

Newsletter 24th April 2026

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break. It has been a real pleasure to welcome everyone back to school this week, and the children have settled back into their routines brilliantly.

We began the week with a whole-school Celebration of the Word, where we reflected on the season of Eastertide. The children listened thoughtfully to the Gospel reading of the Road to Emmaus, discussing how sometimes situations — and people — can look different at first, and how understanding and hope can grow over time. It was a calm and reflective start to the new term.

It has been lovely to spend time visiting classes and seeing the excellent learning taking place across the school. In EYFS, the children have returned with enthusiasm and confidence; in KS1, phonics sessions are already back in full swing; and in KS2, pupils are

excited to begin reading their new class novels. It is always a joy to see such focus and engagement in learning.

Parent Survey

Our Parent Survey is now live, and we would really value your feedback. Your views help us to celebrate what we do well and identify areas where we can continue to improve. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey — the link is available via our usual communication channels.

Earth Day and Eco Ambassadors

This week we also marked Earth Day. Our Eco Ambassadors have launched a bottle-cap recycling campaign, and we would be very grateful for your support.

Tesco Community Grant Campaign

We are delighted to share that our Tesco community campaign begins Tuesday 28th. If you are shopping at any of the following stores, please support us by placing your blue token in our box:

- Consett Genesis Extra – DH8 5XP (Store 4358)
- Annfield Plain Superstore – DH9 7UZ (Store 5457)
- Consett Durham Road Express – DH8 8RX (Store 5936)

Your support really does make a difference — thank you.

Personal Development – The Decider Skills Programme

Our Year 4 and Year 5 children have begun the Decider Skills Programme, which focuses on developing essential life skills, including:

- **Mindfulness** – enhancing present-moment awareness
- **Emotion regulation** – managing and responding to feelings effectively
- **Interpersonal effectiveness** – improving communication and relationships

Children's personal development remains a key priority for us, and we are committed to equipping them with the skills they will need both now and in later life.

Mass continues each Sunday at 11.00am, and families are very welcome to attend.

As we begin this new half term, we look forward to another wonderful period of learning and growth together.

Key Reminders

- Swimming – Year 5
- PE Days –

Reception: Monday

Year 1: Thursday

Year 2: Monday

Year 3: Wednesday

Year 4: Thursday

Year 5: Monday- Swimming

Year 6: Friday

- Dates for the Diary – available as an attachment and on the school website.
- Please keep an eye out on Facebook and Arbor for updates.
- Attendance continues to be a key priority for us. Our whole-school attendance target is 97%, and we really appreciate your continued support in ensuring children are in school every day and on time, as regular attendance plays a vital role in children's learning and wellbeing

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

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 95.7%. Our target is 97%

Nursery: 98.57%

Reception: 97.73%

Year 1: 94.67%

Year 2: 96.67%

Year 3: 95.79%

Year 4: 92.5%

Year 5: 94.62%

Year 6: 96.05%

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: Ellis for always being a superstar

Reception: Alfie D for excellent phonics this week

Year 3: Frank for lovely manners in and around school

Year 5: John for always following the St Joseph's Way

Year 6: Sophie for excellent SATs work

Star of the Week

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

Nursery: Lily for showing great enthusiasm and confidence towards her learning

Reception: Ethan for working super hard with his independent writing

Year 1: Frankie for all his hard work this week. Keep it up!

Year 2: Emily for her wonderful expression and enthusiasm when reading a letter

Year 3: Lenny for excellent progress in reading

Year 4: Florence for a fantastic effort in every lesson this week

Year 5: Leyland for excellent work naming angles

Year 6: Cade for some excellent division work this week

Awards of the week

Captain's Table: Maeve, Harper, Kaveh, Freya, Destiny, Harley-Kate, Molly, Ethan

Mission Statement: Amara, Alfie D, Max, Frankie, Jacob, Noah, Leyla, Ella C

British Values: Ella, Oslo, Ada, Savannah, Isla-Mae, Hayden, Isla, Sophie

Writer of the week: Imogen, Rita, Grace P, Freddie, Aria, Madeline, Ella B

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

The **Early Years** children returned to school full of excitement, eager to share their stories and ready to learn all about the environment in celebration of Earth Day this week. The children showed great enthusiasm as they talked about how to care for living things, protect our planet and thought about ways we can look after the Earth, such as recycling, litter picking and planting herbs and seeds. Their excitement grew even more when they discovered that some of our caterpillars had transformed into chrysalises. It has been a wonderful start to the term, with hands-on experiences helping the children deepen their understanding of the world around them.





Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely break and are feeling refreshed and ready for an exciting Summer Term. The children have made a fantastic start in their **first week back**, settling quickly into routines and showing great enthusiasm for their learning. Here's a snapshot of what we have been learning about this week in **Year 1**: In History, the children

have begun learning about **rulers in history**, focusing on **Ramses II**, a famous Egyptian pharaoh. We explored what a ruler is, what made Ramses II important, and how we can learn about the past through pictures, objects, and stories. This week in Art, we have started exploring **sculpture**. The children looked at different types of sculptures and discussed their shapes and textures. This learning will build towards making their own sculptures later in the term. In Religious Education, we have begun our new topic on **holy days**. The children talked about why special days are important and listened to stories linked to religious celebrations. They shared their own experiences of celebrations and showed great respect when learning about others' beliefs. In PE, the children started a unit on **tennis**. They practised rolling, bouncing, and controlling a ball, helping to develop their coordination and confidence. Everyone joined in brilliantly and showed excellent listening skills while learning new games. In English, we have been focusing on **writing**. The children have been practising writing simple sentences, thinking carefully about capital letters, finger spaces, and full stops. We have also spent time sharing ideas orally before writing, which has really helped build confidence. Thank you for your continued support. We're looking forward to another fun and busy week of learning ahead!





Year 2 have had a brilliant first week back at school! They thoroughly enjoyed starting their new PE topic, tennis, where they practised their throwing skills and explored different

techniques for throwing the ball. In DT, the children completed their vehicle projects, demonstrating excellent teamwork and creativity. In English, they loved reading *'The Day the Crayons Quit'*, and planning the introduction to their own stories inspired by the book. They also worked in pairs to read some of the letters from the story, practising their expressive reading and fluency. In maths, the children were introduced to fractions, focusing on halves and recognising equal groups. In science, they revised what animals eat and developed their understanding of the terms herbivore, carnivore and omnivore. Finally, in history, Year 2 began their exciting new topic on the Stone Age, learning about Doggerland. They were fascinated to discover that Great Britain and Europe were once connected by this land bridge. Well done, Year 2, for a wonderful week!





Year 3 have had an excellent first week back after the Easter break. In English, the children have been planning and writing two-voice poems, editing and improving their work, and enjoying reading them aloud and performing them to the class. In maths, they have been completing their work on fractions, adding, subtracting and finding fractions of a set of objects. In history, they have been learning more about the Ancient Greeks, exploring Greek language as well as the Gods and Goddesses. In RSHE this week, the children have been exploring how to stay safe online, discussing the apps and games they use and how they can protect themselves. Great work, Year 3!



What a busy first week back we have had in **Year 4!** We were joined on Tuesday by the team from NHS decider skills, who worked with us on emotions and ways to handle big feelings. We took part in our first 'Get fit North East' session on Thursday where the children took part in a high energy circuit with a variety of fun activities. We also had our first ukulele session of the term, where we impressed the music teacher with what we could remember from previous sessions. In Maths we worked on adding and subtracting fractions and in English we began to plan a setting description of Narnia.













What a great start to the summer term we have had! We started our new class text, *Treasure Island* and we love it! Pirates, deceit and terror - lots to explore. We looked at the Anglo Saxon story, *Beowulf* this week and explored creating our own narratives. In Maths, we have thoroughly enjoyed investigating the properties of angles. . In Science, we started our space topic - exploring the solar system and beyond. We were full of questions about the universe. We started a new project which will run for this half term. It's called *deciders* and we explored feelings, emotions and changes that can occur. We also looked at techniques to help us handle 'changing emotions' as we get older.

Year 6 have had a brilliant start to the new term. They have settled back in after their two weeks off and have produced some excellent work. They have started their new book in English- *Pig Heart Boy*- and have been analysing the opening chapters, making predictions and observations about the characters. In RE lessons, they have been discussing Jesus' time on earth after his resurrection, discussing the reactions of the disciples and analysing scripture about these events. As well as this, they have been hard at work with their SATs preparation, looking in particular at long division and indices this week.