

Newsletter 7th November 2025

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

It has been another wonderful week at St Joseph's!

We began the week in prayer, reflecting on the Solemnity of All Saints. Jesus carefully positioned Himself to proclaim amazing truths about Heaven, reminding us that we are all called to be holy. We spoke about saints who inspire us, and many children shared how they look up to St Joseph – a humble and kind man whose example continues to guide us.

Our fantastic Year 6 children have started selling poppies in support of the Poppy Appeal. It has been heart-warming to see the children's understanding of remembrance and their appreciation for those who have fought for our country.

A special well done to our Year 1 children who led a beautiful Celebration of the Word for their families. They have settled so well into life in Year 1, and we are incredibly proud of them all.

RSHE Update - Our RSHE consultation has now ended, and children will begin their RSHE curriculum this half-term. Teachers will keep you informed about what your child will be learning. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Safety Reminder - Please ensure that children remain with their parents or carers while on the school yard before and after school. This helps us avoid any accidents at busy times and ensures all children are safe and supervised at all times. Thank you for your support in keeping our school community safe.

Upcoming Events & Key Dates - We have a very busy few weeks ahead, so please keep an eye on Arbor and our key dates:

- **Monday 10th – Friday 14th:** Anti-Bullying Week & SEN Review Meetings
- **Monday 10th:** Remembrance Service at 2:45pm, led by Year 6 – Parents welcome
- **Wednesday 12th – Wednesday 19th:** Scholastic Book Fair
- **Wednesday 12th - Friday 14th:** Year 5 Residential to Emmaus Youth Village
- **Thursday 13th:** Nursery whole class stay and play- parents invited
- **Thursday 13th:** Buddy Assembly (Reception & Year 6) at 2:30pm – Parents invited
- **Sunday 11am Mass:** Some of our children will be reading – thank you to them for continuing to put their faith into action

Pudsey Day – Friday 14th November - We are excited to support **Children in Need** next Friday! Children are invited to come to school in **non-uniform** and wear something **spotty, yellow, or Pudsey-themed** to help raise awareness and funds for this wonderful cause. **Donations are welcome and can be via Arbor in the school shop**

Thank you for your continued support.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Warm regards,

Mrs M Urwin

Reminders

Tuck Shop

Thank you to everyone who paid for tuck shop via the school shop on Arbor, this has worked really well and we would be obliged if everyone could pay via the school shop. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you require any assistance.

Christmas Lunch

A reminder Christmas Lunch is on Wednesday 10th December, if you haven't already can you please complete the attached form using the link to state whether or not your child would like a Christmas Lunch. [Christmas Dinner- Wednesday 10th December – Fill in form](#)

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 95.97%. Our target is 97%

Nursery: 100%

Reception: 96.25%

Year 1: 99.66%

Year 2: 92.67%

Year 3: 99.31%

Year 4: 87.5%

Year 5: 95.93%

Year 6: 97.5%

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

Head Teachers Award

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

Nursery: Ellis for playing so nicely with his friends in Nursery

Reception: Ethan for being a wonderful member of our school family

Year 1: Teddy for always being so polite

Year 5: Leyland for writing an excellent poem about Autumn

Year 6: Layla for being a wonderful friend to everyone

Star of the Week

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

Nursery: Maeve for super story telling when re-telling our story of the week

Reception: Harper for engaging well with lots of jobs this week

Year 1: Charlotte for speaking with so much confidence in our Celebration of the Word

Year 2: Lewis for always being a kind, caring friend to everyone

Year 3: Isla for settling into St Joseph's with wonderful enthusiasm, showing kindness and a genuine love of learning

Year 4: Ella for fantastic recall of facts in History

Year 5: Leyland for excellent work in maths

Year 6: Natalia for some excellent, emotive writing this week

Awards of the week

Captain's Table: Effie, Ethan, Freddie, Finn, Ruby, Daniel, Tega, Martha

Mission Statement: Rudy, Joshua, Ivie, Savannah, Harry, Olivia-Kate, Maisie, Isla

British Values: Jensen, Sienna, Max, Chester, Nathan, David, Emily L, Grace

Writer of the week: Efetobore, George, Grace S, Emily, Freddie R, Kamran, Ethan

House Points

Children can earn house points from all staff during the week. Congratulations to St Oswald 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 in **Early Years**, we learnt all about Bonfire night. We learnt about Guy Fawkes, the ways in which people celebrated Bonfire night and talked about how to keep safe during this time. Lots of the children were so excited to tell us about the fireworks they saw over the weekend. We made our own fireworks pictures using chalk, danced to fireworks songs and made a sparkler using breadsticks, melted chocolate and sprinkles, they were delicious!





