

Newsletter 26th 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 a very busy and special week here at St Joseph's, filled with wonderful opportunities for learning and connection.

We began the week with our Celebration of the Word on Monday morning, where we reflected on the importance of focusing on God, even when our hearts and minds are full of distractions. In this week's Gospel, Jesus reminds us of the two greatest commandments: to love God and to love our neighbour. The children are learning that by removing earthly distractions and putting God first, we are better able to love and serve those around us.

We were delighted to welcome our Reception parents into school for a Phonics Workshop. Early reading is a key priority here at St Joseph's, and it was fantastic to see such enthusiastic engagement from our families. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive:

"Excellent workshop. Very informative. Love Fred the Frog!"

"Mrs Burgess did a great job. We can now help our children at home."

Thank you to all who attended and supported this important part of your child's learning journey.

On Thursday, we came together as a school community for our Welcome Mass. It was a wonderful occasion, and a lovely opportunity to officially welcome our new families and children into St Joseph's. Thank you to Father Shaun for leading the celebration, and a special thank you to our amazing Year 6 pupils, who showed wonderful hospitality by serving teas and coffees to parents and parishioners afterwards. I hope all our new families have felt the warmth and care that make our school so special.

We ended the week by celebrating European Day of Languages on Friday. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about different countries, sharing fun facts, and talking about their favourite places and heroes from across Europe. We value the importance of learning new languages and exploring other cultures—it helps us grow in understanding, tolerance, and respect for others.

Mass continues Sunday at 11am.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes,

Mrs Urwin

Key Reminders

PTA Meeting: Monday at 1:30 pm. All new members are very welcome—please come along and get involved!

Year 5 Celebration of the Word: Thursday 2nd October at 2:45 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Parking Around School: Please be respectful when parking near the school. Kindly avoid parking on the "Keep Clear" markings to ensure the safety and convenience of everyone. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Reminders

Important Reminder: Breakfast Club Bookings & School Meal Payments

We would like to remind all families that children must be booked into Breakfast Club and After School Club in advance, even if there is money in their account. This ensures we can plan appropriately and maintain a safe and well-supervised environment for all pupils.

Additionally, please ensure that school meal payments are kept up to date. The current cost of a school meal is £2.95 per day.

Your cooperation helps us continue to provide high-quality services for all children. If you have any questions or need assistance with bookings or payments, please contact the school office.



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 95.3%. Our target is 97%

Nursery: 98.08%

Reception: 94.58%

Year 1: 95.67%

Year 2: 94%

Year 3: 96.79%

Year 4: 95.58%

Year 5: 96.43%

Year 6: 93.57%

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

Head Teachers Award

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

Nursery: Jensen for being a superstar and so kind to his friends

Reception: Ethan for showing kindness and respect to his friends

Year 2: Aria-Rose for always showing outstanding behaviour

Year 4: Charlotte for really impressing Mrs Urwin with her maths

Year 5: Esme for always being so polite around school

Star of the Week

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

Nursery: Amara for showing such enthusiasm in music sessions

Reception: Oliver for his amazing story map and retelling the story of Rosie's Walk

Year 1: Max for coming up with excellent adjectives to describe Beegu's feelings

Year 2: Grace P for trying her best in all subjects this week

Year 3: Mila for excellent work in maths this week when writing numbers on a line

Year 4: Daniel for outstanding times table recall

Year 5: Madeline for an excellent description of Camp Green Lake

Year 6: Ellen for some fantastic figurative language in her setting description

Awards of the week

Captain's Table: Isaac, Taylor, Lakelon, Dominion, Aria-May, Imogen, Isla, Cade

Mission Statement: Jensen, Imogen, Ruby, Grace S, Frances, Eliza, Will, Ella B

British Values: Ella, Archie, Eva, Frankie, Nori, Ella, Louie, Jacob

Writer of the week: Faith, Livi, Chester, Harry, David, Leyland, Kacie-Leigh

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

What a wonderful day we have had in **Early Years** celebrating European Languages Day! We learned all about France and learned to speak some French! We started the day with a French breakfast of brioche, croissants and French bread then we learned how to say hello and goodbye in French and also sang the song 'Frere Jacques'. Mrs Urwin even came and taught us some Gaelic!



It has been a busy week in **Year 1!** We have been enjoying our new class reader 'Beegu' and enjoyed freeze framing some events from the story. We have continued learning about our families in RE and enjoyed spending time in our prayer garden and making actions for key words in psalms. We have been learning about Durham and some children loved telling us

about their adventures around Durham, to Durham Cathedral and Wharton Park. We very much enjoyed going to church for our welcome mass and we impressed everyone so much with our singing. Well done for another brilliant week Year 1.



It's been another busy week in **Year 2!** In English, they brought their class text 'Waiting for Froggo' to life by rehearsing their fluency through role-play and character acting. In maths, they worked hard on number lines and identifying numbers with increasing confidence. Our history lesson focused on the Great Fire of London, where the children explored its causes and the mistakes that made it worse. In PE, they have been developing their dribbling skills by working in pairs, while in geography they thought carefully about how to stay safe when hiking up a mountain. Today, we celebrated European Day of Languages and had fun

exploring colours in French. A huge well done to Year 2 for all their enthusiasm and effort this week!



It has been another wonderful week of learning in **Year 3**. They have shown great enthusiasm in Spanish lessons and can confidently greet each other, answer the register and are learning to describe how they are feeling. In Art, they have been learning about the artist, Nelson Makamo and enjoyed using QR codes to find out information about him and appraise his artwork. This term in Science, the children have been looking at plants. This week they have been able to identify the parts of a flowering plant and describe their functions, understand what plants need to survive and grow and are looking forward to investigating how water travels through a plant.



In **Year 4** this week, we have enjoyed our PE session, where we added different rolls to the gymnastic sequence we began to create last lesson. In Maths, we compared 4 digit and 5 digit numbers and continued to perfect our rapid recall of 2 and 3 times tables. In English, we looked at the use of pronouns and possessive pronouns to help our writing flow. In RE

we learned about Joseph and his brothers, how they treated him and how he was able to forgive them. We planned and delivered another thoughtful Celebration of the Word within our classroom and in Science we carried out experiments that helped us see how gas is formed and how it has no fixed shape.

A busy week in **Year 5!** We have been learning about rounding numbers in maths. In History we looked at the round city of Baghdad and worked out what it was built in a certain way. We created a lovely liturgical dance based on the words of Hosea. It was lovely to see such a thoughtful response. In English, we created a very descriptive piece of writing based on our class reader. This also links to our Geography topic, California.

This week, **Year 6** have continued to work hard across all curriculum areas and act as role models for all children around school. In English, they have written some excellent settings descriptions within a narrative about the chase scene in 'The Girl Who Stole an Elephant'. They are really enjoying the book and are excited to discover what happens to Chaya and her friends. In maths, they have been exploring prime and square numbers and investigating rules of divisibility. They enjoyed their time at mass on Thursday. They loved being sat with their reception buddies and some of the children got to help out at the coffee morning afterwards. They've enjoyed researching their chosen country today and chatting about the similarities and differences between the countries they chose.

