



# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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



*Newsletter 28th 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. 18.3.2024	95.2%	92.8%	98.7%	98.4%	98.4%	98.8%	92.2%
w.c. 25.3.2024	100%	91.4%	94.4%	99.2%	100%	90.6%	94.6%
Lenten Term	97%	94.7%	95.1%	97.3%	96.5%	96.8%	96.3%

Dear Families,

Today we break for our Easter holiday, and I am thrilled by how the children have prepared for Holy Week throughout Lent. It has been a wonderful last two weeks and I have been delighted with the support from parents particularly in last week's Mass for the Feast of St Joseph's and this week's Stations of the Cross at St Anne's Catholic church. Fr Adrian would love to see pupils in church over the Easter weekend and I have included a list of dates and times for services.

We have managed to support many causes this academic year and it was lovely to see our Penny Challenge in action on the school yard on Wednesday afternoon.



Children worked in class teams to produce some lovely lines of coins which was great fun and will all go to support the Belauni Street Special School in Zambia. Can I remind parents that our Lenten Olympic day takes place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April and any sponsors for this event are hugely appreciated. Children will need to attend school in sports kit for this day.

This week we have enjoyed a range of Easter activities taking place in school with our KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade and KS2 Easter Egg competition being staged this morning. I do hope you enjoy some of the photos (see Facebook) many thanks to all parents who bought tickets for our Easter raffle and a special thank you to our PTA for buying our prizes for our Egg competition.

Congratulations to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> winners from each year group for the egg competition, the eggs were judged by Jill from the kitchen. Ava Br, Cora, Caitlin, Danielle, Nancy, Lauren, Katniss, Emily, Robyn, Jessica, Emily & Evie.



Thank you to all our Year 6 parents and PTA for supporting the Year 6 coffee afternoon last Monday. It was a huge success and hopefully this will provide much needed funds for our Year 6 send off at the end of the summer term.

I was delighted that our Year 5 and Year 6 children were invited to last week's Parish Partnership Youth evening at St Matthew's School in Prudhoe. It was a lovely night of fun and games with a Lenten theme. The event was supported YMT from the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Many thanks to all that attended.

Many thanks to all our parents and grandparents who have sent kind messages to Mrs Cavanagh whose last day was Wednesday after 16 happy and eventful years at St Joseph's. Mrs Cavanagh will be missed by everyone, and we wish her well for the future. All the children in school gave Mrs Cavanagh a special send off with the traditional send off song prepared by staff and pupils. Today we also say farewell to Jill Mitchell who has been a council cook at St Joseph's for many years. Jill, who retires today, received a lovely bouquet of flowers during her last lunch service at our school. Next term we welcome our new cook, Eileen McFadyen.



Can I politely ask parents not to park cars in the staff car park after 8:00 am when dropping children off at Breakfast Club unless you require disabled access. Parents are welcome to continue to do so before 8:00 am but the car park is too busy after 8:00 am when staff are arriving. A cone will be placed from 8:00 am in the car park entrance. Parents need to find alternative parking outside of school and make the short walk to school. Many thanks for your support with this matter.

Can I also remind parents that we have a huge number of clubs on offer this summer - Most of the clubs are free apart from Grass Roots, breakfast club and cookery club. The sign up google form needs to be completed by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April with clubs starting in week two. Please call the office if you need help with this as we do require parental permission if the club is sports related as children often require safety equipment and ratios are carefully risk assessed. Friday football is currently our most popular club for boys

and girls with 80 children attending. However, many of the children do not have football boots or shin pads. This would be a sensible investment as I only cancel this club on the rare occasion e.g. frozen ground.

Finally, can I congratulate all our Gold Book assembly winners who received their Metro Centre vouchers today - At the same time a big well done to everyone who didn't win a prize but equally worked so hard this term. I am also delighted to announce that at our best attended class this term is Year 3 who will receive a reward of a local trip in the Summer Term to be announced after the holiday.

Can I remind parents that we will be returning for the Easter Holiday on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April. I look forward to seeing everyone back in school after our holiday.

### **What Has Happened this Last Term**

This Lent we have journeyed together as a school and parish family focusing on how we can pray, fast and give to others. We have taken part in different activities each week of Lent as we draw closer to Easter and the Resurrection.

