

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



HEAD TEACHER: MRS. A. D. THORPE

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Dear Parents / Carers,

Our Weekly Statement to Live By...

Each week our pupils are encouraged to think about others and to recognise that they are part of the wider world. One of the ways in which we do this is to give pupils a statement each week during our Liturgy time; pupils are asked to think about how their behaviour affects others. This week our statement to live by is:

I co-operate with others in work and play.

Reports

Thank you for all the comments, which have been fed back to school regarding the new interim mid-year reports. In an effort to keep parents informed of their child's progress in school, we have introduced these and from your feedback, they have been well received. I appreciate all your positive comments as the staff work hard to keep you informed.

Year 6 parents

There will be an information evening held for parents of year 6 children; this will inform you about the May 2019 SATS exams and about the Middleton in Teasdale residential the following week! It is important that all pupils have an adult representative at the meeting so that you are all fully informed about expectations.

Big Battery Hunt

Our ECO committee are currently promoting recycling items and to support this, our school has registered for the Big Battery Hunt, a nationwide battery recycling challenge, with free educational resources from Duracell. Each child will be provided with a battery collection box for use at home. I would be grateful if you could return it to school by 29/4/19. Do not worry if it is not full, as any items collected for appropriate recycling will benefit the environment. Once we have all of the boxes back, we will arrange for them to be collected. We will also be automatically entered into the Big Battery Hunt prize draw with prizes including: A 2-night class trip to the sustainability centre; A 3-year subscription to MyMaths worth £1,000; £2000 worth of school equipment vouchers; iPads; Certificates and trophies. I do hope that you can support this initiative; it would be amazing if our school were able to win anyone of these amazing prizes!

Calling all the girls in school who are interested in programming.

There is a wonderful opportunity for you to attend a day of programming on the weekend of the 2nd – 3rd March provided by DXC Technology, Cobalt Business Park, Ferguson House, Cobalt 1, Silver Fox Way, NE27 0QJ called a 'Stemettes Hackathon'. There are providing this opportunity free of charge to all of our girls as part of International Women's Day. It is surely going to be an inspiring and fun time – so please ask your parents to sign you up! Parents will need to book you onto the day directly using the following link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stemettes-hack-newcastle-dxc-technology-iwd-edition-registration-54915699335>

Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO) Scheme

Year 5 pupils are taking on the very important role of being St Joseph's JRSO Scheme. There are going to be 7 leading officers in school who will attend regular meetings and lead assemblies; the rest of the class are going to support them by running competitions around road safety. As you are all aware, the speed limit around school is reducing to 20mph and our pupils are leading the campaign for safer speeds in school. All the applicants for the JRSO role put in some great applications for the post, so well done to everyone.

Successful Grant Application

In more amazing news, St Joseph's has been awarded a successful art and design grant of £1400. This is amazing and our pupils will benefit from the improved environment around school and the artistic activities as part of the project.

The Tuck-Shop

As you can imagine the wholesale cost of tuckshop has increased so after half term each item will cost 50p. All pupils, who have worked hard during the week have the opportunity during Friday's 'Golden Time' to visit the tuck-shop.

After School Clubs

After school clubs will continue in their current form after half term. We will send out new letters and new options after the Easter holidays

First Holy Communion Reminder

Please remember that year 4 First Holy Communion children are expected to attend mass at 11am on Sunday at St Joseph's Church for their fourth communion liturgy with the parish.

Vegpower

Throughout the Spring term our staff in the kitchen are going to be working especially hard to encourage our pupils to eat even more vegetables every day. Each week there will be an extra choice for pupils to taste and I am sure that you will all agree that encouraging children to eat more fruit and vegetables is a good thing!

w/c 04/02/2019 Carrots	w/c 11/02/2019 Sweetcorn
w/c 18/02/2019 Broccoli	w/c 25/02/2019 Peas
w/c 04/03/2019 Cauliflower	w/c 11/03/2019 Butternut Squash
w/c 18/03/2019 Cabbage	w/c 25/03/2019 Peppers
w/c 01/04/2019 Tomatoes	w/c 08/04/2019 Cucumber

Advance Notice of World Book Day

On the 7th March it is World book Day. We would like to encourage all of our pupils to come to school dressed in their Pyjamas to celebrate bedtime stories and the joy of reading every evening. Please make sure pupils wear PJ's which are appropriate for school. Pupils can wear slippers however, they should also bring shoes in to wear outside in the yard and both break time and lunchtime.

House Points

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

St Bede – 256 House Points

St Aidan – 237 House Points

St Cuthbert – 327 House Points

St Oswald – 323 House Points

Well done to the winning house, St Oswald, however this is the tightest margin on record!! 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	97.9%	Year 1	98.6%	Year 2	98.8%	Year 3	98.7%
Year 4	100%	Year 5	96.0%	Year 6	97.0%		

Many congratulations to Year Four who have 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 98.14% for the week which is fantastic.

Wonderful News

Finally, I am delighted to inform parents that Mrs Haveron is expecting a baby in May. I am sure you will all join me in keeping both Mr and Mrs Haveron in your prayers at this exciting time as they embark on a new journey together.

I look forward to welcoming you all back into school on Monday 25th February 2019 after a safe and peaceful half term holiday.
Best Wishes,



Mrs A. D. Thorpe
Headteacher

The Spring Term 'Dates for the Diary'

Date and Time	Details of the Events (Updated 13/02/2019)
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 6 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/carers
12 th February 8:30am – 9:30am	School Nurse drop in
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	
1 st March	Year 6 Swimming Assessment
1 st March 6:00pm	Year 6 Parents meeting for SATS information and Middleton in Teasdale Residential information
2 nd – 3 rd March 10am – 5pm	Stemettes Hackathon at DXC Technology, Cobalt Business Park, Ferguson House, Cobalt 1, Silver Fox Way, NE27 0QJ
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 Everyone to come dressed in PJ's to celebrate reading at bedtime
10 th March	Reception and 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
13 th March 6pm – 8pm	Mission Pontop Partnership event to be held at St Mary's Primary School Year 4,5,6

15 th March	Sponsored Reading Event Money to be returned to school
15 th March	Year 3 Oriental Museum trip
18 th March at 5pm	Reconciliation for Y4 First Holy Communion Pupils – St Joseph’s Church – families welcome
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 – 29 th March	Ogdon Trust – Science Week in school for all pupils
25 th March 9:15am	Year 1 families invited to a Y1 liturgy in the school hall
26 th March 2pm	Head boy and Head Girl represent school - Cathedral Mass to welcome the new Bishop
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 – 22nd April	Easter Holidays
Easter Holidays	
23 rd April 8:50am	Return to school after the holidays
24 th April	Photographs in school – Individual, family, classes and teams
29 th April	Big Battery Hunt boxes to be returned to school