



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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



Newsletter 26th April 2024

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. 15.4.2024 | 93.9% | 95.9% | 96.8% | 95% | 97.1% | 95% | 96.7% |
| w.c. 22.4.2024 | 98.3% | 97.9% | 96.5% | 99.7% | 100% | 99.4% | 98.3% |

Dear Families,

After a wet and windy Easter holiday the Trinity Term is now well underway. The children are settled into their routines and thankfully now able to access the school field. Please can I remind parents to send a spare pair of trainers or wellies in a labelled bag which means the children can play on the grass in wet weather.

Our Lenten Olympic day for Zambia was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all children. Many thanks to all who sent donations or sponsors in for the Belauni Street Special School. Please send any further donations by Monday.



This week our Year 6 had their Class Mass which was led by Fr Endre in Fr Adrian's absence. The Class Mass was beautiful and we all prayed for Fr Adrian's health to get better soon so he can return to his duties fit and well.

Our Year 4 children ventured to Holy Island on Wednesday with Mrs Alder, Miss Graham, Mrs Smith, Mrs Lewis and Mrs Morgan. The children have had such an exciting time exploring the island, building their

resilience and confidence as well as developing spiritually. The photos on Facebook tell a fabulous photo diary of the residential and I encourage parents to check the school Facebook site. A huge thanks must go to the staff and SVP for supporting this worthwhile experience for our children. All the children returned safely this afternoon after a Seahouses boat trip ending with fish and chip lunch.



The next residential will be in only a few weeks as Year 5 venture to Weardale for an outdoor experience like no other. The dales provide the perfect back drop for water pursuits, rock climbing and bush skills amongst other things.

Congratulations to all our Year 5 pupils who have started a 6-week Bikeability programme with Gateshead Council. The children have already picked up lots of safety tips which they will be assessed on in just a few weeks' time.

On the subject of safety - I was delighted to see our Year 1 and 2 classes visit Safety Works recently which was enjoyed by all. The children learned lots of new skills on how they can keep themselves safe when crossing the road, around water, on the metro and during a fire.



Our Year 6 football team have been in action this week at West Lane Primary School. The team managed by Miss Duffield and Mr Naughton were brilliant and played so well in a number of competitive games.

Last week our pupils enjoyed special curriculum science workshops across the school which were a big success. The workshops led by Mr Proctor and his fantastic team, covered filtration, microbiology and immunology. The workshops were incredibly exciting, and our children are still talking about the experience. More importantly, some of our older pupils are now considering careers in science.

Many thanks to Mrs Devlin from St Thomas More for running a fantastic volcano workshop morning in Year 3 last week. The workshop was incredibly exciting, and our children are now volcano experts on this subject.

Finally, just a reminder that school will be closed on Monday 6th May as this is a national Bank Holiday.

Term Dates 2023/2024

Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday

Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May - Half Term

Dates for Diary

Wednesday 1st May - Year 2 Liturgy, Year 2 families welcome from 9:00am in the school hall

Thursday 2nd May - Photographer - Class photos to be taken

Tuesday 7th May - Year 3 Attendance Reward trip to Saltwell Park

Wednesday 8th - Friday 10th May - Year 5 Weardale Adventure Centre Residential

Monday 13th - Thursday 16th May - Year 6 SATS Week

Wednesday 15th May - Year 6 Parent Meeting regarding Youth Ministry Trust Residential

Wednesday 12th June - Year 1 Liturgy, Year 1 families welcome from 9:00am in the school hall

Monday 17th - Wednesday 19th June - Year 6 Youth Ministry Trust Residential

Friday 28th June - Staff training day, school closed to pupils

Monday 8th July - Staff training day, school closed to pupils

Friday 19th July - **School will close at 1:15pm**

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club have had a lovely couple of weeks settling back in after the Easter break. They have thoroughly enjoyed playing table tennis and taking part in a competition to see who can have the longest rally.

Some of the children have been very creative too, creating models and their very own superhero characters. We have also enjoyed making lego models and playing games such as I spy and pass the word. Please remember to book in breakfast club via your Arbor account.



