

Newsletter 19th September 2025

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Work hard, love tenderly, walk humbly: trusting in God

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

Welcome to this week's newsletter. It has been lovely to welcome so many parents and visitors into school — your presence continues to enrich our school community and foster a strong sense of partnership between home and school.

We began the week with a whole-school Celebration of the Word, where children explored the meaning of the Cross as a symbol of love and hope. The Cross reminds us of the deep and abiding love that the Father has for each of us — a love so great that He gave His only Son so that we might know His mercy and grace.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” *John 3:16*

This powerful verse guided our reflections and set a beautiful tone for the week ahead.

We held parental meetings this week covering SATs, Phonics, Multiplication Checks, and the Year 6 residential. Year 6 also led our class Celebration of the Word with the theme of 'hope', as we all look forward to another wonderful school year. We were delighted to welcome Mrs Hamill, Headteacher of St Bede's, who was very impressed with our Year 6 children. She helped to get them really excited about their transition next year. Thank you, Mrs Hamill!

Key Dates for Next Week:

- **International Day of Peace:** Children will discuss this special day in class.
- **Monday 22nd September:** Marks the start of **Fairtrade Fortnight**. Children will be learning about Fairtrade and its importance in school.
- **Wednesday 24th September:** Reception Phonics Meeting for parents at **9:00am**.
- **Thursday 25th September:**
 - Whole school **Welcome Mass** in church—everyone is welcome to attend.
 - Some Year 6 children will be serving teas and coffees afterwards in the church meeting room. We'd love to see many new families join us!
 - **Year 5 & 6 Open Evening at St Bede's** from **5:30pm to 7:30pm**.
- **Friday 26th September:** European Day of Languages. Children are invited to wear the colours of their favourite country as we celebrate the importance of other faiths, cultures, and languages.

Thank you for your ongoing support and care. We are only three weeks into the new school year, and the school continues to be a place full of love, learning, and wonderful friendships.

Mass continues this Sunday at 11am.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes,

Mrs Urwin

Reminders

Consents

A reminder if you want your child's photograph on our newsletter or website then you need to go onto ARBOR and give your consent. Please note that this must be carried out each year and we are therefore unable to use your child's photograph unless you have consented this

academic year. As well as the photo consent you will need to access Arbor and update all of your child's consent forms. Any concerns please contact the school office.

Outstanding Payments

Any outstanding payments on ARBOR (school meals/ breakfast club/ wrap around care) **must be cleared and kept in credit**. If anyone has any problems with making payments, please contact the school office to discuss further. The Trust are looking very closely at all outstanding payments and non-payment of outstanding debt may result in your child having to bring a packed lunch to school and being unable to access breakfast club/wraparound care.



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 96.14%. Our target is 97%

Nursery: 97.17%

Reception: 94.58%

Year 1: 97.67%

Year 2: 96.67%

Year 3: 96.43%

Year 4: 98.4%

Year 5: 91.79%

Year 6: 97.86%

Well done to Year 4 who won this week's attendance award!

Head Teachers Award

The following children have received a Head Teachers Award this week:

Nursery: Maeve for showing kindness to her friends in Nursery

Reception: Oslo for always trying his best and coming to school with a big smile

Year 1: Eva for always making Mrs Urwin smile

Year 3: Ollie for outstanding behaviour in and around school

Year 5: Thea for always being an outstanding role model

Star of the Week

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

Nursery: Lily for super listening during circle time activities

Reception: Ethan for sharing lots of wonderful ideas during carpet time

Year 1: Armina for some brilliant work in RE about her family

Year 2: Leon for his excellent work in maths

Year 3: Frank for a fantastic description in English this week when writing a diary

Year 4: Freddie R for an excellent recall in History, retelling the legend of Romulus and Remus

Year 5: Louie for excellent work with place value

Year 6: Layla for some excellent descriptive writing based on our class book

Awards of the week

Captain's Table: Rudy, Tiaraoluwa, Charlotte, Jenson, Rory, Thea, Harry, Natalia

Mission Statement: Lewi, Francesca, George, Aria-rose, Nathan, Harley-Kate, Emily L, Tia

British Values: Tillie, Hallie, Phoebe, Hugo, Ruby, Izzy, Dominic, Alfie

Writer of the week: Sienna, Freddie, Daisy, Frances, Charlotte, Thea, Isla

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.

