



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



NEWSLETTER: 1st March 2024

Dear Families

KS2 Swimming Gala

Well done, to our swimming team for representing St Joseph's so brilliantly today at the district swimming gala at Freeman's Quay Leisure Club. We are so proud of how well you competed and the fantastic team spirit shown. Thank you to parents for their fantastic support.

Y1 Phonics Workshop for parents/carers

Thank you, to those of you who were able to drop in for our phonics workshops for Year 1 this week. Miss King loves all things phonics so, if you have any questions at all, or if you could not make the session, I am sure she will be very willing to chat with you and offer any support needed.

Careers Week

This year, National Careers Week takes place between 4th and 8th March. The week is a one-week celebration of the variety of jobs that people in our community do. The aim is to help children develop an awareness and excitement about their possible future pathways.

Thank you, to all those who have volunteered to come into school and talk about their work with pupils next week. We have ensured every class has a visitor. If you now think you have time to pop into school and did not respond on the original form, it is not too late. We would love to hear from owners of local businesses in the area.

Please contact the school office and we will try to arrange a time when you can talk with a class. Do not worry, staff will be on hand to help and, as you know, the pupils of St Joseph's will be very well behaved and they will be a fantastic audience!

Parent/Carer Teacher Meetings

A reminder that parent/carer teacher meetings will take place on Monday 4th March between 1:15 pm and 5:30 pm. If you have not already booked an appointment, this can be done via our ARBOR app, any problems please contact the school office.

World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day, on Thursday 7th March, children can come to school dressed as their favourite character, or non-uniform. The school council would like to run a book stall to raise funds to purchase new books for school. Donation of good quality books for the book stall would be gratefully received and can be sent into school on Monday 26th February. Children can bring 50p to school on Thursday 7th & Friday 8th March to purchase books. We look forward to a wonderful day of reading related activities.

Year 2 and Year 5 trip

Our Year 2 and Year 5 pupils have enjoyed a great day at the Centre for Life in Newcastle.

Year 2 experienced life as a scientist for the day, investigating materials and conducting experiments linked to the senses.

Year 5 participated in a range of exciting activities based on the theme of Space.

After School Clubs

After school clubs will run until Thursday 28th March. If you have not booked your child into a club, and they would like to attend, please contact the school office and we will confirm if a place is available.

Star of the Week

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



Nursery	Jasmine	For developing lovely ideas in play with the other boys and girls.
Reception	Edith	For sharing lots of lovely ideas during class discussions, especially in R.E.
Year 1	Emily	For working so hard to improve her handwriting.
Year 2	All Year 2 pupils	Excellent behaviour during our trip to the Centre for Life
Year 3	Rose	For trying very hard with her handwriting and making letters consistent in size.
Year 4	Tia	For a fantastic explanation text about the water cycle.
Year 5	David	For excellent work in maths this week.
Year 6	Nico	For some excellent work investigating percentages in maths.

House Points

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

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

Attendance

This week's attendance is 96.81%

Our target is 97%

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
95%	96.9%	98.67%	97.12%	97.86%	98.89%	95.17%	95.81%

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.

Top Tips for Supporting Children Who Are EXPERIENCING BULLYING

In a DfE survey, 26% of parents said that their child had been bullied in the past year, while 29% of secondary school headteachers reported bullying among students. Public Health England states that young people who maintain positive communication with their family were less likely to experience bullying - so it's important that parents, carers and educators know how to talk to children about bullying.

- 1. WATCH FOR BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES**

Children who are experiencing bullying may become quiet, withdrawn, or nervous. However, they may also get on the piss and anger that they're feeling. A shift in attitude towards their school, friends, family members, and pets may mean it's not so good to see them. Children who were usually happy and confident may be showing signs. It's important to be alert to such changes and talk to your child about them if they occur.
- 2. THINK THINGS THROUGH**

Before acting, ask yourself if this is the right time and place to address concerns about bullying. Will your actions trigger strong feelings or feelings from your child about opening up to you? You could try discussing what you've heard with another trusted adult who knows your child well.
- 3. BE OPEN AND UNDERSTANDING**