Year 1 have had a lovely first week back. We love our new class reader 'The Leaf Thief' and have done some excellent writing about the leaves . We have worked so hard to identify the subjects, verbs and objects in sentences. We are doing so well with subtraction in maths and have been using number lines to help us work out calculations. In DT this half term we are doing moving mechanisms. We made some excellent space backgrounds and used a slider to make a moving rocket, flying around in outer space. We did a very tiring PE lesson all about fitness, we balanced on one leg, on our tummies and our knees. We did so well with trying to stay as still as possible. Finally, thank you to all our families who joined our Celebration of the Word. It was wonderful to see you all and we loved doing our pictures with you. Well done, Year 1 for a brilliant week.





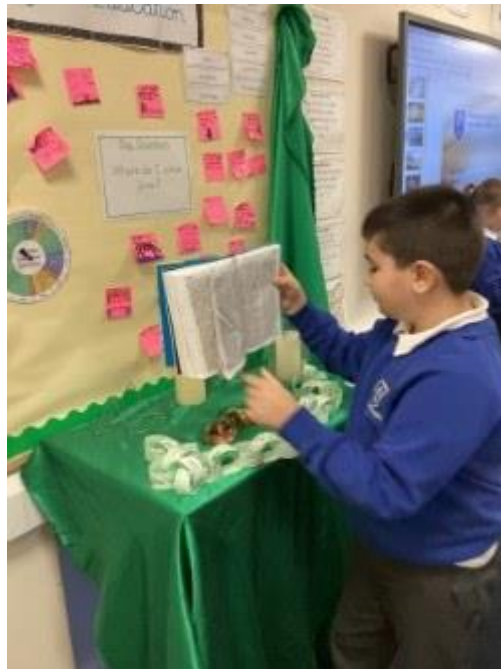
This week in **Year 2** has been full of fantastic learning! In English, the children were introduced to the poem 'Please Mrs Butler' and explored the different poetry techniques used within it. In maths, we have been adding three one-digit numbers, using helpful strategies such as number bonds to make our calculations easier. In RE, we learned about the symbols of Baptism, focusing on the meaning of the chrism oil and the white garment. Our history lessons took us back in time to meet the inspirational Emmeline Pankhurst — we even wrote powerful speeches as if we were her, fighting to gain the right for women to vote. In PE, we completed our ball skills topic with a fun carousel of activities, including aiming at hoops, shooting at targets, and practising our throwing and catching as a team. Finally we had a session led by Durham Music Service, where we thought of animals we would find in the jungle and created noises linked to these. Well done for another wonderful week year 2!



Year 3 have had a fantastic start the new half term! In science, the children have enjoyed beginning their rocks topic, where they have been exploring the difference between porous and non-porous rocks and discovering that all rocks can be grouped into three main types: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. In English, they have loved diving into their new class reader, *Charlotte's Web*. They have written detailed character profiles and shown great understanding when using the possessive apostrophe in their writing. In Geography, Year 3 have started their new topic on mountains. They can now tell the difference between a hill and a mountain and have been fascinated to learn about some of the most famous mountains found in the UK.

Year 4 have had a brilliant first week back in school. We began our new PE topic of swimming, the children loved their first session and tried very hard, impressing the swimming coach with their sensible behaviour in and around the pool. In maths we looked at estimating and how this can be used to help us estimate answers in addition and subtraction. In English we read the short story 'A River', we used our inference skills to make predictions about the story from clues in the pictures. In history we learned about Hannibal's final battle against the Romans and how the Romans managed to defeat him with

a cunning plan! In science, we looked at the different stages of the water cycle and in RE we studied the parable of the prodigal son and how this links to forgiveness.







What a busy week we have had to the start of a new half term! We have talked a lot this week about our residential: tasks that we will take part in when we are away, positives of spending time as a class family and the challenges some of us may face when we are away from home. We are ready for our mission at Emmaus Youth Village. We have started a great new session in PE - exploring dance through the music of *The Greatest Showman*. We explored an interesting topic in RE, where we looked at relationships and what they mean to us and our loved ones. So, this weekend, we will probably pack our cases, ready for next week, and look into more preparation for the trip. We are excited to go!

Year 6 have had a great first week back after half term. They have settled straight back into their maths lessons on fractions and have been practising simplifying fractions and finding common denominators. In English, they have started their new class reading book 'The Nowhere Emporium' and have completed tasks exploring the feelings of characters within the first 5 chapters. In science, as you can see, they had a great time investigating light. They studied how light travels in straight lines and made their own experiment to prove this.





