



# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



## NEWSLETTER: 22nd September 2023

### Dear Families

### Flood Update

Thank you, to staff, pupils, parents and carers for your co-operation and patience over the last few weeks as we work around the flood damage in school. Your support is always much appreciated.

A loss adjuster has been in school this week to assess the situation and we await his report. His initial recommendation suggests more substantial work will follow, but this is to be confirmed, as more in-depth investigations are necessary. As a result, we intend to maintain existing arrangements around drop-off and collection.

Please ensure you follow the times below. Due to the restricted access, late comers create increased disruption across school and we aim for as settled a start as possible for all pupils.

### Drop-off and Collection Information

Staff will be on hand at drop off and collection points to assist and direct pupils. We ask that parents/carers do not go into the yard from Front Street to avoid congestion.

Class/Club	Entrance	Exit
Breakfast club	Front street yard – please ring keypad on far door	N/A follow information for individual classes
Nursery	Usual arrangements and times apply	Usual arrangements and times apply
Reception	Gate opposite the Job Centre 8.45 am	Gate opposite the Job Centre 3.05pm
Year 1	Front Street Yard 8.45am	Front Street Yard 3.10pm
Year 2	Front Street Yard 8.45am	Front Street Yard 3.10pm
Year 3	Main path through churchyard into EYFS area and through new Reception classroom door 8.45am	Parents wait in main school yard (down from churchyard path) - children will be brought through EYFS outdoor area 3.15pm
Year 4	Front Street Yard 8.45am	Front Street Yard 3.15am
Year 5	Front Street Yard 8.45am	Front Street Yard 3.20am
Year 6	Front Street Yard 8.45am	Front Street Yard 3.20am
Wraparound Care	N/A	Front Street Yard – please ring school mobile 07823815101

Whilst further building surveys take place, we have decided to move Y5 and Y6 back into their classrooms as a temporary measure. These areas have been thoroughly cleaned and dried.

As always, we will keep you updated. We hope for a speedy resolution.

### **School Office**

We are working to ensure this is operational as soon as possible. In the meantime, we ask that you email with any queries you may have rather than coming in to school. School email is: [stjs@stjs.bwcet.com](mailto:stjs@stjs.bwcet.com).

If you need to contact us via telephone, calls are being rerouted, but we only have one line available at the moment so there may be a slightly longer wait time.

### **Code of Conduct**

As we are embarking on a new school year, it seems timely to share the BWCET wide Code of Conduct. Please follow the link to view this document. <https://www.bwcet.com/statutory-information/>

### **Reading**

Promoting a love of reading and developing pupils' reading skills is one of our top priorities this year. To support us in this, our pupils in KS2 use Reading Plus which is an online reading tool. We plan to ensure pupils from Y3 – Y6 access the programme three times per week (half an hour per session) in school. Initial online assessment activities (to pinpoint correct individual starting points) are almost complete.

In general, Reading Plus sets 6 assignments per week (1 vocabulary and 5 reading). The programme is responsive to an individual's speed and accuracy and adjustments are made regarding reading material if it detects a specific issue with a pupil's reading. The overall aim is to improve both fluency and comprehension. Letters with passwords will be issued next week should your child wish to access this programme at home.

Many of you will be very familiar with Reading Plus but, for those of you who might like a refresher, please follow the link below to watch a short video.

[Information for parents/carers: An introduction to Reading Plus video | Reading Solutions \(readingsolutionsuk.co.uk\)](#)

We would be most grateful please check to see if you have any school reading books at home. If you have, please return them to school as soon as possible.

### **ARBOR**

ARBOR is our new payment and communication portal and it is vital that all parents/carers sign up to this so we can keep you updated with what is happening in school. We are making excellent progress and currently have 94% of parent/guardians signed up. If you are experiencing any difficulties, or need help to sign up, please contact the school office. We look forward to announcing 100% take up!

If your child attends Breakfast Club and Wraparound Care, please ensure the place is booked and paid for before your child attends. Again, it is really important that we know who is coming to these clubs in advance for stock ordering and staffing purposes.

### **European Day of Languages**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September is European Day of Languages. We will be celebrating the day with a focus on Spain as Spanish is now our curriculum language (replacing French). The children can come to school dressed in red and yellow, to represent the Spanish flag, and will be taking part in a range of language and culture activities.

*Did you know: The red represents strength and valour, while the yellow symbolizes generosity. The coat of arms pays homage to the original kingdoms that united to form Spain in the 15th century.*

### **Reception Class Phonics Workshop**

We would like to invite Reception class parents to a phonics workshop in school on Tuesday 26th September at 9am. Mrs Burgess will teach a phonics session so that you can see what this looks like each day. After the phonics session, you are welcome to stay and play with your child in the unit and this will give you a chance to chat to staff about how your child has settled into school. The session will end around 10.30am.