Try to listen to your child's changes that you've noticed in their body language, behaviour, or tone of voice - and do so without passing judgement. Help them to describe what they're feeling - be it anger, sadness, fear or something else - as accurately as possible. If they say they're "angry", do they mean "frustrated" or "resentful"? Talk with your child to understand how they're feeling and why.
- 4. LET THEM SPEAK FREELY**

Ask open questions and a willingness to let your child talk. Listen closely and summarise what they've said in appropriate ways. (Always without repeating) to demonstrate that you're understanding. Clearly, bullying may have undermined your child's sense of control, and they may feel that you'll judge them, disavow it or ignore consequences - so this conversation can reassure them being honest with you was the right decision.
- 5. CALL A TIME OUT**

A conversation about bullying could leave both you and your child feeling drained. It's important to take a break and give both of you a few minutes to calm down. Take deep breaths, enjoy a hot drink or even have a walk. If you can, schedule a time, while also helping you both feel that you have control over the situation and the emotions that you're feeling.
- 6. STAY INFORMED**

Make sure you know your child's school's definition of, response to and reporting channels for bullying. This information should be in their school bullying policy, which ought to be available on the school's website. Check how best to communicate with your child's school at the first point of contact, though there may be dedicated support teams or key adults to help your child, depending on the specific situation.
- 7. PREP YOUR CHILD FOR THE RESPONSE**

Be realistic in your expectations about what your child can do. They may not be able to do anything, but you can help them to feel more confident they can deal with the situation and help when such incidents have occurred. Reporting concerns to the school will get the best outcome for your child in the long run.
- 8. SUMMARISE YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE**

When you contact the school, make sure you've got a clear idea of what your child's experience is all about - what, where, and when it occurred. This will help the school to investigate further, identify any witnesses, as well as think about how they should respond. It can also help the school to know how your child is feeling and how they'd like the matter to be resolved.
- 9. LIAISE WITH THE SCHOOL**

Any school has a duty to ensure that the members of its community feel safe and included. It's important for children to learn that they're safe. The school should demonstrate how they can support your child's feelings of safety and respect. It's often best for schools to have parents and carers informed of any action taken - and for families to avoid taking matters into their own hands.
- 10. CHECK IN FREQUENTLY**

Once the issue has been resolved and the bullying behaviour has stopped, your child may still feel nervous and might find it difficult to rebuild confidence or develop new ones. Parents, carers and the school should keep an eye on how the child is feeling and acting over the following months. Any relevant information should be shared, so that further support can be provided if necessary.

Meet Our Expert
Rob Bailey is the Director of Anti-Bullying Quality Mark UK, which challenges and supports schools to develop sustainable whole-school approaches to prevent bullying, including working with parents and pupils. More than 80 schools in England and Wales currently hold the Quality Mark.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College



Parenting Together

NEW 2.5 hour
friendly and
informal
workshop

Helping parents and/or friends and family who help bring up your child to:

- Think about how you deal with disagreements in relationships
- Manage family stress and improve communication
- Enjoy parenting together

**To find out more or to
book your place
call/text/whatsapp
07917 474 856 or email
EPEC@durham.gov.uk**

Workshop dates

Monday 4 March, 6-8.30pm
Wednesday 6 March, 9.30-12noon
Monday 18 March, 6-8.30pm
Tuesday 19 March 12-2.30pm

Venue TBC





DURHAM DADS TOGETHER

Sign up
NOW

**ONE
WEEK**

TO GO

EMAIL NOW 

STARTS TUESDAY
5TH MARCH, 2024



TIME
6:00PM - 7:30PM



STANLEY FAMILY HUB
CLIFFORD RD, STANLEY DH9 0AB



dads@durham.gov.uk

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 – change of date 26 th & 27 th March	Pupils with SEN	More information to follow
Friday 1 st March	Y5 & Y2	Centre for Life
Monday 4 th March	Whole School	Parent/Teacher Meetings 1.15pm – 5.30pm Booking via ARBOR
Week beginning 4 th March	Whole School	National Careers Week
Thursday 7 th March	Whole school	World Book Day
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 12th March	Y4 pupils	First Reconciliation (New event added) 2.30 St Joseph's – all 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		