



NEWSLETTER: 26th MAY 2023



Dear Families

Here we are, steamrolling towards the end of the academic year with only a half term to go! We have had a busy few weeks - celebrating the King's Coronation as well as completing the Year 6 and Year 2 SATs. Thank you, to all staff who have guided pupils through these assessments enabling everyone involved to remain as calm and relaxed as possible. You will have seen in press coverage, across the country, that some of these assessments proved tricky, but we know all our pupils will have given their best and that, of course, is all we could ever ask.

When we return, our Y1 pupils, and some Y2s, will be involved in the phonics screening assessment and our Y4 pupils will show off their skills in the multiplication assessment. Again, we know all children have been working hard. We encourage you to make the most of your week off but, where pupils, or parents, have been given extra advice, we encourage you to find time to work on skills for 10-15 minutes a day.

Staffing updates

I will be extending my time at St Joseph's and will remain in post as executive head teacher for a further year. I will be based here for a greater proportion of the week and, as such, I am sure I will continue to get to know pupils and families better. I look forward to this.

We have a number of staff leaving us at the end of this academic year - Mrs Haveron, Mrs Hull and Mrs Quiney.

Mrs Haveron hopes to retrain as an educational psychologist.

Mrs Hull has decided, after many years in teaching, she is ready for a fresh challenge.

Mrs Quiney has secured a teaching post in Brandon Primary School.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all three for their fantastic contribution to St Joseph's. I know they all have a deep and long-held affection for this school. A sentiment we share in return. New and exciting adventures await, however and, whilst they will be hugely missed, we will send them on their way with love and gratitude for their wonderful service. Rest assured we will give them all a great send off when the time arrives. The recruitment process for new members of staff is underway.

Congratulations to Mrs Cowan who has replaced Mrs Pinkerton as school business manager. Congratulations are also in order to Miss Greenwell who, having completed her apprenticeship with us, has secured a permanent position as office administrator. I am sure both will flourish in their new roles, and they will continue to provide great support to colleagues, pupils, families and our wider community.

General updates

We are receiving a very high volume of holiday requests within school time. We are unable to authorise holidays during term time and exceptional circumstances are extremely rare. Please ensure your child is present during term time and do not take holidays when your child should be in school.

We have noticed a number of children - particularly in Year 5 and Year 6 - are coming to school in their trainers. Please ensure children wear school shoes. If you need any financial help purchasing these, we encourage you to let us know and we will see what support we can offer.

EYFS Spruce Up

As you may (or may not) know, for the last few years we have entered the Northumbria in Bloom competition. We have entered again this year and would love to maintain our 'gold' status from previous years! Last year, we held a garden 'spruce up' event where parents came along after school to help weed, tidy, plant, paint and enjoy all things gardening! Children stayed inside to help cook up a treat for all of their grown-ups! We plan to hold another 'spruce up' event on Monday 5th June, straight after school until 4.30pm. We would love as many of you as possible to come along. Many hands make light work!

If you can make it (along with your gardening tools!) please can you let the office know by emailing stjs@stjs.bwcet.com so we have numbers for health and safety purposes and we know how many mouths to feed!

FHC

Twenty-one children are due to make their First Holy Communion on Saturday 17th June at 11 am. After Mass, children will come to school for a celebration event 12 noon – 1:30 pm. Some parents have also organised a gathering at Beamish & East Stanley Cricket club (1:30 pm onwards). Families of those children in Y4 who are not making their First Holy are very much encouraged to join friends to celebrate this special day.

Scholastic Book Fair

We will be holding our Book Fair from Wednesday 14th June – Tuesday 20th June. Children will be able to visit the Book Fair and buy books at allocated times throughout the school day. The Book Fair will also be open for half an hour after school each day for children to visit with their parents/carers. More information will follow nearer the time.

Year 6 Leavers Hoodies

Year 6 children received their Leavers Hoodies today. They were really excited to wear them and can wear them for school every day from next term if they wish.

Sun cream

As the weather starts to improve please remember to provide your child with a water bottle and sun hat/cap and apply sun cream, which last all day, before your child comes to school.

Extra-Curricular Activity – After School Clubs

Information on extra-curricular activity after school clubs from week commencing 5th June has been sent out. Places will be confirmed by Monday 5th June for any new clubs which are running and those clubs which have been extended into this term.

