



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

We will love one another in Christ knowing that Jesus loves us very much



Newsletter 3rd February 2023

Our attendance target is 98% Please strive to make every effort to ensure your child attends school every day.

Attendance	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
w.c. 23.1.2023	97.3%	90.7%	97.7%	96.3%	98.4%	97.3%	97.3%
w.c. 30.1.2023	97.3%	92%	99%	95.7%	97.4%	97.3%	96.7%

Dear Families,

It has been another fantastic two weeks at St Joseph's with lots going on. The children were particularly excited with our 'Move ahead in History' assembly that took place last week which focused on key events in time. The assembly was extremely engaging, and many children took part in costumes (please see Facebook). I apologise if your child has been digging in the garden for flint or making spears at home following the assembly!

We have had plenty of parental activity in school with two talks being held for Year 5 parents regarding the forthcoming Weardale Residential in May and our school's council who will visit the Houses of Parliament in March. Year 4 and Year 6 letters have now gone out regarding the residential to Holy Island on Wednesday 17th - Friday 19th May, and I look forward to welcoming parents to a presentation next half term.

Next week is e-safety week and I took the opportunity on Monday to join Mrs Douglas and Mr Affleck in a presentation to parents across the school on the subject of mobile phone concerns and sleep deprivation. During the meeting we shared some interesting statistics that we have collated from recent pupil class surveys. This information will also be used by teachers who are preparing bespoke lessons around e-safety for next week. Many thanks to all who attended. Further information will be sent out with this newsletter and next week regarding online safety.

On the subject of safety please can I ask parents to be considerate when parking around St Thomas More. A number of residents have been blocked in by parents collecting pupils from school. This week parking enforcement officers have been issuing parking notices.

This week we have experienced our first of four potential industrial action days by teaching staff. On this occasion we were able to keep open all year groups with a skeleton staff. However, I cannot guarantee that pupils will receive their same curriculum entitlement during strike days or keep all year groups open on future strike days. Thank you to you all for your patience and understanding this week while we have been running with fewer staff.

Our pupils have been out and about in the local community over the last two weeks with Year 3 taking part in a series of pedestrian training walks around Blaydon. Reception and Year 1 visited St Anne's Church and

linked their 'special people' topic in RE to those that work within church. The children successfully located areas in church where special people would do their work.

I would like to congratulate all pupils in Year 3 and Year 4 for this week's Times Tables Rockstars Battle. It was a close competition, but Year 4 pipped Year 3 by just a few points in the end. Well done to all and especially Isaac in Year 3 who managed to get the most points from both classes individually.

On the sporting front I would like to congratulate our Year 5/6 Netball Team who represented St Joseph's last week in the Gateshead Netball festival. The team that was coached by Mrs Foley did tremendously well and enjoyed the experience.



Teacher Training Day / Extra Bank Holiday

The final teacher training days for this academic year are on Friday 26th May and Monday 19th June. There is also a bank holiday on Monday 8th May for the King's Coronation. School will be closed to pupils on all of these days.

Upcoming Dates

13/02/2023 - Disco Rec & KS1 3:15pm - 4:15pm, KS2 4:30pm - 5:45pm. Entrance to the disco will be £3 which will include a hotdog. Sweets, crisps and drinks can be purchased. Rec & KS1 children can come to school dressed in non-uniform/party clothes and children who are attending the disco will go straight into the hall at 3:15pm. Year 3, 4 & 5 children will need to wear their normal school uniform and go home at 3:15pm and return for the disco at 4:30pm. Year 6 children can wear non-uniform/party clothes and they will attend SATs club until 4:30pm and then go to the disco. After each disco the children will be dismissed onto the KS1 yard.

Term Dates

Monday 20th February - Friday 24th February - half term and school will be closed

Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th April - Easter Holidays and school will be closed

Monday 1st May - Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May - Additional Bank Holiday for King Charles III's Coronation

Friday 26th May - Staff Training Day, school closed to pupils

Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June - half term and school will be closed

Monday 19th June - Staff Training Day, school closed to pupils

Friday 21st July - Last day of school year

Monday 24th July - Summer holidays

Clued Up Kids

As part of our PSHE curriculum, Clued Up Kids came into school and questioned the children anonymously on a range of PSHE topics using keypads. Some of the results were really surprising!

The data we got from this was shared in a parent feedback session with Clued Up Kids on Monday. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend this. We hope you found it useful!



Next week is ESafety Week and in our classroom lessons and computing, we'll be using the data, working on the things which the children need more support with.

Children's Achievements out of School

If your child has achieved an award in an out of school activity, we would like to hear about it and will mention it in our newsletter, please email details to

blaydonstjosephscatholicprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk

Some Year 2 boys who play for Winlaton Juniors U7 played in a tournament and won all 5 games, scoring 19 goals in total and conceding only 2 goals.

Awards

Pupil of the Week		
	27 th January	3 rd February
Reception	Jonathan - for being a super listener and joining in with activities with enthusiasm.	Phoebe - has continued to wow us with her marvellous phonics and reading progress recently. Keep up the great work Phoebe. Well done.
Year 1	Carmen - Always listening well and contributing well to class discussions. Good girl Carmen	Levi - for great participation in all activities and has some wonderful ideas.
Year 2	Logan - incredible vocabulary choices in English lessons.	Imogen - for always contributing enthusiastically and sharing lovely ideas in class.
Year 3	Olly - for having a wonderful attitude to his learning and for sharing his knowledge enthusiastically with others.	Aaliyah - for growing in confidence in her own ability and trying hard to show us how wonderful her work can be.
Year 4	Freddie - for creative poetry writing using many poetic devices. Well done!	Anastasiia - for making brilliant progress and contributing to class discussions. Well done Anastasiia!
Year 5	Lucy - for excellent English, using punctuation to avoid ambiguity in her independent writing.	Bailey - for putting his very best effort into his writing at all times.
Year 6	Jessica - for always putting in 100 percent effort, producing wonderful work.	Jakub - for excellent progress in arithmetic.

