



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



NEWSLETTER: 29th September 2023

Dear Families

Trust Primary School Celebration Event - Thursday 5th October

Following the information in last week's newsletter regarding try a meal day on Thursday 5th October, all of the schools in BWCET are having a Trust Primary School Celebration event. A separate letter has been sent to parents/carers and is available on our website.

<https://www.stanley-pri.durham.sch.uk/parents/letters/>



ARBOR

We are making excellent progress and currently have 95% of parent/guardians signed up. If you are experiencing any difficulties, or need help with this, please contact the school office. We look forward to announcing 100% take up!

A reminder that 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. If you pay by Child Care Vouchers can you please book your child on as attending and make your payments in the usual way.

Gurdwarda

A reminder that Key Stage 2 Children will be visiting Gurdwarda on Monday 2nd October. 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.

Children will leave school promptly at 9am and return at approximately 1pm. Upon return, school will provide a packed lunch for those children who usually have school dinners. For those pupils who bring their own packed lunch, usual arrangements remain in place.

This visit is covered by the parental consent form already completed. A voluntary contribution of £7.00 towards the cost of the trip would be very much appreciated and can be paid via ARBOR. This will help with overall cost of the visit. This is an excellent opportunity for the children which could not be replicated in the classroom. Your donations do make a difference to what we can offer the children.

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/>

Dates for your Diary

Apologies for the delay, we plan to share these dates early next week.

PE Uniform

Please ensure your child does not wear a football top on PE days as this is not permitted. On PE days, pupils must wear school PE uniform only. Thank you, for your support with this.

European Day of Languages

On Tuesday, a sea of red and yellow entered school, as our pupils wore the colours of the Spanish flag to celebrate European Languages Day.

Each year group had a different activity to explore and enjoy. By the end of the day children had a few new words and phrases to draw upon. It has been wonderful to hear the children putting this vocabulary to good use around school, such as in the dining hall where they have been overheard saying, 'por favor' and 'gracias' when asking for lunch. Learning a language opens up many new opportunities: travel and making friends and, of course, it is just pure fun! Bien hecho, St. Joseph's!

The Forge

Our Year 5 pupils have commenced an extended arts project with The Forge and Bob Beagria, who works at Teeside University as well as being involved in community art initiatives. As part of their work, Y5 have been composing poetry (pupils were asked to think of a theme and 'zoom in' with their description).

The Youth Village by Evelyn

*Within a village, there is a team,
Within that team, there was a girl,
That girl was polite and kind.
That kindness made me happy,
That happiness made me smile,
That smile helped me spread joy!*

The Cottage by Emily H

*There is a village called Stanley,
In Stanley, there is a farm
At that farm, there is a bike track,
From that bike track, there is a field.
From that field, there is a road.
From that road, there is a beautiful garden
In that beautiful garden, there is a beautiful cottage.
In that beautiful cottage, lives a tiger teddy call Tilly.*

The Sunflower by TJ

*Within a street, there was a house,
In that house, was a lady,
In that lady's hand, lay a seed.
That seed was given to a boy,
That boy nurtured it, with care,
That care made the seed grow bigger and bigger.
So big, it was as tall as the boy,
And that boy was me.
Me and my sunflower.*

Attendance & Punctuality

Our key priority in school is to promote good attendance and punctuality. This is because we want our pupils, in school, learning alongside classmates.

A figure of 90% means a child has missed an equivalent of 1 morning session of school every week.

A figure closer to 80% means a child has missed an equivalent to a day of school every week.

We understand, of course, there may be unavoidable and genuine reasons for absence. We do, however, want to work closely with families to ensure children are in school every day.

As a general reminder:

- Please make medical appointments outside of the school day or aim to minimise the amount of time your child will miss to attend the appointment;
- Only allow your child to stay at home in response to genuine illness;
- Do not take holidays during term time;
- Ensure your child arrives on time as lateness is recorded and will impact attendance figures.

If you have had an issue on a morning getting your child to school, we would always encourage you to contact us. We will help and it is always better to arrive later than not at all.

If your child seems unwell in the morning but appears much better by the afternoon, we encourage you to bring them in for the afternoon session.

We continue to stress, however, that pupils need to remain home for 48 hours after any incidents of vomiting or diarrhoea.

If there are any issues or concerns that are impacting school attendance, or punctuality, please contact the school office and an appointment will be made with one of the senior lead members of staff as advice and support can be given.

Our intention will always be to work with you, and support you, to ensure your child is able to attend.

This week's attendance is 89.87%

Our target is 97%

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
91.25%	95.52%	89.66%	87.31%	87.30%	87.65%	90.34%	90.0%

Star of the Week

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



Nursery	Sadie	For being a great role model, sharing with others.
Reception	Freddie	For sharing fantastic ideas in Maths when sorting objects into different groups.
Year 1	Nathan	For contributing brilliant ideas during carpet times.
Year 2	Brooke	For always participating in class discussions.
Year 3	Jude	For brilliant discussion and work about the fossilisation process.
Year 4	Shyla- Mae	For a fantastic job using mathematical vocabulary to explain her reasoning.
Year 5	Emily	For her beautiful poetry work.
Year 6	Lydia	For some excellent work in history on 1900s schools.

SAVE THE DATE

DURHAM DADS & MALE CARER CONFERENCE

This is an event you won't want to miss!

An inspiring day listening to Durham dads/male carers and Key Note speakers talking about their experiences and how together we can be more father inclusive.

The event is for all partners supporting Durham's children, young people and families.

Friday 17 November 2023

09.00 – 15.30

Central Durham Location

Lunch and refreshments provided.

Please register your interest at strongerfamilies@durham.gov.uk and more information on the format of the day and how to book will follow.