

# Newsletter 14th 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 an incredibly busy week at school!

We kicked off the week in style with a whole-school assembly to mark Anti-Bullying Week. Throughout the week, we've had so many wonderful events, including:

- Nursery Stay and Play
- Buddy Assembly
- Pudsey Day
- Our Student Councillors began their first training session to become Peer Mentors

A huge thank you to all our parents and grandparents for your continued support.

We were also delighted to welcome colleagues from our Trust, who were extremely impressed by our children's behaviour, progress, and attitudes to learning. Well done, everyone!

As we enter the final few weeks before a very busy Christmas season, please keep an eye on Arbor and Facebook for updates.

### Key Reminders for Next Week

- **Scholastic Book Fair** – open until **Tuesday**
- **Careers Fair for Year 5 & 6** – **Thursday 20th**, 3:30 PM
- **Non-Uniform Day** – **Friday 21st** in exchange for a **bottle** for our Tombola

More information about our **Christmas Nativities** will be shared next week.

Thank you for your continued support and kindness.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes,

Mrs Urwin





## Reminders

### **Year 1 Trip to Beamish**

A reminder our year 1 children have their trip to Beamish on Monday 24th November, if your child would like a school packed lunch please complete the forms using the link by Monday 12 noon [Year 1- Beamish Museum – Fill in form](#) - *voluntary contributions can be made on Arbor. We are extremely grateful for any contribution!*

### **Christmas Fair- FRIDAY 28th NOVEMBER**

It's that time of year again!! - We're excited to announce our Christmas Fair is back and bigger than ever! **Friday 28th November 3:30pm- 5pm.**

**To help support our Tombola, children are invited to come into school in non-uniform on Friday 21st November in exchange for bringing a bottle (any suitable item for bottle tombola)**

### **Reminder About Healthy Packed Lunches**

We kindly ask parents to ensure that their child's packed lunch is healthy and nutritious. Recently, we have noticed some children in KS2 eating items from their lunch during break time. Please make sure your child understands which items are intended for their snack and which are for lunch.

- We encourage a piece of fruit as a snack for break times.

- Thank you for your support in helping us promote healthy eating habits.

### **Career Fair for Year 5 & Year 6**

We're excited to invite all Year 5 and Year 6 pupils – and their parents – to a Career Fair hosted by Karbon Homes!

Date: Thursday 20th, Time: 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM, Location: School Hall

We understand the importance of exposing our children to a wide variety of careers, especially those within our local community. This event will give them a fantastic opportunity to learn, ask questions, and be inspired! Karbon Homes will be bringing an amazing team, including plumbers, electricians, and even their CEO.

Come along for what promises to be a wonderful evening, helping prepare our children for the next stage of their lives. Parents welcome too – we'd love to see you there!

### **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>

### **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.

### **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 95.06%. Our target is 97%**

**Nursery:** 100%

**Reception:** 96.25%

**Year 1:** 96.55%

**Year 2:** 96%

**Year 3:** 97.24%

**Year 4:** 90%

**Year 5:** 92.59%

**Year 6:** 93.57%

**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:**

**Year 2:** Jenson for being such a wonderful friend

**Year 3:** Finlay for always being so polite to Mrs Urwin

**Year 4:** Eliza for being a wonderful member of our school family

## Star of the Week

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

**Nursery:** Lewis for enthusiastically joining in with our nursery rhyme activities

**Reception:** Brody for settling into life at St Joseph's and always trying his best!

**Year 1:** Cora for making an excellent spinner in DT

**Year 2:** Jesse for always showing the St Joseph's way, working so hard in lessons

**Year 3:** Arabella for excellent contributions in class discussions

**Year 4:** Harley-Kate for being a fantastic friend and always making sure everyone is included

**Year 5:** Year 5 for being amazing on their residential

**Year 6:** Ella B for some excellent work in maths adding and subtracting fractions

## Awards of the week

**Mission Statement:** Ella, Marco, Phoebe, Freya, Harriet, Karan, Ollie

**British Values:** Charlie, Francesca, Jak, Freddie Ch, Reid, Clementine, Zander

**Writer of the week:** Alfie D, Teddy, Aria-Rose, Frank, Eliza, Alfie

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

In **Nursery** we had a wonderful week celebrating 'World Nursery Rhyme Week'. We took part in lots of nursery rhyme-based activities and learnt a new rhyme each day! We ended the week with a lovely stay and play with our grown-ups. Thank you to everyone who attended, the children thoroughly enjoyed it.