#### Lenten Promises - Ourselves

We began our Lenten journey by creating Lenten promises and thinking of how we can grope closer to God this Lent. We displayed these in our classrooms so we could remember our promises as we journeyed each day.

#### Prayer spaces- Our School Community

We created class prayer spaces in school which we explored as a key stage. This gave us the opportunity to have a moment of quiet in our busy week spending time with God. We enjoyed trying out different types of prayer which allowed us to explore in this 'Year of Prayer'.

#### Charity, The Poor - Our Local Community

We decided to help our local community by collecting food for a local food bank. All donations will go to families in our local area that need help.

Our global community - The Penny Challenge has been a real success and every class has collected many pennies that will go towards helping our global neighbour school in Zambia.

We also have our Olympic Challenge Day planned to take place after Easter in which all children will take part in an activity to raise even more funds for our friends in Zambia. Please make sure you try and get as much sponsorship as possible for this event over the holidays.

Our Mission - We celebrated the feast of St Joseph with the school and parish community celebrating the life of our school patron. We also gathered together in prayer at St Anne's to share the Stations of the Cross together and remember the importance of this time of Lent. During Holy Week we have been spending time in prayer to prepare ourselves for Easter. We have shared the Lenten calendar each day and prayed together to share the love of God with everyone.

During Lent we have fully committed to the challenge of praying each day, fasting from things we need and giving to others.

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

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

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April - Olympic Challenge Day (Year 1 & 2 will do this on the afternoon)

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

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May - Year 2 Liturgy, Year 2 families welcome from 9:00am in the school hall

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May - Photographer - Class photos to be taken

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**

### Masses and Services

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March - 10:00am St Joseph's Church, 3:00pm St Anne's Church

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March - 7:00pm St Joseph's Church

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March Easter Sunday - 9:00am Anne's Church, 10:00am St Joseph's Church, 11:00am St Joseph's Church

### Awards

	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	
	Pupil of the Week	Golden Chair
Reception	Kaitlyn - for her enthusiasm to read.	Frankie B - for fantastic improvement in phonics.
Year 1	Savannah - for always including others and showing everyone how to be a good person.	Sophia - for trying her best to make a positive change and follow Jesus' example even when things feel tough.
Year 2	Frankie - for his enthusiasm during discussions on the carpet.	Deacon - for always being a kind friend and making the right choices.
Year 3	Luke - for working really hard on his maths this week and his times tables.	Charlotte - for really listening to the message of our Celebration of the Word about sacrificing for others when sharing what she had with her friends.
Year 4	Chris - for a wonderful contribution to his group when retelling the Winter Child story. Well done Chris.	Lucy D - for a wonderful example to others being a helpful and considerate member of class. Well done Lucy.
Year 5	Emily - extremely hard work in her writing.	Sophia - always making the right choices and being a good example to others.
Year 6	Bailey - for just being lovely, showing	Phoebe - for showing independence and



	care and consideration to younger children.	making the right choices.
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Gold Book Award - Lenten Term	
Reception Miss Duffield	Lincoln - for continuing to grow in confidence, always being a fantastic example for his peers and making lots of progress as a result.
Year 1 Miss Graham	Savannah - for always having such a kind and compassionate nature and nurturing and supporting others at every opportunity
Year 2 Miss Carr	Carmen - for always giving 100% in the work she does, goes above and beyond in what you ask her to do and always offers support to her friends.
Year 3 Mrs Parish	Charlotte - for always giving 100% in class and trying her best. A fabulous, hard-working attitude.
Year 4 Mrs Alder	Oraiya - for always working very hard, even when she may find something difficult, she will give 100%.
Year 5 Miss Cohen	Katniss - for an outstanding attitude to her learning and being very kind to everyone at all times.
Year 6 Mrs Douglas	Daniel - for always having a fantastic attitude to all that he does.
Year 6 Mr Naughton	Grace - for always putting in 100% in all she does and making progress as a result.

## Gospel

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 - The Empty Tomb

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb," she said, "and we don't know where they have put him." So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.



Taken from John 20:1-9 Easter Sunday, Year B

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

God Bless, Paul Naughton



