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## Newsletter: 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

Welcome to this week's newsletter. What a brilliant week we've had at St. Joseph's, following the St Joseph's Way and living out our mission statement every day. We welcomed parents into school on several occasions this week. Year 6 parents met with Mrs Hamill, Headteacher from St Bede's, on Monday, and with Mr Haveron on Thursday for a SATs meeting. I hope you found both sessions informative. On Friday, we welcomed Year 3 parents for a class Celebration of The Word. The children were fantastic! On Thursday, we celebrated our Trust's environment day. Some activities included litter picking, building mini beast hotels and saving paper in class. Here at St. Joseph's, we learn about The Catholic Social Teaching principles, and we strive to look after our common home, just like Pope Francis asks us to.

We are still collecting tins for PACT House; please leave any donations at the office.

This week's British Value was respect. Showing respect is part of The St Joseph's Way. We encourage others to show respect, too.

Mass at St. Joseph's continues every Sunday at 11am. This Sunday, some of our children will be reading. Thank you to all those involved.

**Reminders:** Please can we ensure that children are using the path when entering and leaving school. Children should not be running on the grass.

We have some remaining spaces available for our after-school clubs which start after half-term. Don't forget to book your child's place to avoid disappointment.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend and thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mrs Urwin

### Trust Environment Day

On Thursday it was our schools Trust Environment Day. The school council met and thought about what they could do to help our environment. They decided to go into the church yard and do some litter picking at lunchtime. They did a fantastic job and were wonderful role models. Well done to the school council for looking after our environment!



### Parent Governor

If you haven't already, can you please complete the attached forms document using the link to vote for our new parent Governor. <https://forms.office.com/e/QDxRDF8y2S>

### Pantomime

We are delighted to inform you that the whole school is going to see Beauty and The Beast at the Gala Theatre in Durham on Thursday 28th November 2024. Children will have their lunch in school before leaving at 12:15 pm and we will return to school at approximately 4.45 pm (traffic depending). A reminder payment is now available on Arbor.

**We would be greatly appreciative if you could pay as much as you can, for these school trips to still go ahead within the current financial climate.**

### Free School meals and Pupil Premium

Our school receives funding from the Government to cover the costs of providing education. This includes all school running costs, such as employing teachers and support staff, books and equipment, school building expenses and free school meals.

The school also receives additional funding known as Pupil Premium for pupils whose families receive certain benefits. All KS1 children (Reception, year 1 and year 2) currently receive a free meal via the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme so you may think why bother completing the form, but we can only claim the Pupil Premium if we are aware of parents receiving one of the eligible benefits. Even if your child is on a packed lunch the school will still be able to claim the premium if you are eligible.

It is in **all** our interests that we bring in as much money as we can to support our school and ensure all our children get the best possible education. To help your child and your school, we can do a very quick eligibility check for this additional funding via Durham County Council.

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you receive any of the benefits above, please contact the school office if you require the relevant form.



As you know, attendance is hugely important, and we report attendance on a weekly/ monthly/ termly basis. We monitor attendance/lateness very closely in school and will raise any concerns with parents/carers on an individual basis. If you have any concerns with regards to your child's attendance/lateness, please contact us as soon as possible so we can work together to resolve any issues.

**This week's attendance is 97.75%. Our target is 97%**

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
100%	98%	96.67%	96%	96.55%	97.59%	98.89%	99.66%

### Star of the Week

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



Nursery	Kylian	For trying so hard to follow nursery rules and routines all week.
Reception	Kaveh	For showing great enthusiasm in all that we do!
Year 1	Finn	For writing excellent descriptive sentences for Beegu
Year 2	Aidan	For trying so hard with his reading
Year 3	Thea-Pearl	For excellent effort and progress in her reading
Year 4	Molly	For a fantastic effort with handwriting and presentation
Year 5	Ellen	For excellent progress in reading!
Year 6	Emily Mc	For some excellent work on tense in grammar lessons

### Awards of the week

**Captain's Table:** Jasmine, Freddie, Freya, Emie, Isobel, Esme, Arthur, Penny

**Mission Statement:** Efetobore, Kaliah, Joey, Reid, Ava, Emily L, Shyla-Mae, Matthew

**British Values:** Imogen, Cora, Dominion, Emelia, Olivia, Kamran, Eevee, Olly

### House Points

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

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

## Fundraising Event

“Guess how many sweets are in the Jar” 50p a guess.