This week the **Reception** children joined their Year Six buddies for a special assembly. We shared what we do with our buddies, how they help us in school and loved singing 'You've Got a Friend in Me' together! The children then introduced their buddies to their grown-ups, and it was so lovely to see everyone chatting away and getting to know each other. We can't wait to learn and grow with our buddies more as the year goes on!





We've had a fantastic week in **Year 1**, full of exciting learning across all subjects! Here's what we've been up to: This week, we explored how toys have changed over the years. The children compared old and new toys, discussed materials used in the past, and thought about how technology has influenced play. They loved exploring toys from the past. Our focus text has been *The Leaf Thief*. We enjoyed reading the story together. The children practised writing sentences using capital letters, finger spaces, and full stops. We also worked on using adjectives to make our writing more exciting. In Dt we explored spinners as moving mechanisms. The class loved seeing how they can make a picture move. Well done Year 1 for a brilliant week.





This week, **Year 2** have worked very hard creating their own poems inspired by 'Please Mrs Butler'. In maths, they used Base 10 to help subtract numbers and to find 10 more and 10 less. In RE, the children explored the symbolism of the baptismal candle and wrote thoughtful prayers linked to Remembrance Day, finishing with a reflective Celebration of the Word. In geography, we looked at what it would be like to travel to London from Newcastle by airplane. The children were especially fascinated by the flight tracker and loved seeing how many planes were in the sky at that moment. Well done for another fantastic week, Year 2!





**Year 3** have had a fantastic week full of learning and creativity! In maths, the children have started exploring multiplication by working with equal groups and arrays and developing a great understanding of how numbers can be represented in different ways. In Design and Technology, they have begun designing their own moving story books. They have experimented with exciting mechanisms such as pop-ups, sliders and levers and their imaginative ideas are really starting to take shape! In history, the children have started a new topic on another ancient civilisation: the Sumerians. They were fascinated to discover that the first known form of human writing was found there, which was inscribed on clay tablet thousands of years ago. To end the week, the children took part in activities linked to Children in Need, showing kindness, enthusiasm and care for others. This has tied in beautifully with Anti-Bullying Week, as the class have been reflecting on the importance of respect and standing up for one another.





**Year 4** have enjoyed their second swimming lesson this week, all of the children worked extremely hard and are already becoming more confident in the water. In maths we looked at finding area of 2D shapes, in English we continued to read our class novel Matilda and we looked at the characters, identifying protagonists and antagonists. In RE we continued to look at reconciliation and what it means to examine your conscience. In History we looked at the Roman empire and how they were able to keep control in each of the provinces they invaded.

**Year 5** have had a brilliant time away in their residential. They have shared this experience as a class family and have grown in faith. It has been a joy to watch them gain confidence, try

new things and share in new experiences. They have been a huge support to one another- showing care, kindness and resilience. They have been a credit to our school and it is an experience they'll never forget. We are all very proud of them. They will definitely sleep tonight!



Another busy week in **Year 6**. The children started the week with their Remembrance Day celebration of the word. This was a great chance for them to pay their respects to those who have fought for our country. They produced some fantastic artwork using graphite and charcoal which they have had on display in school this week. In our English lessons, they continue to enjoy our class reading book, *The Nowhere Emporium*. In maths, they have been tackling fractions with a focus on mixed numbers. They have produced some excellent work on this topic, particularly in their problem solving. They have enjoyed the start of our topic of Oceans in our geography lessons. Exploring the different seas and oceans around our planet and identifying the differences between the two. They loved preparing for and performing in their Buddy Assembly this week. They had a great time with their buddies and enjoyed meeting their buddies' families.





