtraction and exchanging confidently. Well done Olly.	Isaac - for working very hard in English lessons exploring language used in our text 'The Winter's Child' and deepened his understanding. Well done Isaac.
Year 5	William - for trying very hard in maths, setting out perfectly and being successful in his learning.	Sophie - for working very well with her talk partner to further her own and his learning in all subject areas.
Year 6	Alexa - for a conscientious approach to all that she does!	Reggie - for always being polite and showing care and consideration to others.

	Golden Chair	
		19 <sup>th</sup> January
Reception		Ciara - for demonstrating fantastic listening skills and joining in well.
Year 1		Gabriel - for being such an independent and enthusiastic learner.
Year 2		Carmen - for her brilliant writing in English.
Year 3		Michael - for being a credit to St. Joseph's on the school trip.
Year 4		Aaliyah - for great effort with her maths work this week with some very tricky subtractions. Well done Aaliyah.
Year 5		Joshua - for working very hard in maths and being successful in his learning about using the area model to multiply two two-digit numbers.
Year 6		Grace - for a great attitude to her learning - contributing regularly in class

		discussions and huge progress being seen in her work.
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	Curriculum Driver Award	
		19 <sup>th</sup> January
KS1		Chester - for demonstrating the importance of ??? in their everyday lives.
KS2		Amelia L - for demonstrating the importance of Learning for Life in their everyday lives.

## Class News

### Reception

What a lovely two weeks to start the Autumn term. The children are enjoying learning all about 'The Magic Paintbrush' in our English lessons and have been practising mastering the number 5 in maths lessons. We enjoyed a special visit from Nurse Wendy this week, who taught us all about what might happen if we go to the hospital and offered us lots of reassurance. We had lots of fun trying out some of her special equipment.



Lots of fun has been had in forest school recently. The children are now fire safety experts and know what they need and how to light a fire safely and can tell you how to keep yourself safe around a fire pit (even when it's not lit!) We enjoyed putting our fine motor skills to the test by preparing and enjoying some deliciously chocolatey, warm banana splits!





## Year 1

What a lovely welcome back to school Year 1 have had with so many exciting things happening.



Clubs are back up and running and many of our class have chosen to take part. We run a mindful colouring club in our classroom and lots of our children escaped the cold and had some down time this week!

In English, we have started our new text 'The Comet'. We have been looking at clues about the text and making predictions about what things might happen. We are even trying to use adjectives in our writing to describe objects.

In PE, we have started our gymnastic unit of work and we are loving it. Mr Morris has shown us how we can work as team to challenge ourselves and try some very tricky gymnastic positions. We have also been doing some yoga to make us more flexible and stretch our muscles.



In RE, we are learning all about the special people around us. We have been lucky enough to have visits from a nurse and some police officers which has been incredibly exciting.

We can't wait to see what the rest of the term has in store for us!



## Year 2

Year 2 have really enjoyed starting their Irish dancing this term. They have been learning positions and kicks and some children received medals for their hard work. In English we have begun reading *The Bear and the Piano* and have had some very creative writing using adjectives to describe the forest and the piano. We have been handling money in maths and have been fantastic at recognising pounds and pence and making different amounts.



## Year 3

Year 3 have had the most fabulous start to the Spring term! We have had a trip to McDonald's and the discovery museum to celebrate winning the attendance award in the autumn term. After our delicious happy meal, we took part in a great workshop at the museum where we learned about light and shadows. We even made our very own camera obscura which means we can see upside down! We have had an amazing day and were a credit to St. Joseph's. After such a wonderful day we will most definitely be trying our hardest to win again this term!

In class we've also been reading our new class book, the *BFG*. We have loved it so far as we've followed Sophie on her magical adventure, although we've met some unpleasant giants along the way - we even had the chance to design our own gruesome giant and write our own rotten recipes! Nevertheless, we can't wait to keep reading and find out what happens next! A great start to the term year 3 - well done!







#### Year 4

Following the Feast of the Epiphany and our school mass last week, we all worked together to plan and celebrate our class collective worship based on our Advent topic Gifts. We listened to Matthew 1:1-12 and sang 'We Three Kings'.

We knew the gifts that the Kings took to Jesus and the reasons why they took those. We are aware that the greatest gift that God gave us was his Son Jesus and his everlasting love.



#### Year 5

This new year and new term has started gracefully and energetically in year five with Irish dancing every Tuesday afternoon. The children are learning valuable coordination, timing and listening skills, whilst improving their fitness.

We braved the freezing weather (for a couple of minutes!) to quickly take a science lesson outdoors to investigate the apparent movement of the sun across the sky due to the earth's rotation. We fashioned our own sundials, made predictions and recorded results.

**Could I please take this opportunity to remind parents to monitor children's online activities and messaging extremely carefully. It has come to light very recently that some children may not be behaving appropriately online, which can cause upset and hamper their emotional wellbeing. This can then be brought into school and impact their social interactions and, of course, their learning.**

Happy New Year to all parents, carers and children of our wonderful school, Miss Cohen.



## Year 6

The children in Year 6 have been taking on more roles and responsibilities since coming back after the holidays. They are becoming so independent!

Here are pictures of our lunchtime monitors, our mission team, our bench monitors, our housepoint monitors and our librarians.

A really special role our Year 6 children are embracing is looking after their special friends in Reception and being good role models to them too!





## Gospel

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024 - Taken from Mark 1:14-20 The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. "The time has come," he said, "and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News." As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men." And at once they left their nets and followed him. Going on a little further, he saw James son of



Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

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

God Bless,

Paul Naughton