



# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



## 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Another milestone reached! We are now half way through the year and life in school remains as busy as ever.

### **Executive Headship Role**

As my temporary role, sharing my time as an executive headteacher between St Joseph's and St Patrick's, Dipton, in place for the academic year 2022 – 2023, will end in the summer, Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust will begin a recruitment process for a full-time, permanent headteacher to commence in September 2023.

An advertisement for this role will go 'live' today. I am sure the wonderful reputation St Joseph's rightly has, will attract some strong candidates for the position. Speaking now, from first-hand experience, I can say, with authority, it is a joy to be part of this school community and it has been a privilege to work collaboratively across both schools. Staff have also spoken very positively of the benefits of this.

Before I return full-time to St Patrick's, I can assure you, everyone continues to work rigorously to maintain the highest standards and expectations possible for your children.

### **Staffing Update**

The existing arrangements in Nursery & Reception will continue next half term. We are also looking to appoint a lunchtime supervisor. The job will be advertised on <https://www.bwcet.com/vacancies/>

### **Industrial Action**

The next anticipated strike day for members of the National Union of Teachers will be Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. **School will be partially open, however, Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be closed.** We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause, but we do respect the rights of staff in taking this action.

### **Pupil progress meetings**

Thank you, to pupils and staff for their continued hard work. Recently, I have worked alongside Miss Ryan, Mrs Haveron and all other teachers to discuss the progress of each pupil across every year group. These detailed discussions help us consider the learning journey of each child and what further work we can do, as a school, to ensure children have the best possible chance to achieve age related expectations at the end year (in order that every pupil is well prepared for the following year).

We know, of course, all children are different (with different needs), and children learn and progress at different rates and, with this in mind, we consider the individual starting point of each pupil. We want to have the highest expectations for everyone and we continue to focus our attention on each child to make sure s/he develops appropriate skills and acquires relevant knowledge.

We also look at barriers to learning, which may be low attendance, poor punctuality etc. These are factors which can impact progress. We aim for an attendance figure of 97% for each child and we ask that each child arrives in school from **8.45am** ready to start at **8.50am**. We also ask that you read regularly with your child.

We look forward to seeing you at the up and coming parent/teacher meetings, after half term (Reception to Year 6), to discuss how your child is doing in school. There will be many successes to share as well as advice to further support you working at home with your child. To book an appointment please visit [stjosephsprimaryschool.schoolcloud.co.uk](http://stjosephsprimaryschool.schoolcloud.co.uk)

Pupil progress is all about both school and home playing an equal part.

If your child is currently on the SEN register, you do not need to book an appointment as we will be sending parents/carers a separate appointment. We will also arrange a separate meeting for Nursery parents/carers.

As we think ahead to the summer term, there are a range of statutory assessments which children must complete. We have arranged additional meetings to share information with you regarding how these will be administered in school, what this means for your child and how you can help.

We have organised 2 informal sessions for each year group involved. In offering alternatives, we hope to ensure maximum response. If you are not available, please send a representative on your behalf.

We anticipated meetings will last around 30 – 40 minutes.

Meeting	Date	Time
Y4 Multiplication check with Miss Hull	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	9:05 am or 2:30 pm
Y1 Phonics with Miss Ryan and Miss King	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	9:05 am or 2:30 pm
Y2 SATs with Mr Haveron and Miss Morton	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	9:05 am or 2:30 pm

Mr Haveron has already met with Y6 parents regarding end of key stage 2 SATs earlier in the year.

Please follow the links to let us know your child will be represented.

**Y1 Phonics** <https://forms.office.com/e/dUS7NAHHQw>

**Y2 SATs** <https://forms.office.com/e/gpdpUHqeq8>

**Y4 Multiplication** <https://forms.office.com/e/qDsDGWhfak>

### **Catholic Ethos**

Mrs Reilly O'Donnell, Director of Ethos, for BWCET has spent time with Mrs Ashby and Mrs Hull, recently, to focus on the Catholic ethos of our school. She also took the opportunity to look at RE books and view the work children have completed. She was impressed with the standards shown. She will return shortly to spend time with staff in RE lessons and talk with pupils. To hear your views on RE, Catholic life and prayer and liturgy in school, we would be grateful if you could complete the short parent/carer survey <https://forms.office.com/e/CTNkxuE4eB> As ever, we promise this should not be onerous to complete.

### **Governor Visits**

It has also been a delight to welcome governors into school, this week, to observe day to day life across year groups. Mrs Horsley, Chair of Governors, also spoke with Sophia (our head girl), Riley (our head boy), the school council and ethos ambassadors. All pupils take their responsibilities very seriously and, as result, do a great job!

### **First Holy Communion**

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Following the questionnaire for our Year 4 families, asking for views on an informal or traditional First Holy Communion attire, the consensus is for the children to have traditional First Holy Communion dress code. If any family needs support from school/parish, please contact us on 01207 232624 or email [stjs@stjs.bwcet.com](mailto:stjs@stjs.bwcet.com)

### **World Book Day**

To celebrate World Book Day, on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, children can come to school dressed as their favourite character or in their pyjamas. The school council would like to run a book stall to raise funds to purchase new books for school. Donation of good quality books for the book stall would be gratefully received and can be sent into school on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February. Children can bring 50p to school on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March to purchase books.

