



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



NEWSLETTER: 24th November 2023

Dear Families

As you are aware our key priority in school is to promote good attendance and punctuality. Regular and punctual attendance is both a legal requirement and essential for students to maximise their educational opportunities.

On average this week we had at least 30 pupils coming into school after 8:45 am. The means that they can miss out on lesson input, interventions, celebrations in assembly or general information for the day ahead. A reminder that school starts at 8.45am and doors are open from 8:40am. Registers are taken promptly at 8:45 am.

Being late for school can be upsetting for children. If they miss the input at the start of the lesson, or miss the instructions for the activity, they can panic or feel 'lost'. It also disrupts the lesson for others in the class. We understand, of course, there may be unavoidable and genuine reasons for lateness; however, this should definitely be the exception not the rule. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring children are in school on time ready to learn.

This week's attendance is 93.37 %

Our target is 97%

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
93.19%	92.72%	94.18%	93.21%	94.78%	91.26%	94.73%	92.94%

Pantomime

The whole school is going to see Cinderella at the Gala Theatre in Durham on Thursday 30th November 2023. Children can bring a bottle of water and a small bag of sweets to have at the Pantomime. We will return to school at approx. 4:45 pm, traffic dependant.

Christmas Fayre

We are busy organising our Christmas Fayre for Friday 8th December, starting straight after school in the hall. There will be lots of fun stalls for all the family.

We would appreciate donations of:

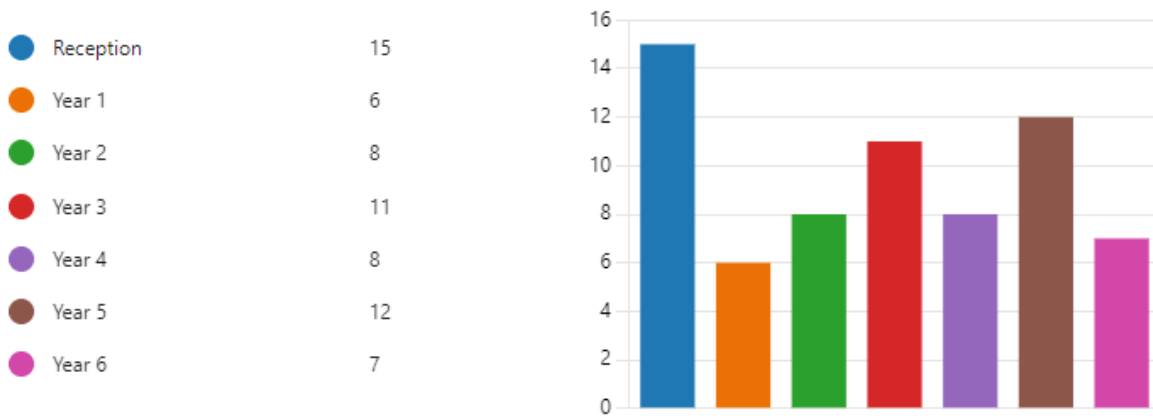
- Chocolate of any description for our chocolate tombola
- Bottles of any description for our bottle tombola
- Raffle prizes

Donations can be handed in to the school office. Thank you for your support

Please see the responses below to our recent safeguarding questionnaire.

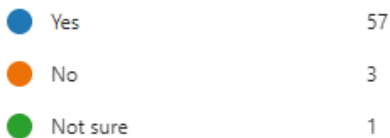
We have 61 replies in total although not everyone answered every question.

1. My child(ren) is/are in the following year groups.



2. If you had a concern about your child's safety, would you feel confident talking to someone in school about this?

[More Details](#)



3. Who would you go to?

We had 57 responses to this question naming the class teacher, members of office staff or members of the senior leadership team in school.

4. Do you know who the lead designated staff for safeguarding are in school?

Can you name them please?

This provided mixed responses – some parents/carers knew and some did not.

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs J Burgess
Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Miss L Ryan
Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Mr L Haveron
Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Mrs B Cowan

Parents/Carers can approach any member of staff with a concern. If your worries are more serious, however, please approach one of the safeguarding leads. There should always be a senior safeguarding lead on site.

5. How do you access the school's policies?

[More Details](#)

● Website	41
● Follow link in newsletters	18
● I have not accessed the range of...	12



We would encourage all parents to access policies around safeguarding pupils via our school website. If anyone would like a paper copy of any of these policies, please contact Miss Greenwell in the school office and we can arrange this for you.

6. What does school do to keep your child safe?

Parents/Carers were able to list a range of protocols and policies, site security, approaches to teaching and additional assemblies.

7. How does school keep you up to date with safeguarding information?

We had 50 responses to this question. Parents/Carers listed newsletter, email, Arbor app and website.

8. How does the school support you to keep your child safe?

We had 37 responses to this question.

5 said, 'unsure'. Other responses listed included: newsletter, phone calls home regarding concerns, sharing of important messages within the curriculum e.g. online safety, monitoring behaviour, good communication between home and school and approachable staff.

