

Newsletter 20th March 2026

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

It has been a very special week here at St Joseph's, with lots to celebrate.

On Monday, we hosted a Sleep Workshop for families. Our next session will focus on the Zones of Regulation and supporting children to manage their emotions.

This week, we also celebrated two very special saints – St Patrick and St Joseph. Father Shaun led us in a beautiful Mass, where we reflected on our mission statement: *“Work hard, love tenderly, walk humbly, trusting in God.”* We continue to follow in the footsteps of St Joseph, who inspires us each and every day.

Our Climate Ambassadors have begun their project work, and the excitement has been wonderful to see. We are really looking forward to seeing the positive changes they will bring to our school.

On Friday morning, we were delighted to welcome Willow Burn Hospice into school. Following this, the children decided that on Thursday 2nd April (the last day of term), we will hold a non-uniform day in support of this fantastic local charity. Children are invited to bring in £1 if they wish to take part. This is a lovely way to finish the Lenten season by thinking of others.

Well done to all of our award winners this week – we are incredibly proud of you all.

This weekend sees the much-anticipated Tyne-Wear derby between Newcastle and Sunderland . We know we have a mix of supporters across our school community, which always makes occasions like this a little more exciting! We wish both teams the very best of luck and hope everyone enjoys the match. I'm already looking forward to the post-match analysis with the children on Monday morning.

Next week is another busy one:

- **Tuesday 24th – Big Lenten Walk** - Parents welcome and everyone will meet at school first, more information to follow:
 1. EYFS children will do this on our school yard at 1:00pm
 2. Year 1 and 2 children walk down to Oakies park at 1:30pm
 3. Year 3 and 4 children down to Oakies park at 2:10pm
 4. Year 5 and 6 children down to Oakies park at 2:45pm
- **Wednesday 25th – Parents' Evening**
- **Buddy Assembly on Thursday at 2 30pm - Reception Parents invited.**

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mass continues Sunday at 11am.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Urwin



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 94.68%. Our target is 97%

Nursery: 98.6%

Reception: 98.18%

Year 1: 97.33%

Year 2: 93.33%

Year 3: 93.1%

Year 4: 93.18%

Year 5: 90.77%

Year 6: 95.36%

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: Rudy for always being a superstar!

Reception: Taylor for always being so polite to Mrs Urwin

Year 2: Maddison for following the St Joseph's Way!

Year 5: Maisie for outstanding behaviour

Year 6: Emmanuel for brilliant effort during SATs practice

Star of the Week

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

Nursery: Arron for settling into Nursery so well

Reception: Alfie D for working hard in Maths, sharing his answers with confidence

Year 1: Freddie for some excellent work in science about reptiles

Year 2: Cobey for trying so hard when learning number facts to 20

Year 3: Jayden for excellent progress in reading

Year 4: Charity for settling in really well to Year 4 and working hard in every lesson

Year 5: Leyland for excellent work with shape

Year 6: Ollie for excellent inference in his reading comprehension this week

Awards of the week

Captain's Table: Ella, Oliver, Eva, Edith, Reid, Thomas, Will, Teeannah

Mission Statement: Effie, Ewan, Teddy, Joey, Emie, Daniel, Alice, Layla

British Values: Tillie, Keela, Rita, Jack, Destiny, Harvey, Emily L, Tia

Writer of the week: Tiaraoluwa, Derek, Noah, Frank, Olivia-Kate, Esme, Emie

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

The children have been exploring the concept of growth by reflecting on how much they have changed over time. They enjoyed looking closely at photographs of themselves as babies, toddlers, and now, carefully ordering them to see their journey as they grow. This learning was enriched by sharing the story *"Once There Were Giants,"* helping them understand how people change and grow just like them.









This week, **Year 1** joined the whole school in celebrating St Joseph's Feast Day. The children took part in a special liturgy where we reflected on St Joseph's kindness, patience and dedication. We talked about how we can follow his example by helping others, being gentle, and working hard in everything we do. The class enjoyed creating artwork inspired by St Joseph and writing about how they can show his virtues in their everyday lives. In Geography, we have been exploring landmarks and capital cities in the UK. Two favourites this week were Loch Ness and The Giant's Causeway. We also continued learning about capital cities, including London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. The children enjoyed locating them on maps. In Science, Year 1 have been learning all about reptiles. We explored what makes reptiles different from mammals and birds, focusing on features such as: scaly skin, laying eggs and being cold-blooded. Our PE focus this half term is dance. The children have been exploring how to move their bodies to music, use space safely, and work together in small groups. This week, they practised creating simple sequences using different levels, directions and actions. They showed fantastic creativity as they responded to different pieces of music and began developing a short routine.