Golden Chair		
	27 th January	3 rd February
Reception	Thomas - for showing an excellent understanding of characters in our text this week.	Cooper - for engaging brilliantly in his adult led sessions showing lots of progress with his communication skills. Well done Cooper keep it up.
Year 1	Katie - for trying very hard in all that she has done this week, and always having a smile on her face!!	Mya S - for making lots of progress in class, especially with her reading. Well done Mya.
Year 2	Lillie - for growing in confidence and independence in writing lessons.	Lockey - for a fantastic diary entry containing adventurous vocabulary and prepositions.
Year 3	Isabelle - for working hard to use new strategies in her learning and making lots of progress.	Isaac - for such an amazing effort in the TT Rockstar battle and coming top place out of year 3 and 4. What a superstar!
Year 4	Amelia D - for super effort, especially in her mental arithmetic skills. Well done!	Ellie - for showing great resilience, leading to great progress in maths.
Year 5	Daniel - for great enthusiasm in science lessons.	Neave - for always having a fantastic attitude to her learning and being a kind, responsible member of our class.
Year 6	Alexander - for a mature, positive attitude and for working so hard on spelling.	Ava - for excellent writing.

Class News

Reception

Reception class have enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year and acting out 'The Great Race'. We've looked at the text 'The Magic Paintbrush' which has provided lots of discussion and opportunities to explore character feelings. Children acted out different scenes fabulously putting themselves in the shoes of characters. We've painted items for magic to bring to life and enjoyed designing our own scary creatures to warn off the nasty emperor from the book. As well as this, we have taken part in the 'Big Bird Watch' where we tried to spot as many birds as possible. Well done boys and girls.



Year 1

To support our learning in RE and on our topic Special People, Year 1 visited St. Anne's church last week. We look closely at the different areas in the church and the jobs and roles that people may have. The children really enjoyed their visit and found it very interesting. Well done Year 1.



Our text in English is 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' written by Michael Rosen. We have been doing wonderful work linked to this text, and this week we have used drama to act out the story. We thought carefully about how the family must have felt and what they experienced. We tried to then use actions and facial expressions that they may have used. It was lots of fun!



Year 2

Year 2 have had a busy couple of weeks. In our creative curriculum lessons we have been learning lots about the Great Fire of London. Now that we know why the fire spread so rapidly and after closely examining some houses from 1666, Year 2 have begun building their own Tudor style houses. They have all worked so co-operatively and have designed some very authentic houses with thatched roofs and black tar beams.



The children are loving our new class text 'Toys in Space'. After finding a mysterious box in the classroom, the children quickly realised it was sent from space! Ask your Year 2 child what we found inside!



Year 3

What a great couple of weeks Year 3 have had. The children have been absolutely loving learning about the text 'Leon and the Place Between' in English. The children are almost ready to write their version of the story which we will be sharing on our Facebook page in the coming weeks. They thoroughly enjoyed working in groups to act out some of the events in the story as you can see in the photographs.



I would like to say a huge well done to all of the children in Year 3 who took part in the TTRockstars battle. I am so proud of you. Times tables are something we will be focusing on more and more in Year 3 and I urge you all to continue working hard on these even when here is no live battle happening. We will be giving the children the chance to have a go at their bronze award (3 and 4 times tables) and silver awards (8x table) next week, so keep up the hard work.

The children had a fantastic time taking part in History workshop all about the timeline of British History. It supported their learning about different historic periods and enabled them to have a whistle stop tour of what is to come in their key stage 2 journey through history. Some pupils were lucky enough to take an active role in the timeline representation which they loved. Just a reminder that Tuesday golf lessons in school time will be continuing until February half term, so the children's last session will be Tuesday 14th February.



Year 4

Over the past few weeks, Year 4 have really enjoyed their music lessons with Mr Issa. In their Music Appraisals, they have been considering the differences in genre, instruments and discussing the feelings which different music can make us feel.



The love of music does not stop there. In their English lessons, children were given a chance to make their own wintery music using hand held percussion. This helped widen their understanding of the book they are currently studying - Winter's Child.



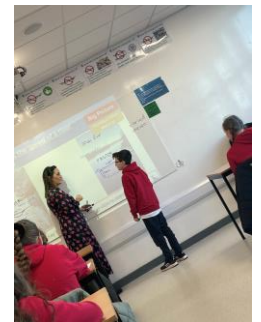
Year 5

Year Five are very much enjoying reading. They know how important reading is and are reading a wide range of material, both fiction and non-fiction. Keep on reading!



Year 6

Year 6 continued their Geography work with an exciting visit to St. Thomas More's Geography Department. We had the opportunity to walk through the school and see what it was like. We took part in a lesson in which we analysed the data from our fieldwork and linked our findings to the hypotheses we made. It was great to be able to visit St Thomas More and meet some of the teachers. Thanks again to Mrs Devlin for all of her help.



Gospel

Sunday 5th February

Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'



On behalf of Fr. Adrian, Governors and Staff, we hope you have a lovely weekend.

God Bless,

Mr Naughton