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Newsletter: 18th October 2024

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

Welcome to this week's newsletter. It has been a very busy week. On Wednesday and Thursday, we welcomed three diocesan inspectors into school for our Catholic Schools Inspection. All of our children were amazing, and I am so proud of them all; We are blessed with kind, caring and loving pupils. Thank you to our wonderful staff for their commitment and hard work, and to you, our families, for your continued support and kindness. I will share the report with you in the next few weeks.

Thank you to Year 2 for planning and leading a beautiful Celebration of The Word on Friday morning. It was wonderful to see the hall packed with so many of you. We really enjoy having you all in school, and so do our children. Next Friday, we welcome Year 1 families into school.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, we held Open Days for families. Our Head Boys and Head Girls led the school tour for parents and shared their own experiences of life in St. Joseph's over the years. Thank you, Teddy, Olly, Davina and Annabel for being incredible role-models and ambassadors for our school.

Mass continues every Sunday at 11am at St Joseph's.

Please see some important reminders for our final week of term.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes,
Mrs Urwin

St Joseph's is a **nut-free school**. Please can I remind you not to put any items that may contain nuts in your child's lunchbox. We have pupils and staff who have allergies. Thank you.

Attendance - Attendance is a priority at St. Joseph's and we continue to robustly monitor it. Please continue to ensure that your child is in school and on time every day.

Autumn Disco Friday 1 30pm - Next Friday, children are invited to come to school in non-uniform (not fancy dress) for our Autumn Disco. We will be selling a hot-dog and a carton of juice for £1 if your child would like to buy this.

Relationships and Health Workshop - Our RHE curriculum is out for consultation with you all and this will close next Friday. If you have any questions or concerns, please do drop-in to our drop-in session at 2pm next Wednesday. Alternatively, please do contact me before Friday to discuss any matters around this.

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.

Fundraising Event

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

A reminder children can bring money into school next week 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.



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 95.22%. Our target is 97%

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
92.59%	94.67%	90%	96.33%	95.86%	96.55%	95.19%	99.31%

Star of the Week

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



Nursery	Emelia	For developing her confidence and sharing her ideas during circle time activities.
Reception	Max	For being a kind friend, sharing with others and taking turns nicely.
Year 1	Chester	For excellent work on number sentences.
Year 2	Frank	For trying hard with his handwriting
Year 3	Freddie R	For showing great understanding in geography lessons this week.
Year 4	Rose	For consistently showing an enthusiastic attitude to learning
Year 5	Ethan	For an excellent attitude to school this week
Year 6	Lenny	For making some fantastic scripture links in RE lessons this week.

Awards of the week

Captain's Table: Ewan, Lakelon, Seb, Noah, Thomas, Jude, Alfie, Gracie-Mae

Mission Statement: Alfie D, Ivanna, Maddison, Rudi, Noah, Tega, Kacie-Leigh, Jack,

British Values: Alfie S, Alice, Hugo, Nori, Izzy, Dominic, Oliver, Steven

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.



EYFS: In Early Years this week we have talked about how we welcome a new baby into God's family through Baptism. We explored what happens during a Baptism focusing on the water, the candle, the white garment and who is at the Baptism. We role played a baptism in our water area saying the words '*I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*' Thank you to everyone who brought and sent in photographs and objects linked to their child's baptism, the children have loved sharing them with their class!



Year 1: Year 1 have had a brilliant and busy week. We have been focussing on the role of parents and Godparents at a baptism, we have been comparing Durham and Newcastle's riverside and we have loved our new book 'Gustavo the shy ghost'. The children were incredible this week during our inspection (as they are every week) and should be so proud of themselves. Well done for another amazing week Year 1. Have a lovely weekend!



Year 2: Year 2 have worked very hard this week. In English, they wrote their own version of 'Please Mrs Butler'. In RE, to look at signs and symbols in Baptism. They could explain what the white garment represents and ways that we can help a baby to grow up to live like Jesus. In history, they wrote a diary as if they were Samuel Pepys during the Great Fire of London. Well done Year 2.

Year 3: This week, Year 3 have finished their class reader, 'The Railway Children'. They have thoroughly enjoyed the plot and the happy ending. The children have also enjoyed learning about Baptism and have produced some excellent written work explaining why the signs and symbols are used. In geography, Year 3 have completed their topic on rivers and have learned many facts about the River Severn. It has been a great week in Year 3 and we have been extremely proud of their behaviour and attitude to work.

Year 4: This week, in Year 4, we have been enjoying reading our class text and have written some fantastic character descriptions about Toad. We have been learning about how goods are imported and exported by sea and looked at some large ports to see what this entails. In RE we looked at the parable of the lost son which helped to remind us that God's love for us never changes and he will always be ready to forgive us when we make bad choices. Year 4 have been unbelievable ambassadors for the school this week during our RE inspection, showing the inspectors how kind, caring and respectful they are. Well done Year 4.

Year 5: We have had a great week in Year 5 - from a beautiful and reflective creative prayer to parachutes, in Science, to test air resistance. We are also coming close to finishing our super class reader, Holes. The children have loved this book.

Year 6: This week, Year 6 have done some fantastic work in RE. They have planned and delivered Celebrations of the Word and sung brilliantly prospective parents. In English, they have analysed their new class reader 'Rang-Tang in my Bedroom' and explored the theme of deforestation.