Awards

| 19 th April | | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| | Pupil of the Week | Golden Chair |
| Reception | Ezra - for growing in maturity and independence and making lots of progress as a result! | Charlie H - for following Jesus' example and doing the right thing and encouraging his peers to do the same. |
| Year 1 | Jonathan - for using wonderful vocabulary in his everyday conversations. I am so impressed! | Zara - for being a wonderful example of Jesus in our school by demonstrating her kindness and support of others. |
| Year 2 | Blake - for always being enthusiastic and engaged in his learning during History. | Fedora - for always using her manners and being a positive member of the class. |
| Year 3 | Noah - for working really hard in class and trying his best. | Toby - for always contributing to class prayers and celebration of the word so enthusiastically. |
| Year 4 | James - for great work in maths this week with multiplying 2 digit numbers with 1. Good understanding well done. | Lucy B - for being a really supportive friend during our science workshop this week. |
| Year 5 | Joshua - for super engagement and use of science knowledge in our science workshops this week. | Juan - for living out our Gospel values and showing great kindness at all times to others. |
| Year 6 | Jessica - for applying great effort across all aspects of the curriculum. | Sofia B - for being a kind and considerate member of the class. |

| 26 th April | | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| | Pupil of the Week | Golden Chair |
| Reception | Zach - for putting in lots of effort and making lots of progress with his reading. | Millie - for setting a fantastic example to her peers. |
| Year 1 | Oliver - for a super attitude towards his learning. | Declan - for super contributions to class discussions this week. |
| Year 2 | Lotta - for using the correct terminology during our math lesson parts and whole. | Brooke - for learning her lines for the liturgy really well and always joining in with school prayers. |
| Year 3 | Toby - for working hard in maths and | Caitlin - for always being a good friend |

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| | using the new vocabulary superbly. | and working well with everyone in the class. |
| Year 4 | All of Year 4 - for fabulous attitude and behaviour while on their residential visit to Holy Island. | |
| Year 5 | Amelia D - for putting lots of effort into all her work across all subject areas. | Sean - for living out our Gospel values, caring for everyone and everything. |
| Year 6 | Noah - for being an excellent team player. | Evie - for always living out the gospel values and being a role model to others. |

Class News

Reception

Reception Class have hit the ground running for their final term in EYFS. We have had such a busy fortnight with lots of exciting things happening in class. To our surprise, we were welcomed back by some very strange changes to our classroom. Most noticeably, a treasure chest and a brand-new story book, both padlocked! We went on an adventure around school, reading clues to find special keys. Luckily, we found them, and we unlocked the treasure chest and



our new story which told us all about the pirates that had snuck into our classroom! We have since



had lots of fun roleplaying, playing pirate games, and designing our own characters and writing new pirate stories!



Year 1

It's been lovely to get back to school after the Easter holidays. The children have settled straight back in and are working hard!

We had a very exciting week back with the Lenten Olympics and a trip to safety works. For the Lenten Olympics we tested our resilience and sports skills by completing a series of activities and exercises. It was very hard work, but completely worth it!

Our trip to safety works was wonderful. We learnt all about how to keep ourselves safe around water, in the homes, crossing roads and learnt some tips for mental health and well-being!

We have started doing Irish dancing on a Tuesday. We practice our games and skills each week. It was so much fun.



We are excited to continue our learning this term and are having a big focus on our phonics to improve our reading and fluency, so we all develop into confident and wonderful readers!



Year 2



I Hope you all had a lovely Easter. Year 2 have had a lovely start to the summer term. We have started our music lessons and have begun by learning about different genres of music including rock, country and pop. They finished their first lesson with a game of corners to help identify which genre of music the song was related to.



In science we are beginning our new topic of plants. In our first lesson we looked at the difference between bulbs and seeds and looked inside a bulb to compare them.

In maths we have finished the topic capacity and mass. The children enjoyed measuring the volume of the water and filling cups half full, full, and nearly empty.



Year 3

Year 3 had the pleasure of having Mrs. Devlin from St. Thomas More deliver a session all about volcanos. We have been learning all about volcanos, in particular Mount Vesuvius, in our English and reading lessons. We had a fabulous morning learning about how volcanos work, what to do in the event of an eruption and even looked at volcanic sand and rocks! We loved it - thank you so much Mrs. Devlin!



