



# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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



*Newsletter 15th 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. 4.3.2024	97.4%	94.1%	94.5%	98.4%	99%	99.4%	99.3%
w.c. 11.3.2024	100%	97.7%	93.5%	97.2%	95.3%	97.9%	95%

Dear Families,

With just over a week now until Holy Week the children have been preparing for the Celebration of Easter with a range of Lenten activities on the theme of giving, acting and praying during Lent to express our belonging to God.

Today Deacon Martin joined our pupils in The Big Lenten Walk around our school grounds. As we walked, we thought about and prayed for our global neighbours who aren't as fortunate as ourselves. The children did so well and enjoyed the walk with staff members.



On Tuesday Fr Adrian will welcome everyone to St Joseph's Church to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph's. The whole school will be in attendance and all families are welcome to join children and parishioners for mass starting at 10:00am.



The last two weeks has been a busy time for parents visiting St Joseph's. Can I thank everyone for attending the parent consultation days and both Year 3 and Reception class Liturgies in the hall. The attendance has been wonderful and staff and pupils look forward to welcoming parents and grandparents into school. Can I remind parents that Year 6 hold their Coffee afternoon on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 2:30pm. Normal safeguarding arrangements will apply and grandparents and parents will have to sign in for this event in the school hall.

We have lots of Easter activities to look forward to which I have included in the diary section of the newsletter. Some key dates include our annual Lenten Stations of the Cross at St Anne's Church at 10:00am & Penny Challenge at 1:00pm on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Parents are invited to both events and the school gate will open at 1:00pm for the Penny Challenge on the top yard. Our KS2 Easter Egg Competition and Rec & KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade will take place on the last day of term with parents or children being able to drop Eggs off in the Hall from 8:30am.

I was delighted to welcome Northumbria Police to school on Wednesday to discuss with KS2 classes online safety, bullying and potential consequences of misusing social media. We will be following this up in school soon which will include a parental workshop that parents will find very interesting, we will let you know when dates are confirmed.

Can I say a huge well done to all the staff and pupils that ventured to London this week to visit parliament. The school's council led by Mrs Douglas, Miss Cohen, Mrs Chalmers, Mrs Morgan and Mrs Lewis had a

wonderful day which started not long after 4:00am. They also managed to squeeze in Buckingham Palace, The London eye, Downing Street and the Embankment. The children visited both the Houses of Parliament and Houses of Lords which included a debating workshop.

I have sadly been told that Monica Jackson has recently passed away. Monica was a wonderful long serving parishioner, teacher and then deputy head teacher at St Joseph's and lived a very busy life with many of our parents and grandparents being taught by Monica. She will be missed by all and our thoughts and prayers are with Monica and her family at this difficult time. Her funeral will be at St Joseph's Church, we will inform families of the date when confirmed if any families may wish to attend.

On the staffing front we will soon say farewell to Mrs Cavanagh who has been a wonderful servant of St Joseph's teaching staff for the last 15 years and whom will leave us at Easter. Mrs Cavanagh has worked across the Primary phases and has been both popular with staff and pupils and will be greatly missed. We congratulate her on her new appointment and wish her well for the future.

Finally, my sincere apologies for the last two weeks of cancelled football fixtures. These have been due to waterlogged pitches. Let's pray for dryer weather soon.

### London Trip

On Monday 10 children and 6 staff boarded an early morning train to London to visit Parliament. Our elected School Council took part in a workshop on 'making laws' and met our local MP Liz Twist. The children were able to sit and view live debates in both the House of Lords and the House of Commons. We even managed to visit Buckingham Palace and watch the Changing of the Guards and went on the London Eye. We finished our trip with a visit to McDonald's for tea before getting on the train back to Newcastle.



### Breakfast Club

In breakfast club, we have been very busy making some lovely picture frames using lollypop sticks and creating our own pictures to put in them.

Some of the children have enjoyed making some bracelets and necklaces using the loombands, and even built some fantastic models with Lego for a mini competition. We have had lots of fun and have lots of Easter activities plan for the next couple of weeks leading up to the Easter holidays.



