



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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



Newsletter 6th December 2024

Our attendance target is 97%. Please strive to make every effort to ensure your child attends school every day.

Attendance	Nursery	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
w.c. 18.11.2024	98.8%	97.4%	100%	99.2%	97.4%	98.3%	94.4%	95.8%
w.c. 25.11.2024	100%	97.3%	100%	100%	98.3%	99.4%	97.3%	98.1%
w.c. 2.12.2024	97.6%	89.3%	96.7%	93.4%	87.7%	97.5%	93.3%	95.9%

Dear Families,

Thank you everyone for making the start of Advent so exciting. Our Advent Mass last week was wonderful, and Fr Adrian was delighted with the turn out at St Joseph's. The church was full, and the children sang beautifully. Congratulations to all our key stage 2 pupils for leading the Mass on this occasion.

Our Christmas Tree is now present in our front entrance next to our wonderful Christmas Wreath. Thank you also to everyone who came to today's Christmas Fair organised by our PTA. We had lots of parents dropping in for refreshments and raffle tickets. We even had Santa in attendance, which was a real treat to see.

Thank you also to Fr Adrian and parents for supporting last week's Year 5 Liturgy. We were delighted also to see so many parents taking up the opportunity to take part in our stay and pray sessions that started today and will run throughout Advent and Lent next year.

The whole school have enjoyed visits to the local cinema to watch two lovely age-related movies. The children really enjoyed this experience and again I would like to thank Friends of St Joseph's for providing refreshments and sweets.

The next two weeks are going to be an incredibly exciting time for the children in school. Firstly, we look forward to seeing many parents and grandparents for next Friday's Carol service at St Joseph's church at 1:15pm. Can I remind parents that the doors open from 1:00pm so parents can take their seats. Can I ask that:-

Younger Children: We've always respectfully requested that, where possible, younger children are not brought to the Carol Service due to the disruption this can cause. The children put a tremendous amount of time and effort in and the distractions often caused by babies and toddlers can be very off-putting for the children on the altar. Visibility can also be very difficult for small children sitting in the rows. We do understand that for some families this may not be possible. If you must bring younger children to the Carol Service, we always advise sitting near the aisle where you will be able to exit easily should they become distressed during the Carol Service.

Photographs/Videos: For safeguarding reasons, no cameras or phones are allowed in school. Parents understandably wish to have mementos of this special occasion, however we have an obligation to protect any vulnerable children attending our school.

Unlike many other schools this is a free performance. However, Can I ask that parents and grandparents bring change on the day as we will be having collection buckets to support the cost of the performance which will all be donated to St Joseph's Catholic church.

Year 5 are now in the process of producing Christmas gifts for this year's Virgin Money 'Make £5 Grow' project. Miss Cohen's class will be visiting the Grainger Market in Newcastle on Thursday 19th December. The market will hopefully be packed with Christmas shoppers, however, we would love to see grandparents and parents supporting this event. The children will conclude their day by visiting McDonald's and Fenwick's Window.

On Wednesday 11th December at 9:00am, Miss Graham will be holding a SEND parent coffee morning for parents and carers of children with additional needs. This is an informal event to come and say hi and have a friendly chat with other parents.

Our last two weeks of term will include two party days, a pantomime visit and a gold book assembly. Can I remind parents that we will be bringing the Advent term to a close on Friday 21st December at 1:15pm.

A full list of dates and times of school events are in this newsletter.

Thank you to everyone for contributing to the British Legion remembrance collection. As a school we raised a wonderful £252.30.



School Admissions

Little Jo's Nursery places available for January 2025

Primary school admissions September 2025 closing date 15th January 2025

Term Dates 2024/2025

Friday 20th December - **School will close at 1:15pm**

Monday 23rd December - Friday 3rd January - Christmas Holidays

Monday 24th February - Friday 28th February - Half Term

Monday 14th April - Friday 25th April - Easter Holidays

Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May - Half Term

Friday 18th July - **School will close at 1:15pm**

Dates for Diary

Wednesday 11th December - Sparkle Day & Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 11th December - SEND parent coffee morning 9:00am - 10:00am

Friday 13th December - Christmas Carol Service at St Joseph's Church 1:15pm

Monday 16th December - Years 3-6 Christmas Party

Tuesday 17th December - Rec-Year 6 Tyne Theatre visit

Wednesday 18th December - Nursery, Reception, Years 1&2 Christmas Party

Thursday 19th December - Year 5 Make £5 Grow at Grainger Market

Friday 20th December - **School will close at 1:15pm**

Wednesday 22nd January - Year 6 Liturgy, Year 6 parents and families welcome at 9:00 am in school

Wednesday 30th April - Friday 2nd May - Year 4 Residential

Wednesday 7th - Friday 9th May - Year 5 Residential

Monday 16th - Wednesday 18th June - Year 6 Residential

RE

We have had a busy few weeks of celebration in school as we journey towards Advent. We celebrated the Feast of Christ the King at the end of November in which we celebrated all young people. We spent time in prayer and celebration on Youth Friday to remember this special feast.

