

Newsletter 12th December 2025

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

What a wonderful week it has been, filled with nativities across our school. Each performance was truly amazing. ★

A heartfelt thank you to EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 for putting on such fantastic shows and for your incredible performances. You reminded us all of the true meaning of Christmas - love, joy and hope. ✨🎄

Thank you also to all our parents, carers and grandparents for joining us. It was lovely to welcome some new faces to St Joseph's too. We hope you enjoyed it!

A huge thank you to our incredible staff for your creativity, passion and commitment. Thank you for always going above and beyond for our children. We are blessed with such an amazing team. 🙏❤️ A special mention goes to Miss Greenwell and Mrs Cowan in the office for organising tickets, managing bookings and keeping everything running smoothly. Thank you for all that you do!

We also enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day, adding even more festive cheer to an already magical week. The children looked fantastic in their colourful jumpers, and the hall was filled with laughter, excitement and the delicious smell of Christmas lunch. It was so much fun! 🎄 ✨ A huge thank you to Donna, Diane and Laura for preparing such a scrumptious Christmas dinner. Your hard work, care and attention to detail created a meal that the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed. The smiles across the hall said it all! We are also incredibly grateful to our dedicated lunchtime staff — Mrs Galloway, Mrs McGough, Mrs McLellan and Mrs Agnew — for everything you do each and every day. Your support, kindness and hard work ensure that lunchtimes run smoothly and that our children feel safe, supported and happy. ❤️ 🍽️ 🎅

As we enter the final week of term, I would like to remind you that our **Celebration Assembly will take place on Tuesday 16th**, as this week has been filled with our wonderful nativities. ✨ Our Class Parties will be held on Thursday 18th, and the children are already looking forward to a fun-filled afternoon with their classmates. Further details will be shared by class teachers. 🍷 🎄 Next week, we will also be announcing our House Group Winners and our Gold Star Winners. These awards are an important part of our school, recognising teamwork, kindness and positive attitudes. Our House Captains will then choose the reward for their team — always an exciting moment! 🏆 ✨

Key Date: Carols around the Tree Friday 19th December 2 30pm - all are welcome!

Mass continues Sunday at 11am and some of our children will be reading at it. We thank them for always putting their faith into action.

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 97.03%. Our target is 97%

Nursery: 95.19%

Reception: 92.92%

Year 1: 97.24%

Year 2: 97.67%

Year 3: 100%

Year 4: 97.27%

Year 5: 97.41%

Year 6: 98.21%

Well done to Year 3 who won this week's attendance award!

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

What a wonderful performance our **Early Years** children put on for their Nativity this week! We are so proud of all of the children for their singing and dancing, and it was so lovely to see them thoroughly enjoying themselves on the stage - they were a joy to watch, and it was a fantastic way to celebrate this special time of year!



This week, **Year 1 and 2** have truly blown us away with their amazing Nativity performances! Their singing, determination, and acting shone through for all to see. We hope you enjoyed their phenomenal performances as much as the children did. I'm sure you'll agree that they were all absolute superstars, and we are extremely proud of each and every one of them. A huge thank you for your support with learning lines and arranging costumes—it is greatly appreciated. Well done again to our wonderful Year 1 and 2 pupils!



KS2 ended the week with two fantastic performances. They told the story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and focused on the importance of being accepted and looked after by the Bethlehem residents. They spoke, sang and danced with smiles on their faces, bringing Christmas joy to everyone in church. Thank you to all the families who were able to join us in celebrating this very special time of year.