## Term Dates 2023/2024

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

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March - Year 6 Coffee Afternoon

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

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

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

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March - Easter Eggs/Bonnet Parade

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April - Year 3 & 4 Safety Works Visit

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April - Year 1 & 2 Safety Works Visit

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 13<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May - Year 6 SATS Week

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

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June - Staff training day, school closed to pupils

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July - Staff training day, school closed to pupils

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July - **School will close at 1:15pm**

## Awards

	Pupil of the Week	
	8 <sup>th</sup> March	15 <sup>th</sup> March
Reception	Lincoln - for growing in confidence and being willing to have a go.	Isla - for making fantastic progress and putting 100% effort into all she does.
Year 1	Frazer - for being confident in sharing his ideas with others and answering questions clearly.	Albert - for trying his best in all that he does and showing a wonderful example to others.
Year 2	Harry - for trying hard to use his stem sentences and explain his answers in maths.	Marley - For always being respectful on the carpet by listening to his friends and always being kind.
Year 3	Ava Br - for always being so helpful in the classroom.	Lennon - for making such a big improvement on his times tables.
Year 4	Aaliyah - for wonderful work with her talk partner and table, discussing her thoughts and ideas in all that she does.	Charlie - For being a kind and supportive partner while modelling with clay this week.
Year 5	Andrew - for excellent computing.	James - for excellent answers sharing his ideas in Geography and maths
Year 6	Louie - for having a fantastic attitude to his learning, resulting in very	Daniel - for showing maturity in all aspects of school.

	positive results.	
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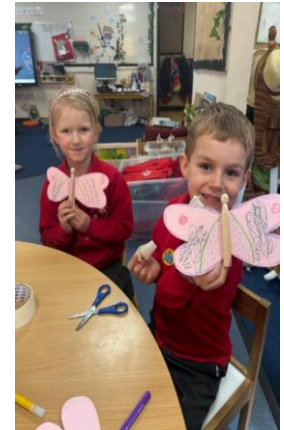
	Golden Chair	
	8 <sup>th</sup> March	15 <sup>th</sup> March
Reception	James - for following Jesus' example and being a helpful member of the class.	Charlie W - for sharing the light of Jesus by being a kind friend.
Year 1	Freddie - for being a shining example of exceptional behaviour in our school and lighting up any room he enters!	Lottie - for beautiful singing during our class worship and helping others in responding to the word.
Year 2	Carole-Anne - for always using kind words, and helping her partner in RE.	Emily - for showing the light of Jesus through her RE work of producing her own Eucharistic Prayer.
Year 3	Venice - for showing how small actions make a big difference when she helped her peers when they were hurt at break times.	Kimberly - for stepping up and supporting her peers during our Lent Liturgy!
Year 4	Sam - for great example to others, always working hard and being a kind friend. Well done Sam	Freddie - for always hardworking and ready to learn, being a good example to his peers.
Year 5	Nyah - for following God's way and showing others how to too!	Isla - for great RE work growing closer to Jesus.
Year 6	Lucy - for always thinking carefully about the right thing to do and always making good decisions, being a role model to others.	Noah - for following Jesus' example and showing care to others.

## Class News

### Reception

What a lovely couple of weeks we have had in Reception Class! The boys and girls were so excited to celebrate their very first World Book Day, we had lots of fun dressing up as our favourite book characters, coming to school in our cosy clothes and especially enjoyed a special book tour of the key stage to hear different teachers read their favourite stories. We have had a few special deliveries over the last couple of weeks including caterpillars, stories and seeds to support us with our growing topic! We have really enjoyed observing our caterpillars change and have been surprised by their rapid growth. We can all talk clearly about the life cycle of the butterfly and are super excited the watch our own beautiful butterflies emerge in a couple of week's time. We have been learning all about 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and are preparing to write our own version of the story! On Monday, we have our final delivery arriving for the Spring Term, keep your eyes on our Facebook page to find out what it is!





## Year 1

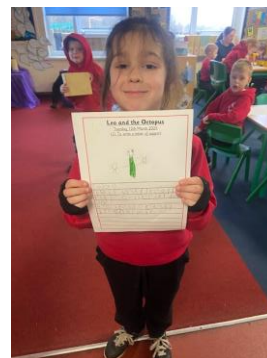
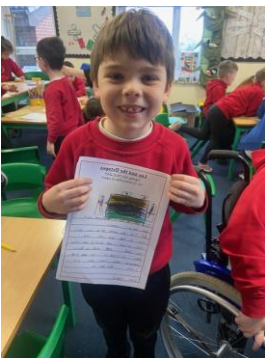
Year One enjoyed a marvellous World book day last week. It was fantastic to see them all dressed up as their favourite character. They enjoyed. A book tour in the morning and continued their activities in the classroom for the rest of the day. They were accessing the continuous provision to act out stories, build some famous settings, use the animals as much-loved characters and much more.

We have started a new text in our English curriculum. It is called Leo and the octopus. It is a beautiful story that looks at a child with

additional needs and how they struggle to fit in and how we can help them. It helps children explore their feelings and think of how others feelings may be the same or different to their own. It also gives us an opportunity to write in lots of different genres such as letters and information texts! The children are really enjoying it!



