

# Newsletter 17th October 2025

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

It's been a great week at St Joseph's!

We began the week with our *Celebration of the Word*, where we reflected on the story of the Ten Lepers. This reminded us of the importance of gratitude, as only one leper returned to thank Jesus for healing him. Inspired by this, we've been making a special effort throughout the week to remember our manners—saying *please* and *thank you*—as part of living out The St Joseph's Way: being Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to Learn.

A huge well done to Year 3, who delivered a beautiful liturgy for their parents. The hall was packed, and the children spoke with confidence about how they show love at home. Their singing and reading was superb—thank you to all who attended and supported them.

We were also incredibly proud of some of our wonderful Year 4 children who read at Mass on Sunday. They showed great courage and confidence, and it was a joy to see them take

part in the parish celebration. Thank you to their parents for continuing to support their journey in faith.

Our Community Choir Project continued on Wednesday lunchtime. The children are working hard and sounding fantastic—we are so excited to perform at the Stanley Christmas Market in December!

### **We're in the FINAL!!!**

A huge well done to our wonderful boys' football team who have made it to the final next week! Last night, they played three tough games — drawing two and winning one What an incredible effort! Let's all get out and support the boys next Thursday — they've done us proud and deserve a big crowd cheering them on!

### **Key Dates for Next Week**

- **Tuesday 21st October**

1. *STAR Assembly on **Anxiety and Resilience*** for Years 1–6
2. *Investing in Children Participation Group* – Student Councillors
3. *Open Afternoon/Evening* at **1:30pm** and **4:30pm**

- **Thursday 23rd October**

1. **Year 2 Celebration of the Word** – 2:45pm

- **Friday 24th October**

1. **Autumn Disco** – 1:30pm to 3:15pm(*Please see the poster attached for more details*)

Mas continues Sunday at 11am.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs Urwin



## Reminders

### Reception class intake 2026/27

A reminder If your child is due to start Reception class in September 2026 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 date to apply for a primary school place is midnight on Thursday 15 January 2026.. <https://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

### 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 95.73%. Our target is 97%**

**Nursery: 96.23%**

**Reception: 92.92%**

**Year 1: 100%**

**Year 2: 96%**

**Year 3: 97.5%**

**Year 4: 94%**

**Year 5: 95.19%**

**Year 6: 94.64%**

**Well done to Year 1 who won this week's attendance award!**

## Head Teachers Award

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

**Nursery:** Effie for always coming to school with a smile on her face

**Reception:** Hallie for being such a wonderful member of our school family

**Year 4:** Olivia for always being so kind, polite and caring

**Year 6:** Tia for being a super role-model and helper in Wraparound care  
and Jacob for being a role-model for our younger children

## Star of the Week

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

**Nursery:** Effie for always following the St Joseph's way and being a super role model in Nursery

**Reception:** Oslo for being a kind and caring friend

**Year 1:** Sadie for trying her best to become more vocal in class

**Year 2:** Hugo for his amazing effort when reading

**Year 3:** Finlay for brilliant singing during music lessons this week

**Year 4:** Elena for fantastic answers in History this week

**Year 5:** Rio for excellent work with factors

**Year 6:** Poppy for writing an excellent narrative in English

## Awards of the week

**Captain's Table:** Lewi, Joshua, Desmond, Aria-Rose, Nathan, Olivia, Rose, Tia

**Mission Statement:** Lily, Faith, Eva, Cobey, Reid, Karan, Emily R, Emie

**British Values:** Maeve, Cora, Kaliah, Emily, Cleo, Harvey, Leyla, Ella C

**Writer of the week:** Keela, Aurora, Dominion, Brody, Clementine, John, Freya

## 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 half term!

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

As part of our RE topic on Judaism we have been learning all about the Jewish festival Hanukkah in **Early**

**Years**. We listened to the story of the oil lamp in the temple, made menorah, played with dreidel, made Hanukkah cards and cooked and tasted potato latkes. They were delicious! Well done Early Years!







What a week in **Year 1**. We have been working hard on our topic of plants this week and enjoyed planting our own seeds. We cannot wait to see them growing. We have been working so hard in our reading and are becoming more and more confident each day. Our handwriting is coming on brilliantly as we focus on finger spaces and capital letter. It is hard to believe there is only 1 week left before half term! Well done Year 1.





**Year 2** have had a fantastic week of learning! In English, the children wrote brilliant diary entries as if they were Dougal the deep-sea diver, before being introduced to their exciting new text, 'Jim and the Beanstalk'. In maths, they explored related facts and used these to solve problems with growing confidence. In history, we started our new topic exploring individuals who have made a great impact on the world. This week, children learned about Louis Braille and even wrote their names in braille code! In art, the children completed portraits inspired by other artists showing emotion through action, expression and colour. Finally in science, children planted bulbs. Over the next few weeks, we will be observing their growth. Well done, Year 2, for another amazing week!



**Year 3** have thoroughly enjoyed a new poetry unit in English, where they have been exploring Robert Louis Stevenson's '*From a Railway Carriage*'. They have been learning about rhyming couplets and using vivid imagery to enhance their own descriptions. In Science, they have been studying the life cycle of a plant. They described each stage and deepened their understanding of how plants grow and change. A special highlight this week was leading a reflective and reverent Celebration of the Word, which focused on the love we share and create in our families at home. It was a joy to share this meaningful moment with our loved ones.



In **Year 4** this week, we have looked at addition of 4-digit numbers in Maths, using the column method where there is one exchange. In English we have practised writing direct speech using the correct punctuation and choosing different verbs of speech to identify how the characters are feeling. In History, we learned about Hannibal's journey across the Alps to attack Rome during the second of the Punic wars. In science we looked at which substances caused ice to melt the quickest and we made our own ice cream using ice and salt.

**Year 5** discussed creating discussion texts, this week. They explored arguments for and against with various scenarios and developed their speaking and listening skills. They were able to give mature counter arguments to points raised. They have learnt about properties of numbers: multiples, factors and prime numbers. In science they carried out investigations

to find the best thermal insulators. In art, they looked at sketching 'movement', exploring shadows and tone. It was all about months, days and feelings in Spanish - a great week!



Another busy week in **Year 6**. The children received their badges this week for each of the roles they have. They have been wearing them with pride around school. In our lessons, the children have been working hard across the curriculum. They have finished our class book 'The Arrival' and have enjoyed exploring the pictures within in and discussing the different meanings each page could convey. They have used parts of the book as inspiration for some excellent narrative writing. In maths, they have continued with our 'four operations' topic- continuing to develop their skills in short and long division. They have enjoyed some creative prayer sessions in which they have explored different ways of expressing what they are grateful and thankful for.