9. Overall, if I were to rate how safe I consider my child(ren) to be at St Joseph's I would say....

[More Details](#)

● Very safe	45
● Somewhat safe	13
● Neither safe nor unsafe	2
● Somewhat unsafe	0
● Very unsafe	0



If anyone would like to share any thoughts on what we, as a school community, could do further, regarding safeguarding and keeping our pupils safe, please come and talk with us. Safeguarding pupils is always our highest priority and we are always ready and willing to review and refresh how we operate.

10. Please add any further comments you wish to share about safeguarding at St Joseph's.

Thank you, for the range of very supportive comments you shared e.g.

- *Staff know the children well and the children's safety and wellbeing is number one priority.*
- *Thank You to St Josephs for having caring, approachable and efficient staff.*
- *Brilliant school, Excellent staff!*
- *Staff, have always treated any safeguarding concern I have raised with a high level of professionalism and confidentially, they have followed correct procedure and have always followed up on any concerns raised in an appropriate manner. Furthermore, I have observed the school to offer support to families to minimise the need for escalation and be part of an early help approach!*

- One response asked about further staff training.

Staff and governors undergo annually safeguarding training at a variety of levels. This training is revisited regularly throughout the year.

- One parent said that they were not sure that their child was always safe.
- One parent left a response about a potential bullying concern.

Thank you, again, for you time in completing this survey. I would ask any parent, who has any concerns regarding any incidents in school, to make an appointment to meet with the class teacher in the first instance or, if issues are of a more serious nature, to arrange to meet with a member of the senior leadership team to check the matter has been thoroughly addressed. Good lines of communication between home and school will always help to facilitate a speedier investigation and resolution to any issues.

We always place safeguarding at the heart of all we do. We will continue to provide regular updates. If you have any queries at all, regarding any of the information in the feedback provided, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully
Mrs J Burgess

Times Table Rockstar of the week is:

This week's 'Rockstar of the Week' is Shyla-Mae! 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 4** who won this week's KS2 times tables battle! A special mention to Ethan, Natalia and Shyla-Mae for their brilliant efforts this week! This means that Year 4 have now won two rounds of the tournament and are in the lead!

St Joseph's are currently **16th** on the TTRS leaderboard for schools in our area. This is an improvement on last week. Let's make a big effort this week to try to sneak into the top 15!

Star of the Week

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



Nursery	Charlotte	For showing amazing enthusiasm in all areas of learning.
Reception	Daisy	For lots of lovely smiles on a morning and super Fred Talk in phonics.
Year 1	Frances	For always trying her best in all the jobs she does
Year 2	Ava	For her wonderful sewing skills and helpful attitude.
Year 3	Isla	For her excellent work and effort in Maths this week
Year 4	Ethan	For fantastic use of mathematical vocabulary and reasoning
Year 5	Teddy	For a fantastic Frankenstein interview
Year 6	James	For his excellent work multiplying and dividing fractions

House Points

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

St Aidan – 484

St Oswald – 243

St Cuthbert – 349

St Bede – 246

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

If you have any queries, please contact us at

stjs@stjs.bwcet.com

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 issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on

BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the seasonal retail frenzy can lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS

Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online: they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious: providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL

It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

SET STURDY PASSWORDS

A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

DITCH THE DEBIT CARD

Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

RESIST THE INFLUENCE

Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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#WakeUpWednesday

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Christmas Activities

Watling Spaces CIC, @ The Roxy, Watling Street, Leadgate, Consett have the following Christmas Activities.

On the 16th and 17th of December we are holding a range of wonderful activities for the whole family to enjoy. Saturday the 16th of December comprises of three children's Christmas Workshops, voluntarily run by two experienced primary school teachers - Elf Squad Mini's, Elf Squad Junior's and Elf the Musical Workshop. Sunday the 17th includes a Christmas fair, two concerts, a sing along, mince pies and hot drinks too!



**Santa's
ELF
SQUAD** SAT 16TH
DECEMBER

THE ROXY Leadgate, DH8 6DP
info@watlingspaces.co.uk

BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY

ELF MINI'S AGE 2 - 4
1 PM - 2 PM £4.50
(BIG ELVES MUST ATTEND FOR ELF & SAFETY)

ELF JUNIOR AGE 5 - 9
2.30 PM - 4.30 PM £5.50

QR code



let's sing a little song.

elf
the Musical
Workshop

SAT 16 DECEMBER, 2023
time 10 TILL 12 age 10 - 13

*Book Your
Place Today!*

ONLY
£5-50

THE ROXY LEADGATE
INFO@WATLINGSPACES.CO.UK

QR code



**THE ROXY
CHRISTMAS
Market**

**SUNDAY 17TH
DECEMBER**

11:30 CHRISTMAS MARKET
DOORS OPEN **FREE ENTRY**

12:00 UPSTAIRS *Christmas*
CONCERT **TICKET, DRINK
& MINCE PIE
FOR ONLY
£3**

1:00 UPSTAIRS *Christmas*
CONCERT

2:30 UPSTAIRS **CHRISTMAS SING ALONG**
MARKET DOORS CLOSE

See you there!

WATLINGSPACES.CO.UK