Children can bring money into school from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October to guess the number of sweets in the jar, the winner will be announced at the end of the term, and the winner will bring home the jar of sweets.

**EYFS:** In Nursery and reception this week, we have been celebrating World Mental Health Day. Children took part in a carousel of activities to help them feel calm, relaxed and happy. They have enjoyed doing some yoga, relaxing in the reading corner, cloud watching, big scale drawing and a visit to St Joseph’s Spa



**Year 1:** Year 1 have had a busy week. We really enjoyed making our own fidgets and reflecting on moments we are proud of for World Mental Health Day. We also worked together to make bug hotels for minibeasts. We did this to look after our environment. We said we will try other ways of looking after the environment out too, such as saving water and electricity and recycling our rubbish. Well done for another brilliant week Year 1!

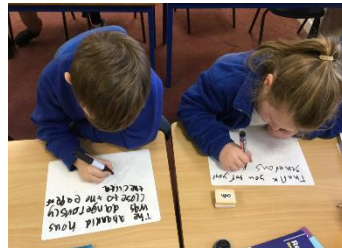




**Year 2:** In Year 2 this week, we looked at the Symbol of water in Baptism and how this represents new life. We spoke about World Mental Health Day, thinking of the importance of sharing how we feel. We understand that it is ok to feel different emotions. We completed mindful colouring and other activities linked to this. During our Trust Environment Day, we spoke about the importance of saving electricity and recycling. We turned off our lights and screen for a while and opened the blinds. We talked about the importance of looking after our wonderful world. We also showed our appreciation of the beauty of nature by decorating a rock. We spoke about how each rock is different, just like us. Well done Year 2.



**Year 3:** It has been another busy but wonderful week in Year 3. As part of Environment Day, Year 3 decided to limit the amount of paper we use and opted for alternative, creative ways to record and share ideas such as using whiteboards and other means available to us. The children also discussed ways in which we can have positive mental health on World Mental Health Day. As a class, we decided to spend a little more time outdoors and thought about the gifts and talents we have because we are all unique and special. Year 3 ended the week with a reflective and thoughtful Celebration of the Word shared with families. The children encouraged others to think about the groups they belong to and the promises and rules we all follow.



**Year 4:** This week year 4 have been very busy. We enjoyed our computing lesson, where we looked at the type of information that can be found on different websites. We looked at how to do this in a safe way. We talked about how we can keep our minds healthy and took part in some quiet meditation and mindful colouring. As part of environmental day, we talked about things we could do in school and at home to help take care of our world. We decided to have an electricity free hour, so we turned the computers and whiteboard off, switched the lights off and opened the blinds to use only the natural light from outside. In Art, we looked at the textile artist, Faith Ringgold who creates story tapestries, we began to carry out our own weaving. For our class celebration of the word, we celebrated the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis.



**Year 5:** It was lights out on Thursday to recognise our Trust's Environment day. We spent our time reading and turned off technology to enjoy our stories. It was a lovely 30 minutes of peace! We also had a great week in maths looking at addition and subtraction.



**Year 6:** This week, Year 6 have been working hard in lessons, particularly with their long multiplication and division. They have grasped these methods really well and have produced some excellent work.

They have also been working hard to gain more credits for their 'Faith in Action' award. This week, they have been raising money for 'Mary's Meals' which is a charity who provide food to children in schools across the globe. They have also been exploring the phrase 'My Voice Matters'. They have designed their own posters to promote the importance of having their voices heard.

