



NEWSLETTER: 17th November 2023

Dear Families

It was lovely to see lots of families at our parent/teacher meetings this week.

Thank you for supporting Anti Bullying week by wearing odd socks. Our pupils started the week with a whole school liturgy looking at friendship and kindness. The "going forth" message was taken from our St Joseph's Way – to be respectful. In classes, children also explored different types of bullying and the impact of bullying. They looked at the role they have in school to develop good relationships through respect and tolerance.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the book fair. WOW we have raised £956.38. We will be able to buy new books for our class libraries due to the funds you helped us raise.

Reading at St Joseph's continues to go from strength to strength. Reading plus has been running in school for a couple of years so it is great to see it being used to support reading at home. The children enjoy seeing the leader board to track their progress – particularly with the success they are having with the comprehension questions. Thank you for supporting this.

The Christmas season is fast approaching and we have lots of exciting things planned. We have tried to keep costs of activities to a minimum and any voluntary donations can be paid in instalments via ARBOR. Thank you, for your continued support.

Pantomime

The whole school is going to see Cinderella at the Gala Theatre in Durham on Thursday 30th November 2023. Children will have their lunch in school (children who have a school meal will be provided with a school packed lunch) before leaving at 12:15 pm and we will return to school at approximately 4.45 pm (traffic depending).

A voluntary contribution of £16.00 towards the cost of the trip would be very much appreciated and can be paid via ARBOR. Donations can be paid in instalments (e.g. £2.00 a week) if you wish. Your donations do make a difference to what we can offer the children.

Advent Liturgies

- 4th December Y5 & Y6 – 9.15 am all welcome
- 11th December Y3 & Y4 – 9.15 am all welcome
- 15th December Carols with Y5 & Y6 1.30 pm all welcome
- 18th December Y1 & Y2 9.15 am all welcome

Nativity Plays/Christmas Performance

- 7th December EYFS 9.30 am all welcome
- 12th December Y1 & Y2 9.30am all welcome

Christmas Jumper Day

We will be supporting the Save the Children Christmas Jumper day on Friday 8th December. Children can wear their Christmas/festive jumper on that day. Voluntary donations can be made via ARBOR.

Christmas Fayre

We will be holding a Christmas Fayre on Friday 8th December from 3.20 pm – 4.30 pm to help raise funds for school. We will have lots of exciting stalls and refreshments. More details will follow shortly.

Drive-In Christmas Movie Night

On the Monday 11th December 4.00pm – 5.30 pm, we will be having a Drive-in Christmas Movie Night in the school hall. Children can design a sleigh (decorated cardboard box) to bring on the night and come in their pyjamas/onesies/dressing gowns. There will be a competition for the best sleigh. Tickets will cost £3 and include a hot chocolate and a snack. If your child would like to attend can you please complete the form on the attached link by 5pm on Monday 27th November. <https://forms.office.com/e/VAPYHeemfn>

Christmas Lunch

If your child would like to have their Christmas lunch in school on Wednesday 13th December can you please complete the form using the attached link <https://forms.office.com/e/8Z2SWh35HT> by Friday 24th November.

Christmas Party Day – 20th December

The children will be having a Christmas party in school on Wednesday 20th December. A voluntary contribution of £2 per child towards the cost would be greatly appreciated and can be paid via ARBOR.

Whole School Mass – 21st December

There will be a whole school mass on Thursday 21st December at 9.30 am. Everyone welcome.

Lego

If anyone has any Lego at home that they no longer need, school can make use of this.

House Points

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

St Aidan – 338

St Oswald – 412

St Cuthbert – 304

St Bede – 329

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

Wake up Wednesday

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonline.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself: from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer to streaming services such as Netflix, as well as connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet enabled – so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.

INCREASED SCREEN TIME

The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.

REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL

Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases: buying a new app or the latest season of a favourite show, for example. If your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly quickly – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.

UNCONVINCING SECURITY

As Internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.

A SILENT SPY?

Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'eavesdrop' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.

CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.

SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.

CONSIDER THE LOCATION

If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of providing insights into the industry. Previously the editor of technology magazine, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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Star of the Week

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



Nursery	Armina	For lots of lovely listening and being a kind friend
Reception	Aria-Rose	For amazing effort and enthusiasm in all areas of learning
Year 1	Frank	For excellent addition and subtraction work
Year 2	Izzy	For showing wonderful enthusiasm when designing a puppet
Year 3	Aria	For writing an amazing diary entry in English this week
Year 4	Matthew	For a great job using his multiplication facts to reason and solve problems in maths
Year 5	Sophia	For excellent handwriting and presentation
Year 6	Archie	For writing an excellent flashback based on the 'The Nowhere Emporium'

Times Table Rockstar of the week is:

This week's 'Rockstar of the Week' is Daniel! Well done for your amazing multiplication and fantastic studio speed! Children can see all our TTRS winners on our new 'Times Table Rockstars' display board outside the Year 6 classroom.

Well done to **Year 6** who won this week's KS2 times tables battle! This means that both Year 4 and Year 6 have now won a week each and are at the top of the leader board! These tournament between Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 will continue up until Christmas. The overall winner will be the class which has won the most weeks.

St Joseph's are currently 17th on the TTRS leaderboard for schools in our area! Let's make a big effort this week to climb up the table!

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 92.04%

Our target is 97%

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
91.88%	84.48%	97.33%	95.0%	95.0%	92.86%	91.72%	88.06%

If you have any queries, please contact us at

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