



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



NEWSLETTER: 12TH JANUARY 2024

Dear Families

Welcome back. We are very much looking forward to the term ahead. We know it will be busy, exciting and packed with learning - just the way we like it!

We are delighted to welcome Mrs McCormick, working in Nursery, and Mrs Shiels, working in Y4 to our team. They have already made a great start.

On Monday, we had a very productive staff professional development day which involved St Joseph's and St Patrick's working together. It was great to see such positive collaboration as we focused on the '5 Big Ideas of Teaching Maths':

- Representation and Structure;
- Fluency;
- Mathematical Thinking;
- Coherence;
- Variation.

We want all our pupils to enjoy maths and we want to support our pupils to become competent and confident mathematicians (so keep going with the counting, practising number bonds and those tables – your children will know what they have to do) as this will stand them in great stead!

Uniform

A reminder our school uniform policy including what children should wear on PE days is on our website <https://stjosephsstanley.bwcet.com/parents/school-uniform/>

On the days that children have PE, or attend a sport after school club, they should wear their school jumper/cardigan with black jogging bottoms (no logo) and a t-shirt in their team colour, please no football shirts/additional hoodies.

Details of PE lessons are below, as there have been some changes this term:

Day	Year Group
Monday	Year 2, Year 2 & Year 6
Tuesday	Year 3 & Year 5
Wednesday	Year Rec & Year 6
Thursday	Year 1 & Year 3
Friday	Year 1, Year 2 & Year 4

Thank you, for your continued support in ensuring that your child wears the correct uniform.

Try a School Meal Day – 18th October

On Thursday 18th October, we will be offering all children a free school meal. We would encourage all children who normally have a packed lunch to join with their friends and enjoy a school meal.

The menu on the day will include a selection of the following:

- Pizza
- Sausage Roll Bites
- Chicken or Quorn Nuggets
- Potato Wedges & Dips
- Selection of Sandwiches & Wraps
- Vegetable Sticks & Humous
- Scrumptious Salad Bar
- Fresh Fruit
- Ice Cream Pots

We will check with all children on the day to confirm if they are having a school lunch.

Breakfast Club/Wrap Around Care

A reminder, if you child attends Breakfast Club and Wraparound Care, the place must be booked, via ARBOR, in advance, and paid for before your child attends. The numbers of children attending these clubs is increasing and we have to ensure adequate staffing ratios are in place to comply with health and safety guidelines. If you pay by Child Care Vouchers, please book your child in as attending and make your payments in the usual way. If you book your child in and they do not attend, payment will not be taken from your account. Thank you, for your continued support.

First Holy Communion

Our First Holy Communion programme will begin on Tuesday 16th January after school. Mrs Shiels has very kindly agreed to lead the preparation with her Y4 pupils. It is important that you commit to these sessions with your child. Fr Shaun has requested that you attend Mass at St Joseph's Church every Sunday at 11:00am. If you attend a different church, please let him know. If your child is in Year 5 or Year 6, and they have not made their First Holy Communion, and wish to do so, please contact the school office.

Parking and Driving Around School

The safety of our children and families when coming to, and leaving school, is very important. We have had a number of reports of inappropriate parking and cars driving too fast around school. During their time in school, children learn about road safety and about being a responsible citizen which builds on the values that parents/carers and families instil in their children at home. We appreciate your continued support in all aspects of school life and ask that you explain to you child why **it is important to use designated parking areas and not park on double yellow lines or pavements**. There are a number of car parks in Stanley that are only a few minutes' walk from school which do not have any parking charges. Please ask any family member or friend who brings your child to school or collects them at home time to use the nearby car parks. A reminder that parents/carers must not drive or park in the church grounds.

Medication

School can administer prescribed and non-prescribed medication as long as the relevant consent form has been completed. All medication must be handed into and collected from the office by an adult.

Payments

Payments for school meals, breakfast club and wraparound care are via ARBOR. Payments can be made on a regular basis e.g. daily, weekly, monthly, termly etc. We would be obliged if all accounts could be kept in credit as this will ensure that we do not have to contact you to chase up outstanding payments. If you have any queries regarding payments, or if you have difficulty making payments, please contact Mrs Cowan, School Business Manager, to discuss this further.

Star of the Week

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



Nursery	Rita	For super story telling when acting out 'Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep'.
Reception	Emily	For asking lots of interesting questions when learning about migration!
Year 1	Aria-May	For using her phonics brilliantly to help her writing.
Year 2	Freddie	For having a brilliant attitude towards his work this week.
Year 3	Alice	For working very hard on her 8 times-table this week.
Year 4	Ella B	For fantastic work in maths identifying factor pairs.
Year 5	Matthew	For excellent work on multiplication this week.
Year 6	Oliver	For some excellent work on long multiplication in maths.

Attendance

We aim to provide the highest quality education for our pupils. We know that they will only benefit fully from this high-quality school experience if they attend regularly and on time. When pupils are absent, they risk missing out on our carefully planned curriculum. Research also tells us that pupils who miss school can sometimes struggle to develop secure and lasting friendships.

Our new attendance policy, which is published on the school website <https://stjosephsstanley.bwcet.com/> and available via the school office, takes effect from this week.

Next week, we will issue you with your child's attendance figures for the autumn term (you can access this at any time on Arbor).

This week's attendance is 95.1%

Our target is 97%

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
96.6%	96.5%	93.3%	89.8%	93.3%	96.4%	98.2%	96.7%

Lateness

Over the last 3 days, on average, 23 children were late for school. We understand, of course, there may be unavoidable and genuine reasons for lateness. We do, however, want to work closely with you to ensure all children are in school every day on time. Children are welcomed into school from 8.40 in readiness for 8.45 start. If you are still approaching school at 8.45, your children will arrive late into class which is unsettling for them. Please give your children a relaxed start to the school day by arriving on time.

