

# Newsletter 2nd April 2026

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

As we bring this term to a close on this very special Holy Thursday, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a special and reflective week it has been at St Joseph's.

On Tuesday, our whole school came together for the Stations of the Cross. It was a powerful reminder of the sacrifices Jesus made for us, and it encouraged us to think deeply about the many people in our own lives who make sacrifices each day. It is always a privilege to be in school during Holy Week, sharing these moments of faith, reflection and togetherness with our children.

Today, we ended our Lenten almsgiving with a non-uniform day to raise funds for WillowBurn Hospice. I am incredibly proud of how the children have followed in the footsteps of Jesus throughout Lent. They have prayed, they have sacrificed, and they have given what they could to others. Most importantly, they have truly tried to be better in

everything they have done — and that is the greatest sign of their growing faith and character.

We also finished the term with our much-anticipated Easter Egg Competition, which was, as always, *egg-straordinary*! The creativity and humour from our families never fails to amaze us.

As we reach the end of another busy and successful term, we take pride in all that has been achieved. We have welcomed many visitors into school who have praised our ambitious curriculum, our children’s exceptional behaviour and attitudes, and the dedication of our wonderful staff team. None of this would be possible without the ongoing support of our families. You help make St Joseph’s the warm, joyful, and caring community it is.

### House Group Winners

🌟 **Gold Star Winners:** *Green Team*

🏆 **House Point Winners:** *Blue Team*

Well done to everyone! It has been incredibly close this term, and we are so proud of all our children. We really value our House System — we love hearing the stories behind the stars and house points, and celebrating the effort, kindness, and teamwork shown across the school 🟡💙💚💔

I wish you all a peaceful, happy Easter break filled with rest, hope and time with loved ones. I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 20th April**.

Happy Easter to you all,

Best wishes,

Mrs Urwin

THE SACRED TRIDUUM			
Holy Thursday	Stanley	7.30pm 9.45pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper: For the Bishops and Priests of the Diocese <i>Canticle (Night Prayer of the Church)</i> Watching at the Altar of Repose until 10.00pm
Good Friday	Stanley	10.00am 3.00pm	Preached Stations of the Cross Commemoration of the Lord's Passion <i>(Followed by Tea and Hot Cross Buns)</i>
Holy Saturday	Stanley	11.00am 7.30pm	Preparation Rites for those being baptised and received into the Church Easter Vigil: For the intentions of the newly baptised and received
EASTER SUNDAY	Dipton	10.00am	The intentions of those in our Family of Parishes <b>PLEASE NOTE, THIS IS THE ONLY MASS TODAY</b>

## Reminders

### PE Days- Summer Term 1

Reception: Monday

Year 1: Thursday

Year 2: Monday

Year 3: Wednesday

Year 4: Tuesday

Year 5: Monday- Swimming

Year 6: Friday

### **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.



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 95.43%. Our target is 97%**

**Nursery:** 96.6%

**Reception:** 98.86%

**Year 1:** 95.83%

**Year 2:** 95%

**Year 3:** 93.97%

**Year 4:** 93.01%

**Year 5:** 94.23%

**Year 6:** 97.77%

**Well done to Reception who won this week's attendance award!**

### **Head Teachers Award**

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

**Nursery:** Amara for being a superstar!

**Reception:** Sienna for always following the St Joseph's Way

**Year 1:** Charlotte for outstanding behaviour in school

**Year 4:** Aria for having a super attitude in school

**Year 5:** Louie for excellent effort in everything he does

## Star of the Week

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

**Nursery:** Isaac for sharing super ideas during carpet times!

**Reception:** Emmie for amazing effort and growing confidence in phonics

**Year 1:** Jak for trying so hard in each lesson and contributing brilliantly!

**Year 2:** Theo for his amazing effort in class

**Year 3:** Emelia for great ideas and input during English lessons this week

**Year 4:** Elena for always being kind and caring and ensuring everyone is included

**Year 5:** Dominic for excellent answers in all subjects

**Year 6:** Alfie for some excellent 'flashback' writing in English

## Awards of the week

**Captain's Table:** Ellis, Emmie, Rita, Hugo, Noah, Charity, Leyla, Shyla

**Mission Statement:** Rudy, Archie, Derek, Jenson, Rory, Izzy A, Molly, Grace

**British Values:** Lewi, Brody, Frankie, Finn, Mila, Ella, Thomas, Emmanuel

**Writer of the week:** Faith, Alice, Cobey, Cleo, India, Lucas, Jacob

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

Our **Early Years** children have had a joyful week learning about Easter. They've been learning about the meaning of this special season while getting creative along the way. We finished with a fantastic Easter Fun Day full of egg hunts, crafts, and lots of smiles. What a lovely way to celebrate!