To begin the season of advent we celebrated mass together with the whole community at St Joseph's, led by children in KS2 who helped us focus on being prepared this season. This was a wonderful celebration, and the children read and sang so well.

Today we welcomed parents and grandparents into school for our 'Stay and Pray' session in which we prayed together. Thank you for all who attended this session, this will run for the next two Fridays of advent, and all are welcome.

The Mini Vinnies have been hard at work again writing out Christmas cards for the people of the parish.

As we continue on this advent path, we look forward to many activities in school to help us prepare for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. We continue to share in Celebration of the Word each week, lighting our advent candles and adding to our school Jesse Tree. The school is looking extremely festive, and Christmas hymns are ringing out in the corridors! We look forward to sharing more advent celebrations over the next few weeks.

Christmas Card Competition

Key Stage Two pupils were able to enter a Christmas card competition for our local MP. The theme was 'Christmas close to home: how does Christmas look in your community?'

Congratulations to Nancy in Year 5 who was runner up and her design will be printed on the back of Liz Twist's Christmas cards. Well done to all the children who entered.



Awards

22 nd November 2024		
	Pupil of the Week	Golden Chair
Year 1	Lincoln - for fantastic maths work this week. Good knowledge of plotting numbers onto a blank number line. Well done Lincoln.	Millie - for being a good example to her peers and showing good listening skills. Well done Millie.
Year 2	Feso - for always putting 100% into her learning and shoes what a bright student she is.	Niall - for showing his passion and understanding of his learning through sharing ideas with others.
Year 3	Jodie - for excellent effort and participating well in lessons this week.	Carmen - for always showing politeness.
Year 4	Ralphy - for working hard at improving his maths skills.	Caitlin - for being supportive and caring to people in her class.
Year 5	Christopher - for working very hard in all subjects.	Amelia - for being a ray of sunshine and keeping us all cheerful.
Year 6	Juan - for working really hard in maths this week.	Layla - for being a fabulous role model to her peers, for always trying her best

		in her lessons and helping out whenever she has the opportunity.
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29 th November 2024		
	Pupil of the Week	Golden Chair
Nursery	Neave - for growing in confidence and settling well into Nursery.	
Reception	Tommy D - for setting a good example for his peers, always working hard to do the right thing.	Kian - for always working hard to be the very best version of himself.
Year 1	Raye - for wonderful work in phonics this week. Listening to and identifying the sounds in words. Good girl Raye. Well done.	Chester - for being a kind and caring friend, supporting others when they need some help. Good boy Chester. Keep it up!
Year 2	Yasmin - for working hard to improve in all areas of learning to be the best she can be!	Sonny - for unbelievable artwork and working beautifully to support his partner in their artwork too.
Year 3	Marnie - for trying hard and taking part in all lessons this week.	Frankie - for being helpful and kind towards everyone in the class.
Year 4	Archie - for trying to improve his handwriting.	Leo - for showing Gods love in his dealings with others.
Year 5	Archie - for stepping in at the last minute to do a reading at our Advent Mass.	Leo - for being an inspirational friend.
Year 6	Tom S - for trying so hard in art this week and producing a lovely piece of artwork.	Kaylum - for being so helpful during Art this week without being asked.

6 th December 2024		
	Pupil of the Week	Golden Chair
Nursery	Louie - for settling into class well and growing in confidence.	
Reception	Alice - for being helpful in class and being a good friend to all.	Rocco - for trying his best and putting in effort into all he does.
Year 1	Rosie - for great understanding in maths this week when exploring fact families. Well done Rosie.	Frankie B - for always spreading happiness to those he meets. He shares a smile and loves to sing our Christmas Carols. Well done Frankie .
Year 2	Zara - for being a fountain of knowledge to others.	Lexi S - for working hard to improve in all that she does.
Year 3	Harry - for his great effort in participation in lessons this week.	Boux - for always being helpful around the classroom, both to her peers and the staff.
Year 4	Cameron - for excellent singing at our carol practices.	Noah - for supporting and helping to spread the light of Jesus.
Year 5	Max - for trying very hard and being successful in writing an informal letter of apology in English.	Eloise - for being a delightful and admirable member of our class at all times.
Year 6	Amelia L - for trying so hard with singing.	Joshua - for being so helpful in class.