In reading we have started reading a book by Atinuke called "Africa, Amazing Africa" - we have loved learning about this amazing continent. We have learned some very interesting facts which has shocked us; such as no one can decide exactly how many countries there are within Africa. Africa is as big as Europe, USA, Mexico, Japan and India put together. As we read on we are going to be reading about each part of Africa and the countries within them!

Year 4

What a wonderful couple of days Year 4 have had at Holy Island. We have been so lucky with the weather, although it's been cold the sun has been shining.

We have explored the beach and enjoyed looking for St. Cuthbert's beads. We have visited the priory and museum. and have found out lots of facts about St. Aidan and St. Cuthbert.

We worked as teams to do orienteering and enjoying the challenge. Not only have we had an evening walk to the castle and built cairns together, but we also had games nights and a movie too. We also went to Seahouses and enjoyed a boat trip to the Farne Islands followed by delicious fish and chips.

The children have been extremely well behaved, and we are all very proud of them all. Well done Year 4.



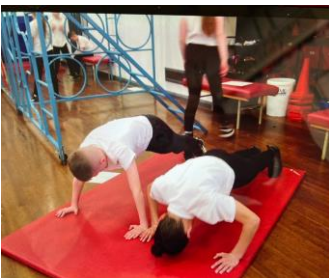
Year 5



Last Thursday Year 5, along with all of Key Stage 2, took part in a very special set of science workshops. Research microbiologists and a product manager were brought by the technology manager from Parker in Birtley. They spent the morning in a series of workshops where they looked at bacteria on agar plates and inoculated some too. They saw a demonstration of filtration and used a filtration model themselves. The competition was fierce for who could filter best! They also looked at antibody and medicine manufacture and how disposable tube sets can speed up the production of vaccines, along with building a tube set to a plan.



Last Friday saw our annual Lenten Olympics. Thank you to all the successful fundraisers. We are looking forward to final donations coming in.



Some of Year 5 began Warhammer club this Tuesday and began building models, ready to paint and play.



Music lessons continued on Wednesdays with Joe our music specialist. The children have been using percussion instruments to make a sound track for a cartoon.

Well done boys and girls!

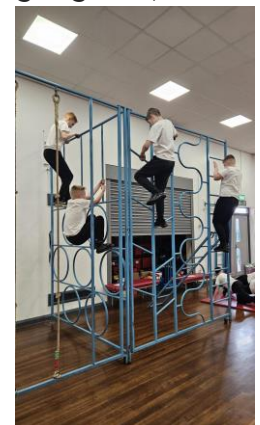
Year 6

Since returning to school after Easter, year 6 have been very busy!

The Lenten Olympics were a particular highlight with the children carrying out various sporting activities, and the children have raised so much money for our partner school in Zambia.

A science morning was arranged with 4 scientists from Parker. The children completed a carousel of activities looking at microbiology, filtration and immunology. They loved it!

We had a lovely class mass. Thank you so much to Father Endre for coming to school and leading mass for us. Revision towards our upcoming SATs tests has been going well, and the children have been working so hard. We are really proud of the effort they are putting into everything.





Gospel

Sunday 28th April 2024 - The True Vine

Jesus said to his disciples: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.”

Taken from John 15:1-8 The Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B



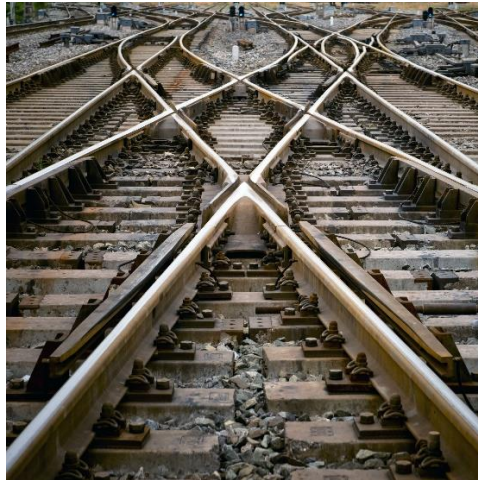
On behalf of Fr. Adrian, Governors and Staff, we hope you have a lovely weekend.

God Bless, Paul Naughton

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