

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



HEAD TEACHER: MRS. A. D. THORPE

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1st March 2019

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 try to keep going when things are difficult and not give up hope

Ash Wednesday Service

Please note the time change to the Ash Wednesday Service in Church on the 6th March. School will be joining the Parish at 10:45am at St Joseph's Church; everyone is welcome to join us there.

NSPCC Bench

The NSPCC are working in partnership with Marmax and they are kindly donating a new 'Cheer up Bench' to be installed in the KS2 yard for children to use on 5th March. We are grateful for this kind support and know that pupils will benefit from it during break time.

Gymnastics Festival

On Monday, some of our pupils are attending the Leisure works gymnastics festival, which I am sure is certain to be a wonderful afternoon of sporting fun.

Sponsored Reading Week

The children are so excited about our sponsored reading week, next week. Rebecca Porter came into school on Tuesday to launch the new initiative with our children and they have embraced the idea. This morning during their 'Reading Partners' session they were all talking about what they could read the types of books they liked to read and how much they all enjoy reading – It was a joy to listen to. I am sure that you will be delighted with the enthusiasm they bring home about their sponsored read!

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 at both break time and lunchtime. As a school, we chose the theme of PJ's following requests by parents to keep costs to a minimum. I have had a request from a parent, has already purchased a world book day costume to ask if their child can wear it. Of course, if you have already purchased a costume you can wear that, however please do not go and buy one, the theme of PJ's and celebrating bedtime stories is still what we will be looking at in school during World Book Day.

Parking in Disabled Bays

Unfortunately, a local resident from Thorneyholme Terrace has alerted school that parents, at both drop off and pick up times, are parking in the marked disabled parking place. I would really appreciate parents and carers supporting our local community by making sure that our neighbours are able to access their driveways and cars at both of these times during the day, most especially residents with disabled parking places.

'The Event' at St Mary's South Moor

Advance notice of 'The Event' which is being held at St Mary's Primary in South Moor on Wednesday 13th March 6pm – 7:30pm. It would be wonderful if as many of our year 5 and Year 6 pupils could attend this as possible. I know Fr Kevin would be delighted to see as many of our families support this event; it is sure to be an evening of celebration and spirituality. There is going to be a band playing and a number of activities, which the children can take part in.

Year 2 Class Liturgy

Advance notice of the Year 2 Class Liturgy on Monday 11th March at 9:15am in school. I look forward to welcoming as many year 2 families as possible.

Year 4 Service of Reconciliation

Please remember that on Monday 18th March at 5pm all Holy Communion children should attend a service of Reconciliation at St Joseph's Church.

Reply Slip, Money and letter etc

Could you please remind your children to hand reply slips to their class teachers. Teachers are unable to go through 210 bags per day looking for reply slips.

Money in marked envelopes

With 210 pupils in school, it can be difficult for the office to keep track of money sent in. Please could all parents ensure that money returned to school is in an envelope marked with your child's name, year group, amount and what it is for?

After School Clubs

These are continuing exactly as last half term. If anyone wishes to pay for this half term in full, dance club is £12 and all other clubs are £6 with the exception of basketball which is free of charge.

Threadworms

A parent has reported that their child has been treated for threadworms, this week. Could I ask all families to ensure that if their children have threadworms that they are treated following all appropriate medical advice?

House Points

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

St Bede – 274 House Points

St Aidan – 265 House Points

St Cuthbert – 263 House Points

St Oswald – 220 House Points

Well done to the winning house, St Bede, 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	98.3%	Year 1	95.0%	Year 2	99.6%	Year 3	100%
Year 4	95.8%	Year 5	95.8%	Year 6	98.3%		

Many congratulations to Year Three who have 100% attendance for 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 97.54% for the week, which is fantastic.

I hope you have a safe and peaceful weekend and look forward to seeing you all on Monday morning.

Best Wishes,



Mrs A. D. Thorpe
Headteacher

The Spring Term 'Dates for the Diary'

Date and Time	Details of the Events (Updated 01/03/2019)
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 March	Leisureworks Gymnastics Festival
4 th – 8 th March	Whole School Sponsored Reading Week
5 th March	Cheer Up Bench being Donated by NSPCC
6 th March at 10:45am	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