

# Newsletter 16th January 2026

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

We began the week with a wonderful whole-school *Celebration of the Word*, reflecting on the Baptism of Jesus. I was incredibly impressed by the children's knowledge, understanding, and ability to explain why this event is such an important moment in Jesus' life.

There has been a great deal of exciting learning taking place across the school this week. One important development has been the launch of the *Zones of Regulation*. This approach helps children to recognise, understand, and manage their emotions by categorising different feelings into coloured "zones." By learning the language of emotions and exploring practical strategies to regulate them, children are becoming more confident in expressing how they feel and in choosing positive ways to respond to challenges. Already, we are seeing children use this shared language to support their own wellbeing and to show greater empathy and understanding towards others.

We were also delighted to welcome visitors from the *Red Sky Foundation*, who delivered an engaging and informative session on basic first aid. The children learned how to respond in an emergency, including how to seek help, remain calm, and carry out simple but potentially life-saving actions. This was a valuable experience that not only built practical skills but also boosted the children's confidence and sense of responsibility.

On Thursday, Year 6 led a deeply moving *Celebration of the Word* for their parents, centred on the theme of servant leadership. The pupils spoke with maturity and sincerity, reminding us that true leadership is rooted in kindness, service, and standing up for others. As Year 6 prepare to move on to the next chapter of their journey, we encourage them to always stand up for what is right and just, to lead by example, and to carry these values with them wherever they go.

Mass continues Sunday at 11am.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a week full of faith, learning, and growth.

Best wishes,

Mrs Urwin

## Reminders

### Year 5 Trip

reminder our year 5 children have their trip to the Theatre Royal on Thursday 29th January, payments can be made via Arbor, any contribution is greatly appreciated. If your child would like a school packed lunch please complete the forms using the link [Year 5- Newcastle Theatre Royal – Fill in form](#) -

### 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 96.12%. Our target is 97%**

**Nursery:** 79.35%

**Reception:** 93.48%

**Year 1:** 99.66%

**Year 2:** 97%

**Year 3:** 96.9%

**Year 4:** 94.09%

**Year 5:** 95.54%

**Year 6:** 97.86%

**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-** Charlie for always working so hard in Nursery

**Reception:** Harper for working really hard in reception this week

**Year 2:** Freddie Ch for being so sensible and polite around school

**Year 3:** Isla for outstanding behaviour in school

**Year 4:** Noah for always having a smile on his face

## Star of the Week

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

**Nursery:** Jensen for sharing super answers during carpet time sessions

**Reception:** Alfie S for showing great confidence when sharing his ideas during carpet time

**Year 1:** Teddy for drawing a brilliant portrait in art, inspired by Giuseppe Arcimboldo

**Year 2:** Freddie Ch for his excellent reading in class and trying so hard with his writing

**Year 3:** Cleo for an excellent attitude in all lessons and completing all work to the best of her ability

**Year 4:** Olivia-Kate for excellent contributions to lessons throughout the week

**Year 5:** Emily L for excellent long multiplication answers

**Year 6:** Martha for some excellent journalistic writing based on our class book

## Awards of the week

**Captain's Table:** Charlie, Alfie D, Harvey, Freddie Ca, Frances, Ella, Rio, Ella C

**Mission Statement:** Rudy, Zeke, Ollie, Theo, Isla, Isabella, Thea, Jacob

**British Values:** Ella, Harper, Beau, Grace S, Arabella, Freddie S, Madeline, Eeve

**Writer of the week:** Keela, Desmond, Seb, Nathan, Daniel, Esme, Teeannah

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

This week in **Nursery** we have been continuing to learn about Winter. We have been finding out about what happens to different animals during Winter and loved finding out about animals that hibernate. We thought about how we could help animals in Winter and made some birds feeders for the birds and a hibernation station for any animals that might be looking for a safe warm place to hibernate.





The children in **Reception** thoroughly enjoyed their first PE lesson this week! We focused on listening carefully to instructions to make sure we can stay safe in the hall and played games which involved stopping, starting and moving in different ways.





We've had a fantastic start to the term in **Year 1!** Here's what we've been learning across our subjects: we have been exploring the fascinating story of Lady of Mercia. The children enjoyed learning about her role in defending Mercia against the Vikings. In art, we have been inspired by Giuseppe Arcimboldo, an artist famous for creating portraits using fruits, vegetables, and other objects. The children have had fun experimenting with their own imaginative designs. Our focus in PE has been on gymnastic shapes. The children have been practicing different positions such as tuck, star, and straddle, and learning how to hold these shapes with control and balance. We've also worked on moving smoothly between shapes. In Maths, we've been working on place value to 20 using Base 10 equipment. The children have been learning to group tens and ones, understand the value of each digit, and represent numbers in different ways. Well done for an excellent week Year 1!





This week, **Year 2** children have continued to work incredibly hard. In English, they created fantastic setting descriptions of the Arctic, inspired by their class text. In maths, the children explored 3D shapes, learning to identify and describe their properties. Our science lessons focused on living things and how we can tell if something is alive. In history, the children deepened their understanding of the Victorians by learning about the Great Exhibition and some of the exciting inventions from this period. In PE, everyone thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a pirate-themed fitness session. Well done, Year 2 – a great week of learning!



This week, **Year 3** have been developing their multiplication and division skills. They have been partitioning numbers into tens and ones to make multiplication and division calculations more manageable and accurate. They showed growing confidence as they applied this strategy to solve problems, explain their thinking and check their answers. In

English, the children have continued exploring the story The Iron Man and focused on Chapter One, where they were identifying exciting examples of onomatopoeia that bring the action to life. In science, they have begun their new topic on light, where they have learned to identify and sort objects as transparent, translucent, or opaque. They demonstrated a good understanding by explaining how light passes through different materials and giving examples from the classroom and everyday life. In art, they have started studying the work of Antony Gormley, a famous sculptor. They thoroughly enjoyed sketching some of his most famous pieces.



This week **Year 4** have started their new PE topic of dance, based on 'The Greatest Showman'. We have continued learning to play the Ukelele in music and in history we have looked at the Roman invasion of Britain. In maths we have been identifying factors and factor pairs and looking at how this can help us when solving more tricky multiplication questions. In English, we continued to read 'The firework maker's daughter,' we took quotes from the book and discussed what each of these told us about the characters. In Geography, we looked at coastal processes and how erosion changes the shape of the land.









Lots of long multiplication covered in **Year 5** this week and we have applied this to problem solving. We have found part one of the mystery in our class reading book, Skellig, but we are intrigued by many other parts of the plot. We even wrote character descriptions based on the author's style of writing. In Science, we explored the difference between weight and mass, and discussed what would happen if we visited the Moon. We have all tried really hard on Reading Plus this week, to increase our chances of hitting our words per minute target. Remember - Year 5 can access this programme at home! We discussed our upcoming visit to the Theatre Royal to see Weird, the Musical. We will study some Shakespeare next week in preparation as it's based on Macbeth!

Another busy week in **Year 6!** They have continued to tackle ratio problems in maths- looking at recipes and how they can be adjusted while keeping the ratios of ingredients correct. In English- they have been looking at the issue of child labour via our class reader, Kick. They have been looking at how they can use cohesive devices within their sentences to make their work more interesting to read. They used these writing techniques while writing interview responses. In RE, they have been studying scripture and using bible references to find specific scripture in both the Old and New Testament. In Geography, they have been looking at migration and have been studying the reasons why people may move from one

place to another. On Thursday, the children welcomed their families for a celebration of the word focussing on how we can serve others.

