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Newsletter: 25th October 2024

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

We have come to the end of our first half-term of this year. We have had a hugely successful eight weeks, and our children have settled in so well, showing love, care and kindness to everyone. I am so incredibly proud of them all. Thank you to our wonderful staff who have worked so hard to give our children the best learning experiences possible. We have had many highlights this term including: our school mass, trips to church to see Father Shaun, the introduction of new clubs, sporting achievements inside and outside school, working with local charities, Celebrations of the Word, to name just a few. It has been lovely to see you all attending these events in school and we look forward to continuing to strengthen the great relationship between home and school.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you all for welcoming me into your wonderful school community. It is a real privilege to lead St Joseph's, and it is a very exciting time as we continue to grow from strength to strength.

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

I wish you all a wonderful half-term with your loved ones.

Best wishes,

Mrs Urwin

Poppy Appeal

We will be supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal by selling Poppies

- Poppies (Suggested donation 50p)
- Reflectors (Suggested donation £1.00)
- Material Wristbands (Suggested donation £1.00)
- Snap Bands (Suggested donation £1.50)
- Wristband with metal poppy (Suggested donation £1.50)
- Rubber (Suggested donation £1.00)

Year 6 pupils will be selling these to the pupils in school throughout the school day and children can bring money into school from Monday 4th.

Reception class intake 2025/26

If your child is due to start Reception class in September 2025, you need to apply for a school place via Durham County Council School Admissions, **even if your child currently attends our nursery unit.** The closing dates for applications is Monday 15th January 2025.

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

After school Clubs/ Pantomime

There are still a number of spaces on the After School Clubs which start week commencing 4th November 2024. There is a small cost to these clubs at £1.00 per week which helps us with cost of resources to run these. Places can be booked via ARBOR.

Thank you to those who have already contributed to the whole school trip to Durham Gala Theatre for the Pantomime Beauty and the Beast. We would greatly appreciate if you could pay as much as you can for these school trips to still go ahead within the current financial climate. Payment can be made in instalments via ARBOR.

Fundraising

We have raised

- £60.93 for Mary's Meals
- Number of sweets in the jar £121.35
- Autumn Disco £115.24

Fundraising Event

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

Well done to Frankie in reception class who guessed the correct number of sweets!

306 sweets in the jar!



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 96.4%. Our target is 97%

| Nursery | Reception | Year1 | Year2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|---------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 96.97% | 97.33% | 97.33% | 96.67% | 92.41% | 96.9% | 97.41% | 96.55% |

Star of the Week

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



| | | |
|-----------|-----------|--|
| Nursery | Faith | For following the St Joseph's Way |
| Reception | Freddie | For amazing Fred Talk, blending sounds to read words all by himself! |
| Year 1 | Jenson | For working so hard to improve his writing |
| Year 2 | Ruby | For always trying her best in everything she does |
| Year 3 | Aria | For excellent work when adding and subtracting in maths this week |
| Year 4 | Bradley | For fantastic inference skills in English this week |
| Year 5 | Shyla-Mae | For excellent work with multiples and factors |
| Year 6 | TJ | For writing an excellent story incorporating rhyme |

Awards of the week

Captain's Table: Archie, Beau, Ruby, Arabella, Isabella, Hunter, Eevee, Aimee

Mission Statement: Sienna, Armina, Alice, Eadie, Elena, Aria, Freya, Noah B

British Values: Hallie, Ollie, Grace S, Nathan, Harvey, Leyland, Arthur, Willow

House Points

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

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

EYFS and Year 1: This week, the children in Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Two took 'baby Stephen' to church for his Baptism. Father Shaun talked us through the Baptism and was very impressed with what the children already knew!



Children were amazed by the font at the back of the church, especially when Father Shaun lifted the canopy. He told us they have only just started to use that font so baby Stephen is very lucky!

The children listened carefully and were very respectful in church - we are all very proud!



Year 2: This week, in History, Year 2 have compared what London was like in 1666 to London today. They have been enjoying their new book 'Dougal's Deep Sea Diary' in English. They enjoyed a visit to church to look at the symbols used in Baptism. Father Shaun was very impressed with their knowledge of this. In science, they completed an investigation into growth by measuring each other's feet. They also showed us what they could remember from the life cycle of a butterfly and frog. Well done Year 2. Have a wonderful half term.



Year 3: What a fantastic week we have had in Year 3! In English, the children wrote some excellent poems based on 'From a Railway Carriage' and blew us away with their knowledge of rhyming couplets. In maths, they have been using mental strategies and related facts to add and subtract



numbers up to 1000. During science lessons, the children have confidently explained how fossils are made, and they have impressed us with all of the new vocabulary they can remember in Spanish. ¡Bien hecho!

The children ended their first half term in Year 3 by having fun at our Autumn Disco. They enjoyed singing, dancing and eating tasty hot dogs with their friends. We wish you all a restful and safe week and we look forward to all of the new learning and memories which will be made after the half term holiday.

Year 4: Another busy week in Year 4. We used our inference skills to make suggestions about a



character in our class text, we looked at natural and human changes to the river Rhine. We learned about food chains in Science and continued finger knitting in Art. We also planned and delivered a thoughtful class celebration of the word together and in RE we looked at what happens during the sacrament of reconciliation.

Year 5: Year 5 enjoyed testing the parachutes they made, this week. They were investigating air resistance to see which size parachute would fall effectively. They had a lovely final ukelele session where they played the hymn, '10 000 Reasons'. It was perfect! We also explored the effectiveness of search engines and reviewed websites to see if they included information needed. What a great half term – happy holidays!



Year 6: This week, Year 6 have been writing their own stories based on the book 'There's a Rang' Tan in my bedroom'. These stories have used rhyme to get across to the reader important messages about looking after our planet. They ended the half term with great fun and some brilliant dancing at the autumn disco.

