



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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



Newsletter 1st March 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. 19.2.2024 | 96.1% | 95.7% | 93% | 96.1% | 94.8% | 98.1% | 97.7% |
| w.c. 26.2.2024 | 96.1% | 95.9% | 97% | 97.8% | 95.8% | 99.1% | 95% |

Dear Families,

The second half of the Lenten Term is well underway with lots of wonderful things happening at St Joseph's in recent weeks.

Firstly, it has been wonderful to see the children working hard to ensure they uphold their Lenten promises in school by praying, fasting and giving more. Each week we have been focusing on a different activity to help us prepare as we journey through Lent to holy Week.

During Lent we have chosen to support a number of charities including our local Gateshead Foodbank with donations now starting to come into school - If you can donate a tin or two that would be appreciated.

With assistance of Fr Anthony Cornforth, we have also linked with the Bauleni Special School in Zambia which supports both disadvantaged families and those with disabilities in Lusaka Zambia.

After a successful whole school live call before Christmas which included a question and answer with pupils and teachers, singing hymns and swapping prayers we have now established a good relationship with staff and children from the Zambian Special school.

Our aim during Lent is to collect as many pennies or coins as possible ready for our penny challenge in Holy Week which we will donate to our Zambian neighbours. We are also aiming to hold a special Olympic Sports Challenge Day in the first week back after Easter. We will be asking if families could kindly find a sponsor or two for this exciting challenging event organised by Mr Morris.

We have a number of parent class Liturgies in the coming weeks starting with Year 3 on Wednesday 6th March. This Friday we welcomed parents and grandparents from Year 5 for Miss Cohen's class assembly. Please see the dates section for Spring events.



Our Spring parent consultations begin next week with nearly all parents securing a consultation to date. However, if you haven't done this as yet there is still time to make an appointment. Can I ask that parents let us know in advance of the appointment if they need to cancel and rearrange. All consultations will have a clear focus on pupil well-being, behaviour, attendance and the celebration of academic attainment and progress.

This week I have written to all parents to remind them of our Trust attendance policy which took effect from January. I have also already written to every parent regarding individual children's attendance in line with Trust policy. Parents will receive regular updates and all children will be monitored carefully. Please remember that it is our aim to work in partnership with families to ensure that all pupils in our school attend well and achieve well, so they are prepared for the future.

Congratulations to Blake, Lotta, Ollie & Eve from Year 2 and Charlie, Ellie, Freddie and Anastassia from Year 5 who attended the CitySpace Event at Sunderland University this week with Miss Cohen. The competition was of a very high standard with the children successfully completing research, design, communication and gradient challenges. Blake and Lotta's car won the award for travelling furthest of all the cars. They were rightly very proud!



Finally, this week we held our annual break the rules day which replaced our Spring disco which sadly had to be cancelled at short notice. The children had a wonderful day with hundreds of rules broken during the day with no behavioural issues. There were some very interesting hair styles!! Please see photos - Many thanks to everyone for supporting this PTA initiated event which raised £320.



Term Dates 2023/2024

Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April - Easter Holidays

Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday

Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May - Half Term

Dates for Diary

Week beginning 4th March - Parents' Evenings

Wednesday 6th March - Year 3 Liturgy, Year 3 families welcome from 9:00am in the school hall

Tuesday 12th March - Meeting for Year 4 parents at 3:30 pm regarding the Holy Island residential

Wednesday 13th March - Reception Class Liturgy, Reception families welcome from 9:00am in the school hall

Wednesday 13th March - Meeting for Year 5 parents at 3:30 pm regarding the Weardale residential

Monday 18th March - Year 6 Coffee Afternoon

Tuesday 19th March - Feast of St Joseph's Mass at St Joseph's Church at 10:00 am

Friday 22nd March - Year 4 Class Assembly, Year 4 families welcome from 9:00am in the school hall

Wednesday 27th March - Stations of the Cross at St Anne's Church at 10:00 am

Thursday 28th March - Easter Eggs/Bonnets Parade - details to follow

Wednesday 24th - Friday 26th April - Year 4 Holy Island Residential

Wednesday 8th - Friday 10th May - Year 5 Weardale Adventure Centre Residential

Monday 13th - Thursday 16th May - Year 6 SATS Week

Monday 17th - Wednesday 19th June - Year 6 Youth Ministry Trust Residential

Friday 28th June - Staff training day, school closed to pupils

Monday 15th July - Staff training day, school closed to pupils

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

Hairstyles and Haircuts

Hairstyles and haircuts which are deemed to be extreme such as, tramlines, patterns, indentations shaved or sculptured, dyed hair as well as with skinhead 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.

