



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



NEWSLETTER: 1st December 2023

Dear Families

Cinderella

We all had a brilliant time, singing, dancing and cheering our way through Cinderella at Durham Gala Theatre yesterday. There is a huge amount of organisation, behind the scenes, to ensure a whole school event such as this runs smoothly. Thank you, to everyone in school for making yesterday such an enjoyable occasion. St Joseph's pupils, you are a credit to our school.

Christmas Fayre

Friday 8th December is our Christmas jumper day and Christmas Fayre. We would be extremely grateful if you could make a raffle/tombola donation for our stalls such as chocolates, bottles, toiletries, toys (in good condition only please). We ask that only adults bring bottles to school to be handed in to the school office. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

FHC meeting

We have an update to our diary of events. Fr Shaun would like to hold a meeting for parents/carers of pupils in Y4 who will be making their First Holy Communion next summer. The meeting will be in school at **2.45pm on Friday 15th December**. This is an opportunity for Father Shaun to talk through expectations of the programme. If there are any parents/carers of pupils in Year 5 or Year 6, who missed making their First Holy Communion, for whatever reason, please feel free to join the session and you can talk things through with Fr Shaun.

Please complete the Form using the attached link <https://forms.office.com/e/rBwpt9b7vE> to let us know that you will be attending.

Advent

The season of Advent is almost upon us. Sunday 3rd December is the first Sunday of Advent and in school, your children will learn about Advent as being the time to prepare for Jesus' coming at Christmas. Inviting and welcoming visitors, and preparing for them, are all part of this RE topic which gives perspective to the Christmas story and its background.

We invite you to support your children's learning about Advent/Christmas at home by:

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 - Travelling Crib (2 children per class will bring this home each night during Advent)

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 - Class Advent Prayer Journals and Nativity Bauble to decorate

During Advent, we will also be collecting food items (tins, packets, pasta etc) and toiletries (bubble bath, shampoo etc) which will be given to PACT House and the local foodbank.

Thank you for your continued support

This week's attendance is 86.49%

Our target is 97%

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
62.96%	85.86%	89.33%	90.77%	96.43%	84.29%	95.52%	86.72%

Times Table Rockstar of the week is:

This week's 'Rockstar of the Week' is Natalia! 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! A special mention to Archie and Macartney for their high scoring this week! This means that Year 6 have now won two rounds of the tournament and are in joint top position alongside Year 4!

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	Ivie	For being an absolute star and wonderful friend!
Reception	Freya	For being a kind, caring and happy member of our EYFS family!
Year 1	Jayden	For doing brilliant reading this week!
Year 2	Isabella	For being a wonderful role model in year 2 and always trying her best.
Year 3	Thomas	For always being ready to learn and trying his best in lessons.
Year 4	Lachlan	For excellent work in RE this week.
Year 5	Max	For finding equivalent fractions.
Year 6	Daniel	For some excellent work on fractions this week.

House Points

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

St Aidan – 289

St Oswald – 273

St Cuthbert – 332

St Bede – 239

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

Wake Up Wednesday

What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...

WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self-harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

Meet Our Expert

Luke Bennett is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the St Bede's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the TES (among other journals) on school leadership, politics