### **Nursery Meet The Teacher**

Nursery parents are invited into school at 2.30pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September for a 'Meet the Teacher' session. You will find out a little about the daily routine in Nursery and the kinds of things our lovely pupils enjoy doing. The session will be finished in time for you to collect your child at the end of the day as usual. If your child does a morning session, you are still more than welcome to attend this later session but it is for parents/carers only. Please come to the yard outside the main school reception and staff will come out and let you in.

### **Gurdwara**

As part of our Religious Education curriculum, we study different faiths throughout the year. This term, to support this learning, we have been able to organise a visit to a gurdwara, in Newcastle, for Key Stage 2 children (Y3 – Y6), on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. A gurdwara is a place of assembly and worship for Sikhs. Jaswinder Singh, will lead the visit. Visits to the gurdwara are very popular and we are delighted to have secured this visit for our pupils. Please access the trip on ARBOR to confirm their consent.

Children should wear full school uniform and we ask that pupils wear suitable headwear during the visit. We respectfully request this to keep in line with the Sikh custom. Headwear can be supplied by the temple or children can bring their own. This could be a plain bandana, 'beanie' style hat or scarf.

### **Vacancies**

We are recruiting two full-time, permanent class teachers with a view to start in January 2024.

We also wish to recruit a teaching assistant with expertise in working with pupils with additional needs. This will be a fixed term contract.

Please follow the link for further information and share with anyone you think may be interested in these positions <https://www.bwcet.com/vacancies/>

### **Try a School Meal Day**

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October we would like to encourage all of our pupils to try a school meal. The choice of meals on that day will be

- Chicken Curry, Rice and Naan Bread
- Vegetarian Curry, Rice and Naan Bread
- Sausage roll, wedges & beans
- Vegetarian sausage roll, wedges & beans
- Ham or cheese sandwich

These are particular favourites for our children who already have a school meal. If your child normally has a packed lunch and would like to try a school meal on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October can you please email

[stjs@stjs.bwcet.com](mailto:stjs@stjs.bwcet.com)

The cost of meals are as follows:

- Nursery Children £3.18
- Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 – no cost
- Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 - £2.65

### **Holidays in Term Time**

We are becoming very concerned with the large number of requests for holidays in term time. Absence from school during term time will only be deemed authorised in exceptional circumstances. Work patterns, family celebrations etc. do not fall into this category. Unauthorised absences may result in penalty payments.

### **Northumbria in Bloom**

A huge thank you to everyone who helped and supported us with Northumbria in Bloom. Stanley has been awarded GOLD for the first time ever and we thank you all for your hard work and efforts.

### **Nasal Flu Vaccinations**

The nasal flu vaccinations are due to take place at school on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

Please use the below link to complete either a consent form or a refusal for the vaccinations. The link contains the consent form and additional information such as FAQs regarding the vaccination. The link will close on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

<https://nhsImms.azurewebsites.net/session/997b1178>

If your child has already had the Nasal Flu vaccine since September 2023, please disregard this message. If you have any problems accessing the link, please telephone 0333 358 3397.

### **Gala Theatre Durham**

Starting next week, Gala Youth Theatre provides young people with a wide range of opportunities to improve confidence, develop performance and creative skills.

Working in a supportive group, led by brilliant theatre practitioners, participants will learn about the process of theatre making with performance opportunities, visits from theatre specialists and trips to see shows throughout the term.

Workshops are available in four age groups as follows:

- **4 to 7 years – Saturdays, 10am - 11am**
- **8 to 11 years – Saturdays, 11.15am - 12.45pm**
- **12 to 14 years – Wednesdays, 4.15pm - 5.45pm**
- **15 to 18 years – Wednesdays, 6pm - 7.30pm**

Sessions can be booked individually at £7, or a term pass can be purchased for Autumn (ten sessions) priced £70.

Further information can be found at: [galadurham.co.uk/gala-youth-theatre](http://galadurham.co.uk/gala-youth-theatre)

### **Free Autumn National Trust Passes**

Please click the link below to claim a free, single-use National Trust pass to use between 18<sup>th</sup> September and 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/escape-into-autumn>

**This week's attendance is 94.0%**

**Our target is 97%**

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.

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Year1</b>	<b>Year2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>
97.69%	90.08%	90.69%	93.08%	96.83%	96.79%	92.07%	94.84%

### **Star of the Week**

The following children have received a Star of the Week certificate this Week:



Nursery	Jak	For sharing lots of lovely dinosaur knowledge during group times!
Reception	Cobey	For lots of lovely listening during carpet time and some marvellous manners!
Year 1	AJ	For joining in so well during phonics and trying his best! Well done!
Year 2	Imogen	For trying her best in all work this week. Keep this up!
Year 3	Harriet	For excellent work in English using fronted adverbials.
Year 4	Zander	For his excellent attitude to learning this week.
Year 5	Tate	For his excellent descriptive writing linked to our class reader.
Year 6	Daniel O	For his fantastic descriptive writing this week- particularly his metaphors.