Parking

Please can I remind parents about parking, please be mindful that you don't block access to garages belonging to local residents. Please be aware of residents' right of entry when parking and also consider the inconvenience of being unable to park in front of your own house or have access to your own garage. Please, also be aware, that the emergency services must have access too. Please can parents pass on this request to grandparents and others who may drop off or collect your child from school.

Awards

| | Pupil of the Week | |
|-----------|---|--|
| | 23 rd February | 1 st March |
| Reception | Annie - for trying her very best in all she does. | Ciara - for making huge progress with phonics and growing in confidence. |
| Year 1 | Hallie - for actively participating in all lessons and modelling to others how to share their thoughts and ideas. | Niall - for demonstrating his excellent enthusiasm and knowledge in History and geography |
| Year 2 | Isabella - for always listening to others in her class and on the carpet and always sharing kindness. | Mya D - for showing courage by speaking more on the carpet during lessons. |
| Year 3 | Lillie - for working so hard on her times tables and showing a huge improvement! | Jacques - for always being helpful in class. |
| Year 4 | Ethan Cd - for great speaking out in class presentation this week. | Harper - for some lovely writing this week trying hard to use speech punctuation accurately. |
| Year 5 | Hayden - for very good RE work, writing a newspaper report about the first Passover. | Layla - for excellent fractions work in maths |
| Year 6 | Lacey - for having a mature attitude and positivity in everything she does. | Emma - for showing maturity in all that she does and using her own initiative. |

| | Golden Chair | |
|-----------|---|--|
| | 23 rd February | 1 st March |
| Reception | Frankie C- for being the best version of himself. | Raye - for following Jesus' example and spreading joy with her wonderful smile. |
| Year 1 | Alice - for setting a wonderful example to those around her during our times of worship where she is calm and respectful. | Nova - for always being an example of Jesus within our classroom with her kindness and patience. |
| Year 2 | Noah - for always engaging in practical lessons in maths using resources to support his learning. | Alexis - for using good prepositions and the ing suffix to write a diary entry in English. |
| Year 3 | Cora - for working really hard towards her Lenten promise. | Logan - for leading by example and encouraging his classmates when they find things tough. |
| Year 4 | Ethan Cl - for making good reflections on himself and thought about his Lenten promise. | Leila - for always willing to share her ideas and work in class. Well done. |
| Year 5 | Joey - for making the right choices and showing great care for his friends. | Isla - for following Jesus and setting a good example to others. |
| Year 6 | Neave - for always making the right choices. | Ethan - for following Jesus' example and showing care and consideration towards others. |

Class News

Reception

An exciting two weeks back in Reception Class starting our Spring Topic! The children are continuing to make such a lot of progress and are becoming fantastic, fluent readers every day.

This week, we were excited to discover the delivery of some caterpillars this week - the boys and girls really impressed Miss Duffield and Mrs Lewis with their knowledge of life cycles, metamorphosis, and topic related vocabulary! We can't wait to see them eventually emerge as beautiful butterflies.

We've also started our new key text 'The Extraordinary Gardener'. We have been learning all about our senses by going for sensory walks to see what we can feel, see, hear, and smell in our natural environments. The boys and girls have proven to be extraordinary gardeners themselves, preparing planting beds ready to plant our own seeds in forest school!



Year 1

It's been a busy couple of weeks in Year 1.

We have started our animals topic in science and the children are loving it so much we decided to extend our topic into our choosing area with lots of different habitats. We have been sorting the animals into families and animal types and the children are now very knowledgeable.

We are now in the season of Lent and have been thinking about how we can be more like Jesus in our day to day lives. The children have also been learning about church and the different parts of the mass. We have used the mass kit to role play this and practise using the correct vocabulary.

