



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



NEWSLETTER: 20th OCTOBER 2023

Dear Families

Well, what a busy half term it has been.

Are you sitting comfortably? Already, this year, we have had.....

Y5 Youth Village Residential, European Language Day, Phonics Workshop for Parents, Forge Creative Project, E-Safety Assembly, an amazing visit to the Gurdwara in Newcastle, Artist/Photography Workshops with The Forge, Celebration Lunch with almost every child taking up the offer (raffle prizes, too), National Poetry Day, Y6 SATs Parents' Meeting & Residential Information Session, Fire Safety Talk by Consett Fire Team, a visit from the Maths Primary Adviser from BWCET, Brighten Up Day to raise funds for Cafod, Flu Vaccinations and we have topped it all off with our great Autumn Disco. Phew!

This has, of course, been in addition to all the wonderful curriculum work which has been going on in every classroom! Speaking of which, we are now getting to grips with the new Opening Worlds history and geography curriculum and new Spanish curriculum in KS2.

Thank you, staff, pupils and families for your enthusiasm so far. Keep that up because there is plenty to come. Please find attached a snapshot of our diary of events for November.

You can find our full diary of events on our website following.

Wednesday 1 st November	Whole School	Whole School Mass/ All Saints day 9:30am - all welcome
Wednesday 1 st November	Carers/Special Guardians	Acorns support group/meeting St Patrick's Dipton for Carers/ Special Guardians 9am - 10am
Thursday 2 nd November	Nursery	Nursery Stay and Play 9am - 10:15am
Friday 3 rd November	Parish Event	Induction Mass and Celebration for Fr Shaun Purdy 7pm (in church) with refreshments afterwards in school hall
Monday 6 th – 10 th November	Whole School	Parliament week. Visit from local MP Kevan Jones 10 th November
Wednesday 8 th – 9 th November	Pupils with SEN	SEN Reviews more information to follow
Friday 10 th November	Whole School	Remembrance Service led by Y5/Y6 2.30pm - school only
Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th November	Whole School	Anti-Bullying Week – Make a Noise About Bullying
Monday 13 th November	Whole School	Parent/Teacher Meetings 1.15pm – 5.30 pm Booking information to follow

Friday 17 th November	Whole School	Children in Need Day – Non-Uniform Day Voluntary donations (via Arbor)
Tuesday 28 th November	Whole School	Learning Walk with Barbara Reilly O'Donnell Ethos Director BWCET
Thursday 30 th November	Whole School	Pantomime – Gala Theatre, Durham. More information to follow

Safeguarding Questionnaire

As you know, we have asked all our families to complete a safeguarding questionnaire. We currently have 58 responses. We are extending the closing date for this until the end of half term so that as many people as possible can complete the survey. This will take no more than a few minutes of your time.

<https://forms.office.com/e/HAA9F9h5QA>

We have also shared a child friendly safeguarding policy with our pupils so they know how to keep themselves safe and know that adults are always available in school should they have any concerns.

Lockdown

We conducted an initial lockdown practice this week. We will repeat this, along with fire drills, at various points during the year. Each time, we carry out a drill, we concentrate on a different focus to be as efficient as possible.

Buildings Update

Contractors have visited school to complete further assessments in response to the recent flood damage. They plan to return in the coming weeks, when it will be necessary to dig into the concrete flooring at different points around school. From there, we will work with the Estates team at BWCET to formulate the plan for remedial works. The intention is to carry out the work in sections so that school will be fully operational, although there may be some changes to classrooms and some areas will be restricted. We will, as ever, keep you updated. As we are still in a position of uncertainty, we are not able to introduce after school clubs yet. We encourage families to make use of our wraparound care which provides after-school supervision. If you wish to make use of this facility, please book online and in advance.

Foundation Governors

If you are a practising Catholic, and are interested in being part of our local governing committee as a foundation governor, please contact school. I would be very happy to talk you through what this role entails and whether you feel you are able to share your skills set with us.

