

# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



**HEAD TEACHER: MRS. A. D. THORPE**

**CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: MRS. C. HORSLEY**

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16<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

Once again we have lots of news for you; school continues to be a busy and exciting place where our pupils access a wide range of interesting and inspiring opportunities.

## **A Silver Medal winning Olympian visits St Joseph's!**

**Gemma Jeanette Gibbons** (born 6 January 1987) is a British judoka. She has represented England and Great Britain at Junior, U-23, 'B' and Senior level; winning amongst other medals an Olympic Games 2012 London – Silver medal. On Thursday morning, she visited our school and spent an hour with the children. As a Silver Medal Olympian, it was amazing to listen to her inspire them. All the pupils went away buzzing about her and feeling inspired to follow their dreams, she left them with the idea that with hard work anything is possible so reach for the stars.

## **RHS level 4 Gardening Award certificate.**

Well done to the children who have been working with Mrs Hughes this term as they have won the above certificate for school. As a reward they have won a Mr Fothergill's seed bundle worth £150 for school to use, I am sure you will all look forward to the plants blooming in the spring. On Friday morning, Carol Henderson from the Woodland Trust, came and spoke to the children about the importance of our environment and how trees are the lungs and soul of the earth. The woodland Trust aim to plant a tree for every person living in Britain, and they will help us plant some in our school grounds.

## **Pupils art work in Stanley**

Our pupils have been decorating window of the local British Red Cross shop, in Stanley. Please look out for their wonderful display on Remembrance – I am very proud of how hard our pupils work with the local community to help make it a special and welcoming place. Their next display will be themed on Christmas.

## **Anti-Bullying Week**

This has been a great week; our pupils have been learning that we are all 'Unique and Special' in the eyes of God. Pupils know that they should stand up against intolerance and injustice wherever they see it. As a school, we are encouraging our pupils to be model citizens of the future and lead by example; showing others what is right and wrong. I have enjoyed the children expressing their individualism through the wearing of 'Odd Socks!'

## **Children in Need Day**

Today, our pupils joined the national celebration and charitable endeavour for Children in Need, the theme of which is 'Do your Thing!' Pupils have celebrated by dressing up in their own clothes exemplifying their individuality; all donations will be forwarded to Children in Need.

## **Aldi Store opening**

Before school, on a very cold and early Thursday morning, this week, some of our pupils went up to the new Aldi to take part in the ribbon opening ceremony. As always, they were so polite and represented the school impeccably; I was very proud of them.

## **Reception Yard**

An update for parents, the stonewall in the Reception yard is damaged and not deemed safe for the children to be near as they could climb it and then fall, that is why the door to the Reception yard is currently out of access. I am

currently working with Health and Safety looking into a solution; however, until further notice the Reception children will continue to line up in the large yard in the morning and be dismissed from there after school. The reception children are able to safely access their outdoor area because there is a fence between it and the wall. At lunchtime, our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will continue to all play together in the little yard at the front of school; whilst the older children will continue to play in the top yard.

### **Remembrance**

The Remembrance displays in the church porch are wonderful and I am thrilled with the amount of hard work and effort both the pupils and staff have put in to make them so meaningful for the Bishop's visit. On Monday, the Year 6 pupils lead family members and our school community in a beautiful and thought provoking assembly. They recited a roll call of 111 names of young men who died during the Great War from the Parish of St Joseph's and at 11am the whole school community stood for 2 minutes silence in the hall. Father Kevin took the Year 6 pupils with him to bless the war graves in the cemetery, which was very moving.

### **Year 4 Liturgy in the Hall**

Please remember all the families of year 4 pupils are invited to their class liturgy in school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 9:15am. I look forward to welcoming as many family members as possible into school to join in with their children.

### **Reminder - Christingle Service and Carols by Candlelight in Church**

Please note that both the Christingle service on 30<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm and the Carols by Candlelight on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2:30pm will be held in Church; it will give us plenty of space for more people to come, all are welcome. Please let family members know, as it would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible there.

### **Prayer Stations**

As I said last week, on the 4<sup>th</sup> December, we are joining with our Parish Community for a 24 hour prayer vigil, the school's slot is from 10:30am – 11:30am so we would like to invite as many of you as possible to drop in at some point during that hour to join in some silent prayer time with our children. The Theme of the prayer stations is '**Say Yes to God's Love**' and each class will have contributed to their prayer station in an age appropriate way.

### **School Shoes**

I have had a number of parents ask about children wearing boots to school. Of course they can, especially in the cold weather to keep warm; however, I would like them to bring in their school shoes to change into for school. They will then be able to change back into their boots to go home at the end of the day.

### **House Points**

House points for this week are as follows, well done to everyone for all their hard work.

**St Bede – 359 House Points**

**St Cuthbert – 358 House Points**

**St Aidan – 330 House Points**

**St Oswald – 292 House Points**

Well done to the winning house, St Beed, for this week. All the children have worked exceptionally hard to earn their House Points, we are very proud of each and every one of them.