Class News

EYFS

We are busy preparing for Christmas in EYFS! We've been decorating Christmas trees, practising for our Christmas carol service and counting down each day of advent using our class advent calendars!

We've been busy bees in forest school, preparing and cooking our own pizzas on an open fire! We reminded ourselves of the fire safety rules and Reception helped to teach Nursery! We thought about healthy choices and selected our own ingredients before melting the cheese on the fire - delicious!

Our Nursery children have been reading 'Can't you sleep little bear?' and have been exploring light and dark by building caves just like little bears!

While our Reception children have wrapped up their learning about 'Room on the Broom' and are excited to move onto our Christmas text 'Stick Man'!



Year 1

Year 1 really enjoyed art week last week. The children explored making different lines including vertical, horizontal, cross hatched, diagonal, broken and wavy lines. We used different textures when making these lines as well as different materials such as chalk, pencils, pens, crayons and pastels.

We then used what we had learned to create an underwater picture using all of the materials and a range of the lines we had explored.



Last week we thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the cinema at metrocentre to see 'Migration'. A bus came to take us there. We then had to walk through metrocentre and once we were there we were able to sit with our friends to watch the film. The Friends of St Joseph's were very kind and had made us up a treat bag which was delicious.



Year 2

Well, it's definitely Christmas time in Year 2. We have had a lovely couple of weeks beginning the advent period with our friends and teachers. We have decorated our classroom, been singing lots of Christmas carols (since October!!) and have started learning about the exciting Nativity story in our RE lessons.

Leading up to this, we had an art week which was so much fun. The children were looking at ways to use paint and mix colours and finally how to collage. We are hoping to use some of our final pieces in our Christmas cards this year.



In English, we have been reading a beautiful story called the Bear and the Piano which we have all loved. We've been working with the trainee teacher in our class, Miss Humble. The next story we'll be working on is called The Santa Trap and we can't wait to see what it's all about!



We had a super trip to the cinema with all of our key stage 1 friends. We went to see a film called Migration which was very funny and had snacks from the Friends of St Joseph's.

We are very excited for the coming weeks preparing for Christmas and celebrating with our school family!



Year 3

The last couple of weeks have been so busy, but we've had great fun!

An author, Dom Conlon, visited our school and we had an assembly about how he writes his books based on nature and our world. Some of us bought his book, and he signed them for us. It was really good!



We went to the cinema to see Super Mario Brothers at the Odeon in the Metro Centre. It was so funny!

On our art days, we learnt about Egyptian art, and we designed and made our own Egyptian scrolls. We used brown paper and glue to make the background. It was so messy, but the end results were brilliant. We used pastels, paint and pencils to decorate the scrolls based on ourselves. Christmas is coming quickly, and we've started to make preparations in class. We've decorated our Christmas tree, made an Advent wreath, taken part in an Advent liturgy and have taken turns in opening our Advent calendar. We're now preparing for our carol concert in church.



Year 4

A busy couple of weeks in Year 4. We all loved our trip to the cinema and were really excited in our art lessons, looking at tinting and shading by adding black and white to our colours and then applying this to make an object look 3D. In math we have been learning about area of shape. The children used talk partners to discuss what area meant and some of us used our equipment to make shapes to represent it. We worked in groups and used sticky notes to find the area of objects around the room, including the windows, the cupboard door and the tables. In English we have been enjoying our text of Matilda. We had some fantastic acting

skills, recreating a scene from the text and each group performed it in front of the class. Well done Year 4.



Year 5

Year 5 had a great time at the cinema watching Super Mario Brothers. We enjoyed refreshments courtesy of the Friends of St Joseph's. Thank you!

As well as all of our usual lessons, we had two lovely art days. The children made poem self-portraits in art lessons. They each wrote a poem about their interests and used the words to form a self-portrait. They loved it!



Year 6

Year 6 have had a lovely few weeks! We have had a cinema trip to see Super Mario Brothers and we all loved it! We were even spoiled by the PTA who provided fabulous snacks. When we returned to school, we all enjoyed a picnic in the hall.

In art, Year 6 have been looking at some incredible artists and their artwork in preparation of creating their own final piece with Miss Storey. We've had a great time acting out and exploring the different emotions in paintings, trying out different tools and techniques along the way. This included reenacting a painting by David Hockney.



The children especially enjoyed recreating a painting by John Singer Sargent, showing soldiers on the front line in WW1. They used what they learned about finding emotions in art and brought that into their own final paintings.



Gospel

Sunday 8th December 2024 - The Baptist's Message

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: "A voice cries in the wilderness; prepare a way for the Lord; make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low; winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God." Taken from Luke 3:1-6 The Second Sunday of Advent, Year C

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

God Bless, Paul Naughton