General rules reminder

Please follow the school expectations regarding hairstyles. Hair should not be dyed or excessively shaved with any form of pattern. A word of thanks, however, we are now seeing all children with hair tied back. We appreciate your co-operation.

Earrings should not be worn (including any transparent stud type earring).

Nail varnish should not be worn.

Swimming

Year 6 pupils will be going swimming after half term, every Thursday. They will need to bring swimming costume/trunks, swimming hat, towel and a warm coat as they will be walking to and from the Louisa Centre.

Parent/teacher meetings – Monday 13th November

To book a 5-minute face to face appointment with your child's class teacher please copy the attached link into your browser. If your child has a SEN plan a separate appointment will be sent to you so please do not book an appoint via this system.

stjosephsprimaryschool.schoolcloud.co.uk

Star of the Week

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



Nursery	Teddy	For showing such confidence when telling us all about pumpkins during group time.
Reception	Maddison	For lots of super singing when learning autumn songs and always remembering her manners, especially at lunch time.
Year 1	Lenny	For working so hard to learn his sounds in phonics!
Year 2	Karan	For his brilliant independent work in all lessons.
Year 3	Thea	For always being ready to learn and demonstrating great skill and team work in PE sessions
Year 4	Layla	For working hard and showing resilience
Year 5	Aimee	For excellent answers in all lessons this week.
Year 6	Thomas B	For his excellent work with long division in maths lessons this week

Times Table Rockstar of the week is:

This week's 'Rockstar of the Week' is Lenny! Well done for your amazing multiplication and fantastic studio speed!

Well done to Year 3, who beat Year 4, and Year 5, who beat Year 6, in their times tables battles last week! Even though it's half term, this week, Year 3 will face off against Year 6 and Year 4 will be competing against Year 5. May the best classes win!

St Joseph's are currently 14th on the leader board of our local schools. We can do better than that. Let's try and get into the top ten over half term!

As well as being fun, Times Tables Rockstar is a great way for children to cement their knowledge of times tables. Good knowledge of times tables is something which is invaluable for the children and benefits them greatly when solving problems in maths lessons.

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 92%

Our target is 97%

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
87.58%	90.0%	87.41%	92.69%	93.63%	95.0%	97.24%	92.9%

This term's attendance is 93.66%

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
92.88%	93.8%	92.89%	92.89%	95.22%	91.82%	95.71%	94.09%

Well done to all of our pupils who have had 100% attendance this term. We will be issuing certificates after half term.



House Points

Children can earn house points from all staff during the week. The house points for this week are:

St Aidan – 408

St Oswald – 498

St Cuthbert – 513

St Bede – 431

Congratulations to St Cuthbert team and well done to everyone who has earned points this week.

Have a wonderful, and restful, half term!

If you have any queries, please contact us at

stjs@stjs.bwcet.com

FREE numeracy sessions (for adults aged 19+) are running in the Stanley Family Hub Clifford Road, Stanley, Co. Durham, DH9 0AB

These courses are:

- Money Matters – managing budget in daily life (Thursday 19 October every week until Thursday 23 November 9:30-11:30)
- Feed the Family – cookery courses designed to aid cooking skills (Thursday 30 November 2023 9:00-12:00)



Are you struggling to make meals for the whole family?

Is the cost of cooking making it difficult for you to prepare healthy food at home?

Have you recently used a Feed the Family Box or purchased a food bag from That Bread and Butter thing and are unsure of how to prepare meals from them?

If you are aged 19+ The Multiply Team can help you plan, prepare and sample a delicious home cooked meal using staple items.

To attend one of our **Feed The Family Courses** visit

multiply@durham.gov.uk

to find out more and register



Do you not know where to start managing your finances?

Are you struggling to budget for the week or month?

Is working out money difficult?

If you are aged 19+ you can attend one of our **Money Matters Courses** visit

multiply@durham.gov.uk

to find out more and register