



NEWSLETTER: 7th July 2023



Dear Families

Curriculum development at St Joseph's Primary School

As we approach the end of another busy academic year, I would like to share with you a few of our curriculum plans for the new year from September.

As Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust grows, we have been really excited to embark on the curriculum development work that the Trust is facilitating. This particularly involves a focus on modern foreign languages, history and geography.

The Trust has organised for us to have access to new curriculum plans and high-quality training for staff provided by national experts in these subject areas. As a school, we have chosen to take up these opportunities to make sure that our children continue to receive the very best curriculum and get the best quality education.

To give you a flavour:

History/Geography: our children will be accessing a new curriculum which will give them a very deep and broad understanding of important subject knowledge and what it means to be a historian or geographer. The new curriculum helps children to make better links between their historical and geographical knowledge. It also has a strong emphasis on core vocabulary in history and geography which will contribute to excellence in reading and writing. We've been trialling a little of this new approach with some of the children already, via a unit on the Stone Age, and it is working really well.

Languages: we have a new curriculum for Spanish, which is the language children will access as part of the St Bede's cluster of schools. Instead of just teaching children key words or phrases in the language, the new curriculum helps them to understand, right from the start of Year 3, key phonics, vocabulary and grammar in the language. This combination gives them the best start to languages learning and prepares them more effectively for what they need in secondary school. While it might seem a long way off, this approach gives them the best chance of success if they choose to continue with languages study at the end of Year 9.

Some of these curriculums are quite a change from what we have done before, and are more ambitious in terms of what children will learn. The curriculums build steadily each year, strengthening children's knowledge of key themes and concepts. Because of this, we need to start at the beginnings of these curriculums, making sure that every child has the correct solid foundations on which to build. If you have children in different year groups in KS2, you might notice them learning similar ideas and knowledge when we begin in the Autumn term. Please be assured that this is just in the early stages while we introduce these new curriculums - and that these ambitious curriculums have been designed very deliberately in this way to ensure that every child has the solid base of knowledge on which to build in future years.

We plan to upload these curriculum plans onto the website for September, so that you can review these should you wish. In the interim, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

STEMFest

The Year 6 children attended STEMFest 2023, at the Virtu Honda Arena, on Wednesday. This was a great event which gave them the opportunity to speak to people who work in different sectors: Space, technology and Cyber Security, Environment and Energy and Manufacturing. They completed tasks in different sectors and learnt more about the opportunities which are there for apprenticeships when they leave secondary school. This was a great chance for the children to think about their future and realise how many different opportunities they have when they come to seriously considering careers.

Centre for Life

Year 2 had a fantastic time at the Centre for Life yesterday where they were scientists for the day. They explored the WOW zone, working together to use a pulley system which could transport materials. They went to the theatre to learn all about germs, both good and bad! All children put on their lab coats and glasses and completed a workshop and science experiments looking at different senses. They enjoyed watching Little Bear in the Planetarium and acting as astronauts in the Space Zone, where some got to sit on an astronaut's toilet! The behaviour of the children was exemplary, and they were fantastic role models for St Joseph's so well-done year 2!

We have the following events happening in school next week:

- Tuesday 11th July – Y4 Celebration Liturgy 9:15 am
- Tuesday 11th July – Y2 Celebration Liturgy 2:30 pm
- Wednesday 12th July – Meet the new teacher events 3:30 pm and 4:00 pm
- Thursday 13th July – Y3 Celebration Liturgy 9:15 am

Year 5 The Forge

Year 5 have been working with the Forge and a local artist to develop a banner for the Front St to encourage the community to look after the environment. They have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity and their designs are in the process of being completed by a digital artist. Watch this space!

School Reports

School reports will be sent home on Monday 10th July. (No additional parents' evening is planned; however, parents can meet the class teacher upon request).

Year 6 Celebration Event

Year 6 Celebration event will take place on Thursday 13th July at 6pm in the School Hall.

Whole School Mass – Led by Year 6

There is an end of term Mass led by our year 6 children on Wednesday 19th July at 9.30 am. Everyone welcome.

Y6 LAST DAY

As is tradition on the last day of term, children in Year 6 will be leaving school a little early. They will be leaving via the KS2 Playground so that the whole school can be there to say goodbye. Y6 will be leaving at 2.45pm. Parents/carers can congregate outside the main school reception – with your cameras at the ready! All other children will be collected at normal time.

Y5 St Bede's

St Bede's are no longer holding a parent evening for year 5 families on Tuesday 11th July. They will be holding an evening in September. Date to be confirmed



As you know, attendance is hugely important and we report attendance on a weekly/monthly/ termly basis. We monitor attendance/lateness very closely in school and will raise any concerns with parents/carers on an individual basis. If you have any concerns with regards to your child's attendance/lateness, please contact us as soon as possible so we can work together to resolve any issues.

This week's attendance is 91.4%. Our target is 97%

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
94.2%	88.8%	89.1%	99.4%	91.8%	87.9%	91.3%	91%

DIRECT SUPPORT FOR YOUNG DADS AND DADS-TO-BE IN COUNTY DURHAM



- Are you a young dad or dad-to-be (aged under 26)?
- Feel like you are the only young dad in the world?
- Worried about becoming a young dad?
- Sometimes find it difficult to cope as a new parent or young family?
- At times feel like the world is against you?
- Want to get out of the house and be more active?
- Want to meet, chat, or spend time with other young dads in your position?
- Looking for things to do and places to go for free with your child(ren)?
- Want to learn new skills, gain qualifications, and become a more confident and capable dad?
- Need a little help and support to get back on track or stay on track?

Supported by County Durham's Family Hub and Start for Life programme, we are delighted to offer the following services to young dads and expectant fathers in County Durham >>



Durham Young Dads Project

ABOUT: Supported by experienced Young Fathers Support Workers and Peer Enablers with lived experience of being a young dad, the *Durham Young Dads Project* will provide a variety of direct support to young dads and dads-to-be including:

- Face to face and online support.
- Individual help to address key challenges and difficulties.
- Help to attend key meetings with other services and professionals.
- Support to 'get out of the house', meet new people and try new things.
- Family focused activities including 'Stay and Play' sessions.
- Father focused social and recreational activities including young dads groups, cycling, 5-A-side football, and video gaming.
- First aid, parenting, and relationship skills sessions.
- Employability skills.
- Volunteering opportunities including film making, peer research and the development of a Young Dads Council.

Restrictions: This service is offered to young men including non-birthing people (aged under 26) living in County Durham (excluding Darlington) from the point of conception (pregnancy) until baby turns 2 years old (this is called the perinatal period). As gender is self-identified we welcome referrals from trans young men and nonbinary individuals who identify as fathers. This includes those who are in the role of a male care giver, for example stepparent or sibling guardian.

FIND OUT MORE....

We welcome self-referrals directly from young men and professional referrals (shared with the express permission of the young man). For further information or to make a referral, please contact: Doug Laidlaw (Programmes Manager) by Telephone or Text (Mobile: 07990 164449) or email: info@neydl.uk (general enquiries) or info@secure-mail-neydl.uk (secure email to make a referral).

About North East Young Dads and Lads (NEYDL):

Established in 2017, we are an award-winning parenting support charity that works with marginalised and disadvantaged young dads and expectant fathers (aged 25 and under) in the North East region of England. Our vision is for young dads to be valued and supported in their role as parents. Our mission is to enable young dads to play a safe, active and meaningful role in their children's lives, by **supporting and connecting** young dads and **influencing** wider practice.



FIND US ON: Charity Website: www.neydl.uk | DigiDAD Website: www.digidad.uk