Club	Day	Year Group	Staff	Cost
Gardening Club	Monday 5,12,19,26 June 3, 10 July	Rec/Y1	Mrs Smith & Miss Wears	Full
Creative Prayer	Monday 12,19,26 June 3, 10 July	Whole School	Mrs Haveron	£5.00
Mindfulness Club	Monday 12,19,26 June 3, 10 July	Y5	Mrs Quiney	£5.00
Science Club	Tuesday 6, 13,20 27 June 4, 11 July	Y1/Y2	Mrs L Burgess & Science Ambassadors	£6.00
Multi Sports	Tuesday 6, 13,20 27 June 4, 11 July	Y1/Y2	Reevo Coaching	Free
Multiplication Club	Tuesday 6, 13,20 27 June 4, 11 July	Y4	Mrs Hull	Free
Basketball	Wednesday 7, 14,21 28 June 5, 12 July	Y3/Y4	Reevo Coaching	Free
Basketball	Thursday 7,14,21,28 June 6, 13 July	Y5/Y6	Reevo Coaching	Free
Photography Club	Thursday 7,14,21,28 June 6, 13 July	Y4/Y5	Miss Ryan	£6.00
CAFOD Club	Thursday 7,14,21,28 June 6, 13 July	Y3/Y4	Mrs Ashby	£6.00

As well as these clubs we also have a Wrap Around Care club which is open to all children at a cost of £5.50 per night. If you wish your child to attend Wrap Around care, this must be booked and paid for, in advance, via ParentPay.

Star of the Week

The following children have received a Star of the Week certificate for week ending 5th May:



Nursery	Chester	For showing great confidence when sharing his thoughts and ideas during group time.
Reception	Francesca	For a giving a beautiful example of how she would spread the Good News of the Holy Spirit to others.
Year 1	Elena	For working so hard to improve her reading. Keep it up, Elena!
Year 2	Year 2	For being wonderful detectives and hunting for clues.
Year 3	Ellen	For excellent effort in English lessons and super handwriting.
Year 4	Matthew	For working hard and being quietly confident with his times tables.
Year 5	Sophia	For excellent art work linked to our work on the Holy Spirit.
Year 6	Jamie	For some excellent writing this week.

Multiply Programme

Durham County Council are offering help to any residents who are struggling with maths, as part of the Multiply programme. Multiply is a new government-funded programme to help adults improve their numeracy skills. The programme is aimed at anyone aged 19 and over who doesn't have maths GCSE at grade C. They can access free numeracy courses through Multiply to build their confidence with numbers and may opt to go on and gain a qualification. Those children whose parents take an active interest in their maths are more likely to succeed and less likely to develop negative attitudes towards maths. Good numeracy skills, or even just increased confidence with numbers, will allow parents to help children with homework and foster positive attitudes.

If you think you would benefit from this programme, please contact: Multiply@durham.gov.uk

If there are a group of parents who would be interested in this course, they would be happy to do sessions at school, otherwise they can arrange one to one sessions at locations suitable for you.

Have a lovely half term break. Hope the wonderful weather continues!



FOOTBALL!!!



14TH JUNE
FREE TASTER SESSION
 SEE DETAILS BELOW TO REGISTER

5 weeks of FUN for just £20!

Wednesdays from 5pm to 6pm

**21st June, 28th June, 5th July,
12th July, 19th July**

All primary school aged children welcome



The Fulforth Centre

Front Street, Sacriston, Durham, DH7 6JT

EMAIL: durham@sportscool.org | TEL: 0191 905 2065 | TEXT: 0775 985 9590

HOW TO BOOK

www.sportscooldurham.schoolipal.co.uk

CLICK THE LINK OR SCAN QR CODE

CLICK ON THE VENUE

SELECT COURSE AND DATE

MUST BOOK IN ADVANCE



- All coaches Enhanced DBS checked
- Once booked, you'll receive all additional information
- Appropriate clothing/footwear required
- Strictly NO walk-ons
- Limited Numbers

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12TH JUNE

**FREE TASTER
SESSION**

**SEE DETAILS BELOW TO
REGISTER**

5 weeks of FUN for just £20!

Mondays from 5pm to 6pm

**19th June, 26th June, 3rd July,
10th July, 17th July**

All primary school aged children welcome



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