Please see below what our children have been getting up to this week in school

This week **Early Years** gathered for a lovely celebration of the word. To begin we added a cross, bible and candle to the prayer table and listened carefully to the scripture which talked about how we are all part of God's family. In response to the word, we talked about how we are not only part of God's family but we are also part of our school family here at St Joseph's. We each placed our own 'mini me' character around our St Joseph's uniform and the bible to show that we are all part of God's family and our St Joseph's school family. Our mission going forth was to think about how we can show we are part of this family by following the 'St Joseph's Way' by being respectful, responsible and ready to learn.





Year 1 have had a lovely week this week. We have continued our multiskills in PE, we have done some excellent work about our families in RE and enjoyed exploring a psalm which we used to gather key words about 'Families'. We have been working hard on our portrait skills in art and enjoyed learning more about Durham in Geography. Our class reader 'I Want My Hat Back' is proving to be very popular. We are amazing at joining in with the story and using intonation to ask a question. We are using this book to come up with some brilliant sentences as we work on capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. Well don Year 1 for another week of hard work. Have a lovely weekend.





This week, **Year 2** have been busy writers, sharing sentences about their favourite books and making thoughtful predictions about their new class text, 'Waiting for Froggo'. In maths, they have been exploring place value by partitioning numbers in different ways and writing them in words. Our history lessons saw the children complete a timeline of events from the Great Fire of London, while in art they explored emotions through facial expressions and descriptive language. In RE, the children wrote beautiful prayers about our amazing world and took part in a very reflective Celebration of the Word. Well done, Year 2, for another fantastic week of learning!





It has been another enjoyable week of learning in **Year 3**! In English, they have written some excellent diary entries inspired by the first chapter of *The Railway Children*, where they used imaginative and well-chosen adjectives to describe Peter's day. In maths, they have been developing their understanding of place value when using a range of manipulatives such as the base ten equipment. In geography, the children have learned about the water cycle and are beginning to confidently use key vocabulary such as 'evaporation' and 'condensation'. In PE, they have been learning how to run at speed and control their pace by slowing down while taking part in a variety of races. They finished their PE session with an enjoyable game of dodgeball as part of their multi-skills activities.

This week in **Year 4** we enjoyed our first ukelele lesson of the year. In Maths we continued to look at place value, moving on to ten thousands. In English, we looked carefully at the characters we have met so far in *Wind in the Willows*. In History, we looked at how Rome became a republic and in Geography we learned about the city of Rotterdam. We planned and delivered our own Celebration of the word in class and in RE we learned about one of the ancestors of Jesus, Abraham.





Year 5 completed some more work based on their street art images that will hopefully be used in the Stanley Front Street project. You can see the excellent designs and stencilled work in the picture. We read more of our exciting class reader, *Holes*, this week - discovering why the main character has been sent away from his family. We think he is innocent of all crimes...we need to read more to find out how he will manage to be reunited with his family. In Science, we explored synthetic and natural materials - looking at labels in our school jumpers for manufacturing information. We are learning lots of new vocabulary in Spanish and developing our speaking skills. Another busy week!



Year 6 have continued their hard work this week. In maths they have been problem solving with numbers to 10 million and building their verbal reasoning skills to ensure their answers to questions are clear and accurate. In English, they have continued to enjoy the adventures of Chaya in our class book, *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant*. They have been learning all about blood in science lessons and identified the elements which make up our blood. They made their own blood solutions to replicate blood which included platelets, cells and plasma. Their celebration of the word on Thursday was a lovely way to share their ideas on what Hope means to them.

