



NEWSLETTER: 3RD May 2024

Dear Families,

Respect and Equality Pupil Workshops

We continue, with energy and rigour, to ensure our pupils are able to articulate the knowledge and understanding we know they have around British values and equalities. Coming up before half term, our children will participate in workshops which focus on protected characteristics and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion. We are sure this will be very beneficial.

The Boy at the back of the Class

Year 4 enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Theatre Royal this week to see a production of *The Boy at the Back of the Class* – their recent class novel - by Onjali Rauf.

The story focuses on Ahmet, a Syrian refugee who is struggling to adapt to his new life in London after his traumatic journey to England and the heartbreak he encountered. Rauf's book centres on the importance of friendship and encourages children not to fear those who are different. Ahmet's friends come up with a very clever plan to reunite him with his lost family.

As we were leaving the theatre and getting on our bus back to school, the actor playing the central character, came over to thank us for attending the show. What a lovely thing to do. We were quite starstruck!

Food bank donations

'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,'

Matthew 25:35-40

Catholic Social Teaching underpins the essence of our daily school life. As members of the Catholic Church, we are all called upon to preserve the dignity of all human beings, to care for creation, and to reach out to our sisters and brothers in need. Pope Francis emphasises that it is our duty to work together to bring about a more just and peaceful world: to put love into action.

In response to this, our Community Club led by Mrs Ashby, has decided to collect food items (packets, tins, pasta etc) which will be shared between Stanley Food bank and PACT House. There is a box in the main entrance to school for your donations. Whatever you are able to give, would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

Celebration of Mass

We are celebrating the Ascension with a whole school mass on Thursday 9th May at 9.15am. Please join us if you are able.

A polite reminder, when attending any church or school events, not to bring any form of refreshments to the service. Thank you, in advance, for your co-operation.

Parliamentary Speaker

As we mentioned last week, this morning, our pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 had the brilliant opportunity to meet with Gillian Bell, Parliament's Senior Education Officer for the Northeast, Yorkshire, and the Humber. She delivered a presentation on an Introduction to Parliament. Pupils also had the chance to ask a range of questions. This has been a very timely visit with local government and mayoral elections taking place.



Year 6 SATS assessments

The Year 6 SATs assessments are rapidly approaching and will take place from May 13th until May 18th. Children will be formally assessed in:

- English Reading
- English Grammar
- Punctuation
- Spelling
- Maths

Thanks to the amazing work ethic of staff and pupils, our children are ready and waiting to show how much they have learned during their time at St Joseph's. We know, of course, formal assessments alone are never the whole picture of children's progress, but we know our pupils want to do their very best and we are here to support and encourage every step of the way.

During SATS week, our Y6 pupils are all encouraged to attend our breakfast club for a free breakfast – Monday to Thursday. This is to ensure a calm and relaxed start to the day. If your child would like to enjoy breakfast with us, please ensure they arrive in school by 8.15am.

World Children's Day Art Competition

Pope Francis announced that the first 'World Day for Children' would be held in Rome on 25-26 May 2024. This is so that all children can hear and live out the Gospel enabling them to meet Christ. To allow the children the opportunity to experience the first World Day for Children, children at St Joseph's can take part in the diocesan art competition - How do I see the Kingdom of God? There are numerous prizes to be won!

We will be introducing this and giving pupils time to complete an entry within school, next week, but, if you want to talk this through with your child before then, that will provide even more ideas to share.



Get messy!!

Hexham + Newcastle

Prizes to be won!!

World Children's Day Art Competition

How do I see the Kingdom of God?

Deadline: May 17th Winner announced: May 24th 2024

House Points

Children can earn house points from all staff during the week. Congratulations to St Aidan who have earned the most house points this week.

Star of the Week

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



Nursery	Marco	For showing super enthusiasm when learning about our story of the week 'The Little Red Hen', particularly when helping to bake bread in Nursery!
Reception	Freddie	For his amazing understanding of teen numbers in Maths!
Year 1	Mila	For writing a brilliant summary of our story.
Year 2	Felicity	For her excellent, positive determination in all of her work.
Year 3	Kamran	For excellent participation in lessons this week.
Year 4	Kacie-Leigh	For having amazing behaviour and being a fantastic representative of our school during yesterday's theatre trip.
Year 5	Penny	For excellent work with angles this week.
Year 6	Faith	For some excellent work on division and multiplication this week.

Attendance

This week's attendance is 94%.

Our target is 97%.

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
87.8%	96%	96%	92.9%	95.5%	93.2%	95.8%	94.8%

Times Table Rock Star

This week's 'Rockstars of the Week' are **Aria and Thea**! Well done for your amazing multiplication and fantastic studio speed! Children can see all our TTRS winners on our 'Times Table Rockstars' display board in school.

Year 3 are still ahead in the KS2 tournament. They are currently 1000 points ahead of the other classes!

St Joseph's are currently 12th on the leaderboard for schools in our area. Let's make a big effort this week to get back into the top 10!