



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



NEWSLETTER: 8th & 15th DECEMBER 2023

Dear Families

What a busy few weeks we have had.

In EYFS, we have some new children starting Nursery in January and they came with their parents/carers for a 'stay and play' session. They all had such fun and our current Nursery children did a fantastic job welcoming our newest pupils. We cannot wait for them to join us after Christmas!

We also had our Nativity and wow, wow, wow! Each and every child made us feel incredibly proud as they joined in with the songs and actions to put on an amazing performance! Thank you, so much, to our families for providing costumes, for your kind words and for your ongoing support!

We had a number of emails of thanks, for example:

"We absolutely loved it! Well done, everyone and thank you so much to all the teachers." "It was absolutely fantastic-the children were a joy."



Year 5 & Year 6 led us in a lovely Advent Liturgy which focused on Peace. They explored this topic through the work of Save the Children and how they support children across the globe. Thank you to everyone for your donations to Save The Children we raised £67.00.

St Joseph's Choir sang for our parishioners Outreach programme and what a special occasion it was.

Year 3 & Year 4 led us in a lovely advent liturgy which focused on Peace. They performed a very beautiful liturgical dance.

We had a fabulous Christmas movie night with fantastic decorated sleighs. You have obviously been very busy and very creative!

Our Year 1 & Year 2 children wowed us with a fantastic Christmas performance this week. All of the children took part and have worked really hard to learn their lines and all of the songs.

Donna & Diane cooked us a lovely Christmas dinner on Wednesday. Children said it was, "Delicious", "Can I have the recipe for the stuffing it was soft and squishy in the middle", "Best Brownie ever". They even sang, "All we want for Christmas is Donna & Diane's dinner. High praise indeed.

Our Year 5 & Year 6 ended the week perfectly with Christmas carols.

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.

School Council

The School Council have met to look at promotion rewards for the best class attendance. They will take their ideas back to their classes. We will let you know what they have decided and when this will be implemented.

Road Safety

Durham County Council Road Safety Team came into school to talk to the children about keeping safe and being seen in these dark months. Being bright to be seen is just one way to stay safer, other ways include to hold hands, wear helmets if scooting or cycling, use safer crossing places and always remember to **Stop, Look, Listen** and **Think** when crossing the road. Here are the rules to remind us:

Find a safer place to cross

It is safer to cross the road using a safer crossing place like a subway, a footbridge, a traffic island, a zebra, pelican, toucan or puffin crossing or a school crossing patrol. If there is no safer crossing place near then choose a place where you can see the traffic in all directions.

Stop - Stop on the pavement behind the kerb.

Look - Look for traffic. Look in the direction of the traffic that could hurt you first. This traffic will come from the right so look right first, then left and check right again.

Listen - Listen carefully as you can often hear traffic before you see it. (Be very careful as we can't always hear electric/hybrid traffic)

Think! - When it is safe, walk straight across the road. Keep looking and listening until you are safely on the pavement on the other side of the road.

Christmas Fayre

A huge thank you to everyone for your kind donations and supporting the Christmas Fayre - we raised £750.00.

We would also like to thank the following businesses who have donated gifts/prizes for the raffle:

- Gel Nail Polish -The Beauty Bar Stanley
- Fruit & Veg Hamper – Brockwell Farm
- Stadium Tour tickets 2 adults & 2 Children - Newcastle United Foundation
- Cut & Blow Dry – Jeff Hoggs
- Beauty Voucher
- Eyebrow wax/Tint - Divine
- Cut & Blow Wave - Zoots Hairdresser
- Selection boxes - Zoots
- Sunday Lunch for 2 – The Turf Consett

Winners

- Guess the number of sweets in the jar
 - Jar A – Eadie Year 1
 - Jar B, C D, - Isobelle R - Year 2
- Guess the name of the bear – Buttons (number 86) – Thomas McCrea
- Find Santa's Key
 - David Y5
 - Daniel Y6
- Lucky Numbers - £50
 - Phoebe 4 YN

Raffle

- Fruit & Veg Hamper - 112 Heidi Y5
- Chocolate Hamper – 279 – Phoebe YN
- Newcastle United Stadium Tour – 93 Aurora Jasmin Y2
- Gel Polish (Beauty Bar) – 97 Olivia T Y2
- Cut & Blow Wave (Zoots) – 222 Freddie B YN
- Eyebrow Wax/Tint (Divine) – 391 Bradley Y3
- Cut & Blow Dry (Jeff Hogg) – 174 Ruby Y1
- Sunday lunch (The Turf Consett) – 182 Dominic Y3
- Bottle of Gin 240 – Noah B Y5
- Bottle of White Wine – 327 Max
- Bottle of Red Wine – 314 Jacob Y4
- Box of Roses – 83 Frances Y1
- Box of Fox's Biscuits – 65 Rose Y3
- Bottle of Prosecco – 378 Bradley Y3
- Doll – 6 Diane

EYFS Polar Express

All aboard! Boys and girls in EYFS are invited to come to Nursery/School on Monday 18th December dressed in their pyjamas and dressing gown. Children can each bring 1 soft toy and a blanket so they can snuggle down, ready for The Polar Express! They are more than welcome to bring slippers but please ensure they come to school wearing suitable shoes for the outdoors as well as their coat as usual.