If your child arrives late, this may well be recorded as an unauthorised absence. All incidents of lateness result in lost learning time. Lateness can have a disruptive impact on pupils already engaged in their learning.

House Points

Children can earn house points from all staff during the week.

Congratulations to St Cuthbert who earned the most house points this week.

Dates for your diary



Monday 8 th January	Whole School	School Closed- Inset Day
Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th January	Whole School	School Careers Week this will be rearranged to later in the term.
Tuesday 6 th February	Whole School	Safer Internet Day
Monday 12 th February – Friday 16 th February - Half Term		
Friday 23 rd February	Whole School	Anti-Bullying Day
Monday 26 th February	Year 1	Phonics Parents' Workshop Session 8.50am 3.00pm Repeated session
Wednesday 28 th – Thursday 29 th February	Pupils with SEN	More information to follow
Friday 1 st March	Year 2 & Year 5	Centre for Life – more information to follow
Monday 4 th March	Whole School	ParentCarer/Teacher Meetings 1.15pm – 5.30pm Booking information to follow
Monday 11 th -Friday 15 th March	Whole School	British Science Week
Monday 11 th – Tuesday 19 th March	Reception – Year 6	Wilderness Workshop. More information to follow
Tuesday 12 th March	Y4 Holy Communion Pupils	2.30 First Reconciliation Liturgy in church Parents welcome
Monday 18 th - Friday 22 nd March	Whole school	Assessment Week
Tuesday 19 th March	Whole School	St Joseph's Feast Day 9.30am Mass - all welcome
Thursday 21 st March	Whole School	World Maths Day
Friday 22 nd March	Years 1 & 2	Palm Sunday Liturgy 9:15am - all welcome 2:30pm School only
Monday 25 th March	Years 3 & 4	Maundy Thursday Liturgy 9:15am - all welcome 2:30pm School only
Tuesday 26 th March	Year 5	Good Friday Liturgy 9:15am - all welcome 2:30pm School only
Wednesday 27 th March	Year 6	Easter Sunday Liturgy 9:15am - all welcome 2:30pm School only
Thursday 28 th March	Whole School	Egg Decorating in School More information to follow (pm)
School closes on Friday 29 th March and re-opens on Monday 15 th April Easter Holidays		

Online Safety

We will give regular updates throughout the year regarding the need for vigilance with online safety. Please alert us to any concerns you may have.

Please see the following guidance and advice from National Online Safety.

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 nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Children & Young People Need to Know about FREE VS HATE SPEECH

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's not the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to those around us, rather than making offensive and threatening remarks. That's called 'hate speech' and knowing the difference is incredibly important.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – that negatively targets a group or an individual because they are perceived to be different in some way. Demonsing and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's theories were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin, even today. A frequent exchange of ideas is vitally important for a healthy society.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having ours challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Freedom of expression includes the right not to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal. By law, nobody can force you to say anything you don't want to.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote, decent working conditions or same-sex marriage – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Targeting people or groups because of a protected characteristic – like race, gender identity, sexuality, nationality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on the same characteristics: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example. Separating the target from other human beings is usually an attempt to justify the speaker's bigotry.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions. Suggesting that a certain group should be removed from society could be seen as a call to arms, for example – potentially putting people from that group in danger.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way. This kind of thinking is always incorrect – but can be incredibly harmful to the group in question.

Spreading damaging misinformation about a person or group that the speaker views as "different" – essentially, trying to turn others against them by lying. Someone might claim that a recent tragedy is the fault of this entire group, when this is simply not possible.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are. This has been illegal in the UK for a long time – but some people still try to promote the exclusion of others, which can cause a huge amount of distress.

Meet Our Expert

The Global Equality Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the edc app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

GLOBAL EQUALITY COLLECTIVE

The National College

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/18/section/10>
<https://www.edc.org.uk/ukpga/1988/42/schedule/1#> Article 10: Everyone has the right to freedom of expression

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Incredible Toddlers

**12-14 week program for parents and
carers with children aged 1-3 years**

- Help Your toddler feel loved and secure.
- Encourage language, social and emotional skills.
- Establish clear and predictable routines.
- Handle separations and reunions.
- Use positive discipline to manage behaviour.

Starting Wednesday 10 January

Parents and carers only

Stanley Family Hub

10.00am – 12.00pm



**For more information please contact us
on 03000266150**





Autism
Central



DAISY
CHAIN
Autism & Neurodiversity

In-person Learning Workshops

Consett - Durham

As part of the Autism Central programme, Daisy Chain provides a range of learning opportunities covering a variety of topics to help support individuals and families.

These sessions are free and open to families living in the North East and Yorkshire. Autism Central offers families and carers of autistic people high-quality and easily accessible autism education, training, and support through peer educators, alongside a dedicated website.

Please see information below for each individual session, as times, days and locations vary. You can access our training sessions if you have a young person with traits, undergoing, or diagnosed with autism, ADHD, FASD or sensory processing differences.

Book online: <https://www.daisychainproject.co.uk/event/ac-durham-learning-workshops/>

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Consett Family Hub
Moorside Primary School, Chester Road, Moorside, DH88EQ

Jan 29th 2024

10am-1pm / Sibling Support Learning Workshop followed by peer support coffee morning

April 1st 2024

10am-1pm / Understanding autistic overwhelm followed by peer support coffee morning

June 3rd 2024

10am-1pm / Intro to ADHD followed by peer support coffee morning



SCAN ME