We have had a very exciting week as we welcomed a new pupil to our class. The children welcomed Zara with smiles and kind words. I was so proud.

Year 1 also loved breaking the rules this week. They looked wonderful in their colourful clothes and some crazy hairstyles! Thank you for all of the donations. It is always very much appreciated.



Year 2

Another brilliant two weeks in year 2. It was lovely hearing what all the children did during the half term, including going on holiday and trips to MacDonalds. We are currently in the middle of our multiplication and division module in Math and have been using counters and cubes to make equal groups and how to share.

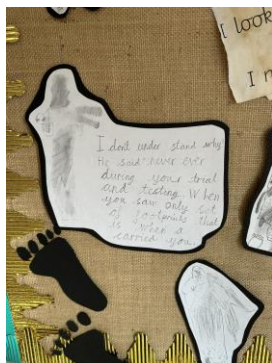
An unexplained object appeared in our classroom last week. When we opened it, we found that it was full of toys, we were all confused where they came from. We explored all the toys and used a range of questioning to predict where they might have come from. We then described the toys using some wonderful adjectives. This is to support our new text in English Toys in Space.



Year 3

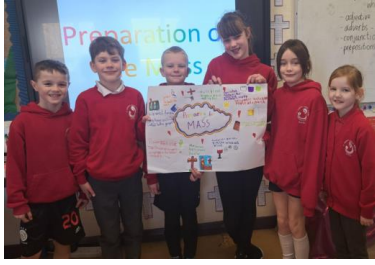
Year 3 have had a wonderful return from the half term! We have started reading a new book in class and are loving learning about Ancient Pompeii. We have considered how different things must have been back then and all of the technology we have today. We have been using our senses to create a bank of verbs all about what the Ancient Romans would have experienced. We have made some predictions based on the book cover, and we can't wait to find out what happens as the story develops.

In art, we have read the Footprints in the Sand poem and created artwork based on this. We discussed what the poem meant and how we should always remember that Jesus is with us. We each took the time to write our own Lenten promise in class and displayed it on our focal point as a reminder each day that we should follow in Jesus' footsteps.



Year 4





As part of our Sacramental Preparation, we have been looking at what preparations that have to be made to get ready for the Mass. We have looked closely at the different roles some of the parishioners take on to help. We know that ministers, altar servers, florists, the sacristan, musicians and readers all play



a very important role. We worked together to create posters to show the important roles these parishioners take on.

On Tuesday we all enjoyed 'Break the rules day'. Some of us had tattoos, sprayed our hair different colours, wore nail varnish, didn't bother to wear school uniform and we also had some very unhealthy snacks. One rule we did manage to keep was to work hard!



Year 5

Year 5 have had an amazing couple of weeks.

We have had 'Break the Rules Day' this week, with sweets, fizzy drinks and dyed hair.

Then the children trained as astronauts by: making origami to test dexterity and accuracy; carrying out everyday tasks whilst wearing space gloves; translating Russian; memorising eight-digit numbers; and designing mission patches.

They completed their electric cars (moon buggies) by installing the electrics and making switches to complete the circuits to run the vehicles. Four lucky space explorers will be going to a celebration event in Sunderland on Thursday to showcase their learning.

We have been busy organising and rehearsing for our assembly about space on Friday 1st March.





Year 6

The year is absolutely flying! We can't believe we are now over halfway through Year 6!

As Lent began over the holidays, we made our Lenten promises when we returned to school, thinking about the special time in the year Easter is.

We completed our artwork from our art days and displayed some of it in our classroom. We loved producing art linked to our class text- sketching pineapples and using pencils or pastels to colour them. Also, we had a great time recreating art, by looking at a painting and trying to get in the same position using props.

Break The Rules Day is something we love every year! We all came to school in non-uniform and many of us broke other rules too - bringing in juice or pop, bringing in sweets, wearing tattoos, colouring our hair, going to see special friends on a day different to our own and playing on the grass when it is usually out of bounds at this time of year. We had great fun!



Gospel

Sunday 3rd March 2024 - Taken from John 2:13-25 The Third Sunday of Lent, Year B

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, "Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market." Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, "What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?" Jesus answered, "Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.



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

God Bless,

Paul Naughton