

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



HEAD TEACHER: MRS. A. D. THORPE

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: MRS. C. HORSLEY

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Dear Parents / Carers,

Here we are at the end of another busy week; it is wonderful to have so many happy and busy children working hard in school.

Awards

As you will see from the number of logos, which are starting to appear on our letterhead, we are working hard in school to broaden our curriculum and give our pupils a wide variety of experiences. It is fabulous that our children can take part in so much and I really appreciate all the staff's hard work. Watch out for new ones to do with sport and art that hopefully will follow soon! There will be an Eco-Awards assembly on Tuesday in school.

Follow up from Adam Bushnell

We are so fortunate to have worked with Adam Bushnell and the writing, which children are producing, is fantastic. I am giving out lots of fabulous Headteacher stickers – A job I love to do! So a huge well done to all the pupils who have worked so hard.

Local author to visit school

We are very fortunate to have a local author, Neil Sullivan, to come into school on Monday to work with all our pupils in class groups. He will talk about what it is to be an author, do book readings and inspire the children to write and illustrate their own stories. This is a fantastic opportunity for our children and we are delighted to welcome him to St Joseph's.

Year 3 Class Liturgy

At 9:15am on Monday morning, we look forward to welcoming as many year 3 families as possible to join with us in celebrating their liturgy with them.

Internet Safety

Following on from last week's update, the children have been taking part in an Internet safety awareness project in their classes. It is so important that our children know how to stay safe online. At parents' request, I am arranging a parental information session to help support you support your child in staying safe online.

Following on from that can I politely request that when parents and family members are 'Liking' items on our Facebook page they do not use the child's name. We are teaching our children that they should not post personally identifiable information about themselves online.

Science Fair

On Wednesday 30th January, we are very privileged to have a group of PHD students from Durham University come into school from 3:30pm – 4:30pm to demonstrate some fun and exciting science investigations and experiments. We would love as many pupils and their families as possible to join in this event. It is rare for primary schools to be able to work so closely with the PHD students. It will be an exciting and enjoyable afternoon, so please pencil the date into your diary! Dance club will be cancelled for one week only to make room in the hall to accommodate everyone.

Year 6 Fundraising Fair

Every Friday afternoon, until half term, the year 6 pupils will be selling items, which have been so kindly donated, to pupils in school. These include books, games, jigsaw puzzles, soft toys and toiletries. Items will all cost between 20p-£1; it is a great way for our year 6 pupils to gain some commercial experience whilst also raising money for school. We really do appreciate all your kind support of donations and money.

Inform school about absence

Please can I remind parents/carers that it is really important for safeguarding reasons that you inform us if your child is going to be absent in the morning. Please ring school and speak to member of the office staff or leave a message on the answer phone before 8:50am.

Uniform

I have been noticing that some pupils are forgetting our uniform policy. It is important that all of our pupils take pride in their uniform and wear the correct items. For example if boots are worn to school due to the cold weather, that is very sensible, however could pupils please bring their school shoes to change into. Hair needs to be tied back in small blue, grey or black bobbles. Tights should be grey or black not coloured or stripy. No child should be wearing nail varnish. School shoes should be black shoes not trainers or heeled boots! The full uniform policy is published on our website so please feel free to view it there. We are extremely proud of our pupils and want them to look as smart as possible.

Dates for your Diary

Please see the attached list, which is being updated weekly – there are so many fantastic opportunities to celebrate your child's learning; we look forward to welcoming families to as many events as possible.

House Points

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

St Bede – 392 House Points

St Cuthbert – 334 House Points

St Aidan – 307 House Points

St Oswald – 296 House Points

Well done to the winning house, St Bede, 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

The attendance for last week is as follows:

Reception	93.1%
Year 1	96.7%
Year 2	98.7%
Year 3	99.3%
Year 4	95.7%
Year 5	95.3%
Year 6	97.3%

Many congratulations to Year 3 who had the best attendance this week, those pupils will be rewarded with an extra slot of outdoor time in the sunshine! This gives the school an overall weekly attendance of 96.59% for the week.