This week in **Year 2**, the children were excited to begin exploring a new poem called 'Someone'. Inspired by their reading, they designed their very own imaginative creatures and wrote wonderful descriptions using expanded noun phrases and a range of adjectives. In maths, the class has been practising using rulers to measure the length and height of different objects with increasing accuracy. They've really enjoyed this hands-on learning! During RE, the children learned about Palm Sunday and discussed the key events of the day. They also loved visiting the church as part of the St Joseph's feast day celebration. In DT they have been busy designing their own vehicles, ready to be built before the end of the half-term! In History, they explored the types of jobs children once did in the mines and talked about how dangerous some of these roles could be. Science and Geography took learning outdoors this week, with an investigation into habitats and microhabitats around the school grounds. The children searched for different animals and thought about the places they might live and why. Well done Year 2 for another wonderful week of learning and discovery! 🌟







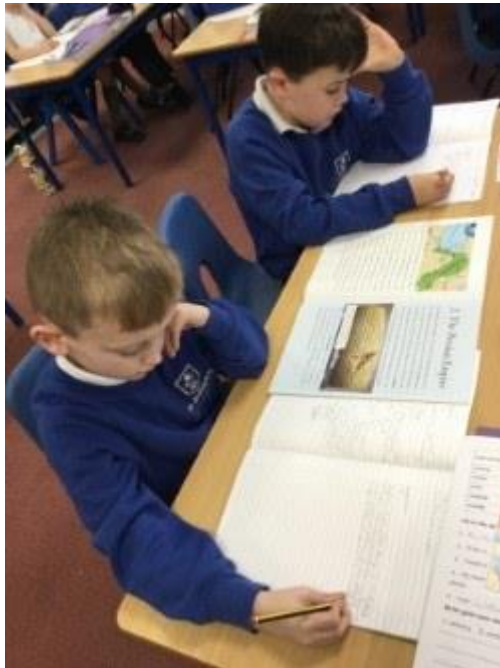




Year 3 have had an excellent week. In maths, they have been measuring in litres and millilitres as well as comparing volume and capacity. In geography, they have been exploring the three different types of farming with a particular focus this week on arable farming, where they looked in more detail at how wheat is grown. In history, the children have been learning about the start of the Persian Empire and how it was ruled by Darius and Cyrus and, in RSHE, they have been learning about different relationships and discussing what it means

to be a good friend. We exploring strategies to use when relationships become difficult including when and how to apply these strategies in real-life situations.





In **Year 4** this week we have continued to look at fractions and have started to look at how to convert mixed numbers into improper fractions in Maths. In English, we continued to read our class novel 'The Lion, the With and the Wardrobe' and we began to look at the descriptive vocabulary used to describe Narnia. In Geography, we looked at different types of tourism and the positive effects it has on the economy in tourist destinations. We continued to practise and perfect different strokes during swimming.







This week we have revisited 2d shape properties in Maths. We calculated perimeter and area and solved many challenging word problems. In English, we wrote from Kylan's (the main character) point of view, to plot his escape home to Scotland. We desperately want him to escape his Viking master! We explored Mammals and created fact files in Science. We have been exploring various verb tenses in Spanish, learning to read larger pieces of texts to translate to English. In Art, we used watercolours to explore shade and tone and then mixed colours to explore various textures and patterns. Our dance sessions in PE are exciting - working in teams to create and refine our performance. Our ukelele skills are developing - quite the class band!



This week, **Year 6** have continued to work hard across all curriculum areas. They are enjoying their class reader in English, making their own predictions about what might happen next in the story. In maths, they have been focussing on shape, finding the area and perimeter of simple and compound shapes. In RE, they have read and retold the story of Lazarus, focussing on why Jesus chose to let him die before bringing him back to life. In science, the children have been looking at how animals adapt to meet their needs within an environment, looking particularly at adaptations which have been made over millions of years by moths and giraffes. In Geography, they have explored mega cities all over the world and discussed the pros and cons of living in a mega city. In history, they studied Norse mythology, focussing on the Gods. They read about Asgard and the link between the Gods and our human world. In revision sessions, they have been brilliant, solving some really tricky maths and grammar problems with smiles on their faces!