### **Attendance of the Week**

As you are all aware attendance is hugely important, we want all of our pupils to be in school learning. The attendance for this week is as follows:

|           |       |
|-----------|-------|
| Reception | 96.6% |
| Year 1    | 94.7% |
| Year 2    | 94.1% |
| Year 3    | 98.1% |
| Year 4    | 98.3% |
| Year 5    | 95.6% |
| Year 6    | 96.1% |

Many congratulations to Year 4 who has had the best attendance this week, they will be rewarded with an extra slot of outdoor time in the sunshine! This gives the school an overall weekly attendance of 96.2% for the week – Well Done!

I hope you all have a safe and peaceful weekend and arrive back in school rested on Monday.

Kind regards,

**Mrs A. D. Thorpe**

# The Autumn Term 'Dates for the Diary'

| Date                           | Details of the Events (Updated 16/11/2018)                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>November</b>                |                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1/11/2018 8:30am               | Nurse Alison – Whole school Health Profile                                                                                                          |
| 1/11/2018 11:00am              | All Saints Day Mass in Church – Year 5 & Year 6 to attend – All are welcome                                                                         |
| 6/11/2018                      | Year 3 Stone Age Day                                                                                                                                |
| 7/11/2018                      | Flu immunisations for R to Y5 in school                                                                                                             |
| 8/11/2018                      | Shoe Box Appeals – boxes will be collected today from school. Details to follow                                                                     |
| 11/11/2018 11am                | Remembrance Day Mass lead by the Bishop - All are welcome                                                                                           |
| 12/11/2018 9:15am              | Remembrance Service in school followed by a Y6 memorial at the church Cenotaph – all are welcome to attend                                          |
| 12/11/2018                     | 'Odd Socks Day' for Anti Bullying week                                                                                                              |
| 12/11/2018 – 16/11/2018        | Anti-bullying Week – There will be a number of events going on in all the classes at an age appropriate level                                       |
| 12/11/2018 – 16/11/2018        | Parliamentary Week – Pupils will be learning about the British Values of democracy and fair elections                                               |
| 15/11/2018                     | Gemma Gibbons to visit school – Inspiring our pupils to be a better version of themselves                                                           |
| 16/11/2018                     | Children in Need – 'Do your Thing!' Own clothes or activities outfit                                                                                |
| 16/11/2018                     | Carol Henderson from the Woodland Trust – Whole school assembly                                                                                     |
| 19/11/2018 9:15am              | Year 4 families are invited to come to the Childs Class Liturgy in the school hall                                                                  |
| 26/11/2018 9:15am              | Advent Liturgy 1 – Year 1 & Year 2 Families only in the school hall                                                                                 |
| 27/11/2018 – 28/11/2018        | Northern Dance – in school working with all pupils on the meaning of our Northern Saints: St Bede, St Oswald, St Cuthbert, St Aidan                 |
| 30/11/2018 2:00pm              | Christingle Service in Church as it will give us more space – All are welcome                                                                       |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 | Last Afterschool Club Session for the term except for multiskills and netball                                                                       |
| <b>December</b>                |                                                                                                                                                     |
| 03/12/2018 9:15am              | Advent Liturgy 2 – Year 3 & Year 4 Families only in the school hall                                                                                 |
| 4/12/2018 10:30am – 11:30am    | Prayer Stations set up in school around the Theme of 'Say yes to God's Love' All are welcome to come and drop into school at any point in that hour |
| 4/12/2018 5:30pm               | Bedtime Stories in Church – All welcome                                                                                                             |
| 10/12/2018 9:15am              | Advent Liturgy 3 – Year 5 Families only in the school hall                                                                                          |
| 11/12/2018 5:30pm              | Bedtime Stories in Church – All welcome                                                                                                             |
| 12/12/2018                     | Christmas Lunch in school                                                                                                                           |
| 12/12/2018 4:30pm              | Christmas Drive in Movie Night – Tickets will issued nearer the time                                                                                |
| 13/12/18                       | Last afterschool club for multiskills (11/12/218) and netball (13/12/18)                                                                            |
| 14/12/2018 am                  | Reception and KS1 Gibside Trail – information to follow                                                                                             |
| 14/12/2018 2:30pm              | Carols by Candlelight in Church as it will give us more space – All welcome                                                                         |
| 17/12/2018 9:15am              | Advent Liturgy 4 – Year 6 Families only in the school hall                                                                                          |
| 18/12/2018 9:30am              | Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas Nativity Families                                                                                              |
| 18/12/2018 2:00pm              | Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas Nativity Families                                                                                              |
| 18/12/2018 5:30pm              | Bedtime Stories in Church – All welcome                                                                                                             |
| 19/12/2018 9:30am              | Year3, Year4, Year5 & Year6 Christmas Production Families                                                                                           |
| 19/12/2018 2:00pm              | Year3, Year4, Year5 & Year6 Christmas Production Families                                                                                           |
| 20/12/2018 9:30am              | End of Term Mass in Church – All are welcome                                                                                                        |
| 20/12/2018                     | Christmas Disco in school (Children can change into party clothes at school after lunch)                                                            |

## **Christmas Holidays**

21/21/2018-06/01/2019

Christmas Holidays including an Inset Day on 21/12/2018