We are looking forward to the next couple of weeks as we come to an end of the Lenten term. With lots of exciting easter activities coming up, the children will reflect on the importance of this time in the church's calendar.



## Year 2

In year 2 we have started looking at measurements using centimetres and metres. We enjoyed measuring some of the objects on our tables with the centimetre ruler and bigger objects, such as white boards, doors and tables with the metre ruler.

In Geography we have begun looking at nature around us. We walked around the school looking for animals and plants that are around us. We found a spider on the fence and lots of worms. We saw the first signs of spring with blossom on the tree and 1 daisy growing out of the grass. We are still loving our history lessons and are now looking at children in the Victorian Era and what jobs they had.

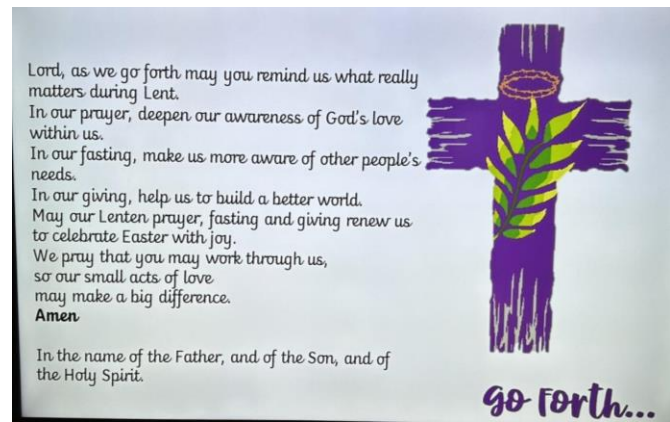


## Year 3

Last week Year 3 held a beautiful Lenten Liturgy. We shared everything we've learned about Lent and how to prepare for Easter, as well as the promises we made at the beginning of Lent. We have shared how we're trying to follow in Jesus' footsteps and focused on how our small acts can make the biggest differences. It was a beautiful and prayerful reflection and everyone did so well!

We are continuing our reading focus in year 3 and have had a number of fantastic and regular readers receiving hot chocolates as a reward to their hard work! 10 stamps means one hot chocolate in year 3 and some of us have received up to 3 this year! Keep up the great reading!





## Year 4

The children enjoyed using pastels to draw some beautiful spring flowers using pastels. They carefully selected the colours they would need, ensuring they had different shades. They looked very carefully at fine details and the shapes of the leaves and flowers. They were so proud of their work, we decided to use their finished pieces for our Mother's Day cards. We hope you all liked them!



We all enjoyed World Book Day. The children came to school dressed in either their relaxing clothes or PJ's, dressed as their favourite character from a book and as their favourite footballer who has a book. The day was full of lots of different book related activities. We travelled around classes and heard lots of different stories.



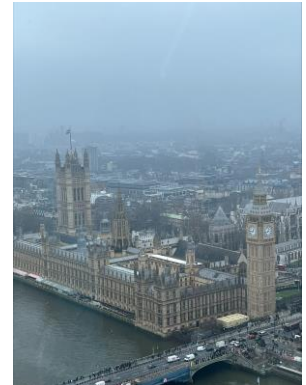
## Year 5



Year 5 have had a special visitor in the person of PC Bowman from Northumbria Police. They learned about online safety and showed great knowledge but learned even more. They were particularly interested in the age restrictions for social media use (at least 13 years of age, PC Bowman told them).



Our School Council representatives took a day trip to London on Monday. They saw the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace, had lunch on the London Eye, and visited two play parks before visiting the Houses of Parliament. They learned lots about British Values, seeing debates in the House of Commons and then the House of Lords. The tube trip afterwards during rush hour was particularly memorable and valuable for them!



We hosted an information session about the upcoming Weardale Adventure Centre residential in Wednesday night. Any parents who could not attend will receive a paper copy of the information given at the meeting.

## Year 6

We enjoyed World Book Day on 7th March. We all came to school either dressed up or wearing comfortable clothes. In the morning, we took part in a book tour rotating around the classes in KS2 to hear different stories. In the afternoon, we made our own set of Top Trumps, basing our cards on the characters in our class texts. We thought carefully about the categories we could use for them. Once we had finished, we were able to play our game in pairs. It was good fun!

In RE, we've been looking at the Easter story and we've been making freeze frames with our friends of the important parts. This week, we've been taking part in the Big Walk and Wheel and we've been trying to come to school by sustainable methods. We made posters to show the benefits of this.





## Gospel

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - Exaltation through suffering**

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me; wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!' A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it



again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Taken from John 12:20-30 The Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year B

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

God Bless,

Paul Naughton