

Newsletter 30th 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 special visit from **St Cuthbert's Care**, and it was inspiring to hear about the incredible work they do within our wider community. Thank you so much for your generous donations – they really will make a huge difference to those they support.

This week, **Year 4** led a beautiful *Celebration of the Word* focused on **Carlo Acutis - our Trust's Patron Saint**. The children shared who he was and explored why his life and faith continue to inspire young people today. Thank you to

Year 5 also enjoyed a super exciting visit to the theatre to watch *'Weird!' the Musical*. What a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience live performance and storytelling.

Our **Peer Mentors Lunchtime Club** commenced this week and has been a wonderful support for children who sometimes find lunchtimes challenging. It has been lovely to see so many children enjoying calm activities such as Lego, colouring and friendly chats with peers. The

club provides a safe, welcoming and relaxed space where children feel supported, included and ready to return to learning in the afternoon.

It has also been wonderful to see so many children receive **Gold Stars** this week. These were awarded for a range of achievements, including excellent handwriting, strong progress in phonics, positive behaviour, and consistently showing our school values. Well done to all of our stars – we are incredibly proud of you.

Changes in Calendar dates para here

Mass continues Sunday at 11am.

Thank you for your continued support.

Reminders

Change of calendar dates

Due to a change in another school commitment, the Open Classroom that was due to take place on **17th February** will now be rearranged to take place in the **Summer term**.

'Do It Your Own Way' Day on 2nd April will also be rescheduled to the **Summer term**.

We will share new dates with you as soon as they are confirmed. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

School Office & Wraparound Information

School Office Hours:

- **Monday – Thursday:** 8:00am – 4:00pm
- **Friday:** 8:00am – 3:30pm
- If your child attends **after-school wraparound care (and is still their from 4:00pm– 5:30pm)**, please telephone **07823 815101** on arrival. A member of staff will bring your child to the door.

Sickness Reminder

If your child has **any episode of sickness or diarrhoea**, they **must remain off school for 48 hours** from their **last episode**.

This helps reduce the spread of illness and keeps everyone in school healthy.

Wraparound care

- A polite reminder Breakfast club is from 7:40am and children need to be in by 8:15am at the latest for breakfast.

- Wraparound care finishes at 5:30pm, a late charge may apply if you are late on multiple occasions.
- All children must be booked into both Breakfast club and wraparound care via Arbor and this must be paid for in advance of the session

Spare Uniform

We would be grateful if you have any spare tights/socks/underwear you would donate these to school. We have a very limited supply and during this bad weather children may need a change of clothes. If your child does borrow from school can you please return them once cleaned.

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 95.82%. Our target is 97%

Nursery: 96.1%

Reception: 96.96%

Year 1: 94.48%

Year 2: 99%

Year 3: 97.93%

Year 4: 95.45%

Year 5: 94.07%

Year 6: 92.5%

Well done to Year 2 who won this week's attendance award!

Head Teachers Award

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

Nursery: Jensen for trying his best in everything he does!

Reception: Alfie D for being able to talk so confidently about his learning

Year 2: Grace S for having a positive attitude towards school life

Year 5: Dominic for always giving 100% in lessons

Star of the Week

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

Nursery: Tillie for sharing super ideas during circle time

Reception: Tiaraoluwa for lots of lovely sharing and turn taking

Year 1: Kaliah for always being so helpful and kind to everyone in school

Year 2: Noah for his confidence when answering questions in class

Year 3: Nathan for being a kind and caring friend

Year 4: Isobel for excellent multiplication work in maths

Year 5: Lucas for excellent work in fractions

Year 6: Freya for some excellent work in maths on decimals this week

Awards of the week

Captain's Table: Lewi, Imogen, Ada, Jesse, Brody, Elena, Emily L, Layla

Mission Statement: Maeve, Oliver, Ollie, Lewis, AJ, Harvey, Harry, Ivy

British Values: Effie, Joshua, Charlotte, Joey, Harriet, Isabella, Aidan, Alfie

Writer of the week: Brody, Eva, Maddison, Emie, India, Leyla, Natalia

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

This week in **Nursery** our story of the week has been 'Dear Zoo'. We have loved re-telling the story, talking about and drawing pictures of the pets we would like and pretending to be the different animals from the story. In Maths, we have been selecting a small number of objects from a bigger group. We carefully counted out fruit to feed the animals from the story and made our own smoothies counting and measuring the ingredients.







This week, we have continued to explore the Zones of Regulation, learning to recognise and name our emotions, through our story Not Now, Bernard. Children created some artwork using lines, shapes and patterns then used oil pastels, thinking about the colours from the Zones and talking about how they might feel in each Zone. They have been able to give some lovely examples of what makes them feel happy, angry, excited or sad and talked about the tools they can use to support them with these feelings.





We've had a wonderful and busy week in **Year 1**, filled with curiosity, exploration, and thoughtful discussions. Here's a little look at what we've been learning: This week, the children learned the story of St Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. We explored who he was, why he is remembered, and the events of his life. In Geography, we put on our best "detective" hats and headed outside for some seasonal fieldwork. The children looked for clues in the environment to help them decide which season we are in. They looked closely at: The weather, the trees and plants, animals and insects. The children made excellent observations and used real evidence to support their ideas. Well done, geographers! In Science, we have been investigating materials and their properties. Our big question this

week was: "Is it waterproof or absorbent?" The children tested different materials including paper towels, fabric, foil, and plastic. They loved making predictions and there are lots of enthusiastic scientists in Year 1! We remembered Holocaust Memorial Day with a celebration of the word, thinking of how everyone should feel safe and happy to be themselves. Well done for an excellent week.



This week in **Year 2**, children have continued their work in maths, focusing on money and comparing different amounts. In English, they have started their new book linked to the Victorians, 'Queen Victoria's Bathing Machine'. They explored some challenging vocabulary from the text and used these words in their own sentences. In computing, the children have continued to learn about photography, discovering how to capture a good photo and recognising the difference between portrait and landscape images. In art, they have discovered how to print, experimenting with different techniques. In RE, the children looked at the books used in church and learned about some of the responses we use when we are at church. Well done, Year 2!



This week, in English, **Year 3** children have written a short narrative about the Iron Man, exploring who he is and where he came from. They have used descriptive language to bring

their ideas to life. The children have also been developing their computing skills by using Scratch to programme sprites, learning how to make them move in different directions. In RE, children completed the last two lessons of their journeys topic and had some meaningful discussions about the importance of prayer in their own lives.



This week **Year 4** have moved onto written methods for multiplication in maths. In English they have started to look at persuasive devices and how these are used in adverts. They continued to add to their Greatest Showman dance routines in PE and in Science they carried out an investigation to look at the effects of different substances on teeth.



Double, double, toil and trouble! What a fantastic morning **Year 5** had at [Newcastle Theatre Royal](#)! We were invited to see the world premiere of the new musical, 'Weird', which reimagines Shakespeare's Macbeth through the eyes of the three witches. It was brilliant from start to finish. Songs, storytelling and spells - we absolutely loved it! Today we wrote reviews and created artwork based on the play. We were able to programme our Microbits to follow code to create patterns and letters. We loved building the programme.



This week **Year 6** have continued with their excellent attitude to school life. They have been working hard in maths and English and have produced some excellent work. In science, they have continued lessons on their circuits topic. This week, they explored making circuits based on a range of circuits diagrams. They learnt about the different electrical symbols which are used and tested whether circuits function or not. In art, they are studying the work of Henry Rousseau, looking at the different plants and flowers which he paints and recreating their own versions of these.