We have had a wonderfully busy and exciting week in **Year 1**! Here's a look at what we've been up to: This week in DT and PSHE, the children explored healthy eating by creating their very own fruit salads. They practised: Careful cutting and chopping, choosing a balanced mix of colours and flavours, describing textures such as smooth, crunchy, juicy, and soft. The classroom smelled delicious, and everyone was so proud of their creations! Year 1 have loved learning sea shanties! We explored rhythm and how sailors used them to keep on task. The children particularly enjoyed singing together as a "crew" and keeping in time like real sailors on a ship. Year 1 visited church for a thoughtful walk through the Stations of the Cross. The children showed wonderful respect and listened beautifully as they learned about the Easter story. We are very proud of how reflective and calm they were during this important experience. Linking with our work on descriptive writing, the children designed their own imaginative homes—from cosy cottages to futuristic towers and even animal-inspired houses! Their creativity has been amazing, and these designs will help us with our next steps in writing descriptive sentences. It has been a joy watching the children grow in confidence, creativity, and curiosity. Thank you for your continued support! Have a lovely Easter everyone.





In **year 2** this week, children completed their maths unit on measurement, exploring both capacity and temperature. In English, the children wrote about the life cycle of a frog and have begun exploring their new text, 'The Day the Crayons Quit', which they are excited to continue in the summer term. In science, they finished their work on habitats, comparing different environments and the living things within them. In RE, they retold the story of the Resurrection, showing thoughtful understanding. In computing, they have been creating pictograms on iPads, learning about how data can be collected and presented effectively. They ended the week by completing a reflective celebration of the word in our prayer garden linked to our RE topic. Well done Year 2, for another amazing term. Have a safe and restful holiday—you've truly earned it!





This week, **Year 3** have been exploring a two-voice poem called *The Treasures* and thoroughly enjoyed creating their own versions of the verses. In PE, the children developed their own gymnastics sequences using a variety of floor movements and equipment to enhance their routines. During DT lessons this half term, they have been busy designing and making their own photo frames. They worked hard to use a range of techniques which made each one unique and interesting. In RE, the children completed their Lent topic and explored the stories of Holy Week through artwork and scripture. We hope you all have a wonderful and restful Easter break.



In **Year 4** this week we have continued our topic on fractions during maths lessons, this week we have focused on finding fractions of amounts. In English we have continued to read our class text, the lion, the witch and the wardrobe and we have practised changing the order of clauses in our sentences and looking at the effect. We looked at the significant events that happened during Maundy Thursday in RE and we looked at volume of sound in Science.



We have been learning all about the Artemis Mission in Year, this week. It was great to see the rocket launch to the moon - it's been over 50 years since humans last visited. We were able to use our forces knowledge to explain what was happening - so watch out- future astronauts are in **Year 5**! We even investigated planetary data in today's Maths session (linked with this week's topic). We have explored the events of Holy Week and examined scripture from the 4 Gospels. We even explored famous artwork based on these events. Our Spanish vocabulary and sentence building continues to grow - we are quite proficient in using, 'I have/ We have' . It has been a very busy term, so we hope everyone has a lovely Easter break, rests (reads!) and enjoys some chocolate eggs ahead of the summer term.



The end of a fantastic term for **Year 6**. They have all worked so hard over the past few weeks and are very deserving of a break. This week, they have enjoyed working through some challenging reasoning questions in maths. In English, they have studied the animation 'The Piano', writing their own flashbacks based on this clip. They have also finished their class book 'Cogheart'. They thoroughly enjoyed the ending and loved chatting about their predictions and the twists and turns within the novel. In history, they continue to study 'Norse Culture'. This week they explored the story of Beowulf, making their own books in which they retold the story. In RE, they ended their Lent topic by studying scripture, which linked to the theme of 'giving', and incorporating this into their own celebration of the word plans.