Christmas Party

The children will be having a Christmas party in school on Wednesday 20th December and can come to school dress in their party clothes. A reminder that earrings must not be worn and hair must be tied back. A voluntary contribution of £2 per child towards the cost would be greatly appreciated and can be paid via the School Shop on ARBOR. Thank you for your support.

Whole School Mass

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

A reminder that school closed on Friday 22nd December at 2pm. There will no be Wrap Around Care club that night.

Star of the Week

The following children received a Star of the Week certificate for week ending 8th December:



Nursery	Olivia	For using her fabulous imagination in play and being a kind friend.
Reception	Jack	His super understanding of 1 more and 1 less in Maths!
Year 1	Noah	For trying so hard to improve his handwriting.
Year 2	India	For sharing a lovely message about the true meaning of Christmas.
Year 3	Dominic	For excellent work and questions during our science investigation.
Year 4	Isla	For fantastic reading and excellent comprehension.
Year 5	Bobby	For excellent comprehension skills.
Year 6	Hannah	For some excellent use of speech in her writing this week.

Star of the Week

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



Nursery	Oluwatobi	For inviting others to join in his wonderful imaginative play
Reception	Mya	For confidently telling the class all about hibernation and migration.
Year 1	Rudi	For always contributing to all our lessons and carpet times.
Year 2	Elena	For always being a wonderful, caring friend and fantastic role model to others.
Year 3	Tega	For impeccable behaviour and always trying her best during lessons.
Year 4	Freya	For a fantastic attitude to learning and brilliant problem solving in Maths.
Year 5	Jack	For making an excellent effort with reading
Year 6	Katie	For making some excellent links to scripture in RE lessons this week.

Times Tables Rock Stars

Summary of the last two weeks:

Last week's 'Rockstar of the Week' was **Martha!** 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 last week's KS2 times tables battle with over 900 points (which is a school record)! This puts them back to the top of the table ahead of Year 6. This makes for an exciting last two week of competition. Who will come out on top?

St Joseph's were **12th** on the TTRS leaderboard for schools in our area. This means we have jumped an amazing 4 places since last week! We now have an average studio speed of 4.37 seconds. This means we take just over 4 seconds for each answer which is brilliant. Can we break into the top 10 by Christmas?

This week, we have two 'Rockstars of the Week'! Well done to **Ava and Noah** for their amazing multiplication and fantastic studio speed! Children can see all of this term's TTRS winners on our 'TTRS Hall of Fame' display board outside the Year 6 classroom.

Well done to **Year 6**, who won this week's KS2 times tables battle with over 600 points This puts them on level points at the top of the table with **Year 4**. Next week will be the decider, will one of these classes take glory or will **Year 5 or Year 3** steal the show and record their first win?

St Joseph's are up to an amazing **9th** place on the TTRS leaderboard for schools in our area. This is amazing progress from starting in 17th at the beginning of term. Well done to all of those children who've been practising their times tables and getting us up that leaderboard!

House Points

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

St Aidan – 793

St Oswald – 789

St Cuthbert - 860

St Bede – 631

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

There will be a 'treat' for the house with the most house points this term on Thursday after mass. The team will watch a movie in the hall.

EPEC (Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities) Being a Parent Programme

This course is for parents/carers of children between the ages 2-11. It is for 2 hours a week term-time only and is led by trained parents. If any parents/carers would like to book a place, they can email EPEC@durham.gov.uk or text/ring/whatsapp 07917474856.

We have 3 groups running starting in January:

Start Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 23 rd January	6pm-8pm	Stanley Family Hub
Wednesday 24 th January	9.30am-11.30am	Durham Family Hub
Thursday 25 th January	12.30pm-2.30pm	Tudhoe Family Hub

Attendance & Punctuality

Our key priority in school is to promote good attendance and punctuality. This is because we

Last week's attendance was 93.25 %

Our target is 97%

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
89.38%	93.79%	92.67%	94.62%	96.07%	92.14%	93.79%	93.55%

This Week's attendance is 91.18%

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
88.76%	88.36%	93.52%	92.69%	94.73%	90.20%	94.26%	92.01%

Wake Up Wednesday

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

DISNEY+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience; these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.



BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.

PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.



ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 6+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.

ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof Exit' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 6 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 6+, 9+, 12+ or 14+.



ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.



TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.



ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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