### **Newsletter**

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our parent/carer survey about the newsletter. We are in the process of looking at the responses and will feedback after half-term. One of the things that parent/carers would like to see included in the newsletter is a diary of events. These have been added to the end of the newsletter and will be updated throughout the year as more events are planned.

### **Northumbria in Bloom & Eco School Green Flag Application**

For our Northumbria in Bloom and ECO School Green Flag application 2023, we need to use some plants to promote sustainability. If anyone is removing small shrubs, has cuttings or is thinning plants/bulbs out from their garden over the coming months, could you donate them to school please?

This covers plants that do not have a known significant insect or disease problem, are drought tolerant once established, aren't invasive and are long lived. Examples of such plants are:

- Hydrangea
- Hebes
- Lavender
- Buddleia
- Narcissus
- Primula
- Allium
- Iris.

We will of course accept any donations of plants, seeds or bulbs as they will be used in a separate area of the school grounds. We intend planting a wildflower area just outside of the reception class gates to encourage pollinators, so donations of wildflower seeds would be particularly appreciated.

## Swimming

Year 5 will be going swimming after half term, starting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Children need to bring a towel, costume & swimming hat. Children must also have a warm coat as they will be walking to and from the Louisa Centre.

As mentioned earlier, 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.

**Last week's attendance was: 95.1%**

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
83.65%	98.2%	95.2%	97.3%	94.7%	97.3%	95.5%	93.7%

**This week's attendance is: 95.3%**

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
70.0%	97.1%	97.2%	97.7%	94.7%	96.3%	96.1%	98.0%



## House Points

We have re-introduced the House Points system in school. Children can earn house points from all staff during the week. The house points for this week are:

**St Aidan – 278**

**St Oswald – 274**

**St Cuthbert – 270**

**St Bede – 329**

Well done to everyone!

### **Star of the Week**



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

Nursery	Lewis	For joining in with group activities with great enthusiasm
Reception	Brody	For showing super understanding in maths and using mathematical language to explain his ideas
Year 1	Elena	For brilliant contributions during carpet times. Keep up this amazing effort
Year 2	Alice	For her fantastic work ethic in all lessons. Keep up this amazing work
Year 3	Teeannah	For good work this work
Year 4	David	For working hard in our history topic and designing a fabulous Roman town
Year 5	Austen	For a positive attitude in all subjects this week
Year 6	Isaac	For some excellent work in grammar lessons this week

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

Nursery	Grace W	For lots of super subitising
Reception	AJ	For working so hard on his letter formation – keep it up
Year 1	Ava	For trying so hard to write independently
Year 2	Thomas	For a fantastic attitude this week leading to brilliant work
Year 3	Whole Class	For being impeccably behaved at the Oriental Museum. Well done!
Year 4	Lenny	For working so hard writing his explanation text about the digestive system. Some fab "Did you know questions"
Year 5	Daniel R	For creating an excellent advert
Year 6	Anya	For some excellent scores in her grammar and spellings this week

### Diary of Events Spring/Summer Term

Date	Class	Event
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Y3	Oriental Museum
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February Half-term		
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Y4	Parent/carer meeting - Multiplication check 9:05 am or 2:30 pm
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Whole School	World Book Day - Children can come to school dressed as their favourite character or in their Pyjama's
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Rec – Y6	Parent/Teacher meetings 1:30pm – 5:30pm more detail to follow
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Y1	Parent/Carer meeting - Phonics 9:05 am or 2:30 pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Y2	Parent/Carer briefing – SATs 9:05 am or 2:30 pm
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Children who are following the FHC Programme	Sacrament of Reconciliation 4:15 pm in Church
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5/Y6	Class mass 2:00pm in school
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole School	Comic Relief – non-uniform day
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5	Residential Retreat – Emmaus Youth Village
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	KS1	Cricket Roadshow – more details to follow
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole School	Children's Stations of the Cross Liturgy 2:00pm in Church
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole School	Easter Egg/Easter Bonnet competition all entries to be in school by 8:45 am
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April – Easter Holidays		
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Whole School	School Photograph - Individual Photographs
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Y3/Y4	Class mass 2:00pm in school
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6	SATS week – Compulsory National Tests
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Y1/Y2	Class mass 2:00pm in school
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June Half-term		
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6	Residential Wilderness Outdoor Adventures Middleton in Teesdale
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Nursery/Reception	Class mass 2:00pm in school
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Children in Y4/Y5 & Y6 who are following the First Holy Communion Programme	First Holy Communion 11:00 am St Joseph's Church
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Whole School	Teacher training day - School closed to all pupils
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Whole School	Hoopstars
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Whole School	School breaks up for Summer Holidays

If you have any queries, please contact us at  
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