I look forward to welcoming you all back into school on Monday after a safe and peaceful weekend.

Kind regards,

Mrs A. D. Thorpe
Headteacher



The Spring Term 'Dates for the Diary'

Date and Time	Details of the Events (Updated 25/01/2019)
January	
7 th - 11 th January	Continents week – Whole school geographical learning
11 th January	Celebration assembly – culmination of being a geographer
17 th & 18 th January	Adam Bushnell – whole school literacy and drama event
20 th January	Safer Road Initiative in school
24 th January	Year 5 & Year 6 Dance Festival
24 th January	Science Ambassadors – Ogden Trust Training (KS2 Ambassadors Only)
21 st - 25 th January	E-safety awareness week – pupils safe use online (All pupils to take part)
25 th January	Year 6 class fair
28 th January at 9:15am	Year 3 Class Liturgy Families all welcome in the school hall
28 th January	Book Reading Day with local author Neil Sullivan – every class will be involved
29 th January	Eco Assembly in school
29 th January	Reception and Year 6 Heights and Weights
30 th January 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Science Fayre hosted by Durham University PHD science students - All our pupils are invited to come and take part in exciting and practical science demonstrations and experiments
February	
1 st February	Year 4 Swimming Assessment
1 st February	Year 6 class fair
3 rd February	LKS2 Mass in Church at 11am
4 th February	Year 2 to take part in a mammal workshop study in school
5 th February	Whole School – Selfish Giant hosted by Oscar Wilde Theatre Company
6 th February	Mass at the Cathedral (Head boy and Head girl will represent school)
7 th February	Year 5 to take part in an IT Microbits workshop
8 th February	Year 6 class fair
8 th February	Year 5 Swimming Assessment
8 th February	Reports to be sent out to all parents
12 th February 8:30am – 9:30am	School Nurse drop in
15 th February	Year 6 Swimming Assessment
15 th February 2:00pm	Whole school celebrations of the saints in church through, music, readings and dance – all families welcome
15 th February	Year 6 class fair
17 th February	Year 4 First Holy Communion Liturgy at 11am
18 th – 22 nd February	Half Term
22 nd February	Year 5 class fair
27 th February 3:30pm	Year 4 First Holy Communion Session
March	
3 rd March	Year 4 First Holy Communion Liturgy at 11am
4 th – 8 th March	Whole School Sponsored Reading Week
6 th March at 2:00pm	Ash Wednesday service in Church
6 th March 3:30pm	Year 4 First Holy Communion Session
7 th March	World Book Day and Sponsored reading event all week
10 th March	KS1 Mass and First Holy Communion Liturgy in Church at 11am
11 th March at 9:15am	Year 2 families welcome to attend the Y2 Class Liturgy in the school hall
11 th March – 15 th March	Science week in school – all pupils to take part
13 th March 6pm – 8pm	Mission Pontop Partnership event to be held at St Mary's Primary School
15 th March	Sponsored Reading Event Money to be returned to school
15 th March	Year 3 Oriental Museum trip
18 th March 9am – 12noon	Reception pupils - Woodfest Session – Land of oak and Iron
19 th March 8:30am -9:30am	School Nurse drop in between
19 th March 9:30am	St Joseph the Husband of Mary Mass in Church

20 th March	Reception pupils - Chopwell Woods Trip all day – natural art session
21 st March	Reception pupils – Art appreciation in school
25 th March 9:15am	Year 1 families invited to a Y1 liturgy in the school hall
27 th March	R and KS1 Mother’s Day Lunch in school
29 th March	Whole School Judaism Day
29 th March	Prayer Stations to be set up for Lenten Reflections in school
April	
1 st April 9:15am	KS1 and Reception families are all invited to a Thanks giving Liturgy for Mother’s
1 st April	Parents meeting with all class teachers
3 rd April	KS2 (Y3-Y6) Mother’s Day Lunch
3 rd April 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Year 4 First Holy Communion Liturgy between
5 th April 9:30am	Stations of the Cross (Year 6 lead) in Church
8 th – 23 rd April	Easter Holidays
Easter Holidays	