



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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



Newsletter 6th March 2026

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. 09.02.26	99.4%	99.6%	97%	99%	98.5%	92.9%	99.3%	96.4%
w.c. 20.2.2026	94.3%	89.8%	98.1%	97%	99.3%	92.3%	100%	98.6%
w.c. 6.3.2026	96.6%	97.8%	95.9%	92.9%	99.3%	91.9%	98.7%	97.5%

Dear Families,

A warm welcome back, we hope everyone enjoyed a restful half term as we continue our journey through Lent at St Joseph's. It was wonderful to begin the season together, with Fr Adrian leading our Ash Wednesday service in school. We were delighted to see so many parents, grandparents and parishioners join us.

The children have made an excellent start to Lent and are working hard to keep the promises they made. Each week we are focusing on a different activity to help us prepare spiritually for Holy Week.

World Day of Prayer

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this week's World Day of Prayer at St Joseph's. Year 3 represented our school, and Fr Adrian led the service.

Lenten Fundraising & Almsgiving

We recognise that many families are facing financial pressures, so we concentrate our charitable giving during Lent, a time when almsgiving is central to our Christian mission.

This year we are supporting several charities, including our local St Joseph's Foodbank. Donations are displayed in the school entrance and are already beginning to build - thank you.

To help us organise the donations more effectively, we ask that each class contributes a different type of item:

- Nursery: Cereals
- Reception: Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Year 1: Tinned fish
- Year 2: Biscuits
- Year 3: Tinned soup
- Year 4: Tinned meat
- Year 5: Squash
- Year 6: Soap, hand wash, shower gel, etc

Supporting Bauleni Special School (Zambia)

With guidance from Fr Anthony Cornforth, we continue our important link with Bauleni Special School, supporting disadvantaged families and children with disabilities in Lusaka.

The Penny Challenge

Our popular Penny Challenge returns for the next four weeks, finishing on the last day of term. The final collection will take place on the school yard at 2:30pm on Thursday 2nd April. Parents are welcome. Please send coins into school daily in a small container or food bag.

Post-Easter Fundraising

After the holiday, Mr Morris will host an Olympic Sports Challenge Day and a CAFOD Olympic Walk. We ask families to kindly gather a sponsor or two for this exciting event.

Parent Engagement & Support

Thank you to all parents who attended our Spring parent consultations either in person or by phone. The turnout was excellent, and feedback was very positive. If you missed your appointment, please contact the school office to rearrange a convenient time.

Year 4 Multiplication Meeting

Thank you to the Year 4 parents who attended this week's maths meeting. If you were unable to attend and would like more information, please contact school.

Curriculum & Safeguarding

We were pleased to welcome Northumbria Police into school before half term to deliver Hate Crime sessions to Years 5 and 6 as part of our safeguarding curriculum.

Phones & Smart Watch Policy

A reminder that:

- Parents and visitors must not use mobile phones in school. Please keep phones switched off.
- Following updated DfE guidance, children are not permitted to wear smart watches during the school day. Watches must be handed in each morning and collected at home time.

School Council London Visit

Our School Council, led by Mrs Douglas, enjoyed a memorable visit to London. Their trip included:

- A visit to Downing Street
- A ride on the London Eye
- Educational workshops in Parliament

They look forward to sharing what they learned in an assembly next week.

Sports News - U11 Girls

We are incredibly proud of our U11 Girls' County Championship team, who will compete in the Northern County Finals at Liverpool FC's Training Ground at the end of March. Further updates will follow, the girls have worked tremendously hard to reach this stage.

Extra Curriculum Clubs

Some clubs will continue this half term, and some have finished. Clubs which are continuing until the end of this term are Lego, games and football club. New clubs will restart after the Easter holidays.

Library Visits

Well done to all the classes that have visited Blaydon Library over the last few weeks. The children really enjoyed these visits aimed at increasing reading participation. This was a perfect build up to this year's World Book Day which the children enjoyed yesterday.

Wraparound Care

Over the last few weeks in Kidzzone, the children have had a fantastic time building a giant marble run using soft tennis balls and long



cardboard tubes, carefully connecting each piece to see how fast the balls could roll from top to bottom. They worked together, testing different heights and angles, which encouraged problem-solving and teamwork. After their engineering fun, the children enjoyed drawing and creating bright, colourful pictures with giant chucks, strengthening their fine motor skills as they gripped, shaped, and designed their masterpieces. Then during the last week, the children have been celebrating pancake day. Everyone gathered to enjoy delicious pancakes for Pancake Day, choosing from a variety of fresh fruits and sweet syrup sauces, making it a joyful and tasty fun filled evening.



First Holy Communion Course - Keep in your Prayers

Our Year 4 pupils have begun the formal catechesis sessions to prepare them to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Please do keep them and their families in your prayers.

Dates for Diaries

Wednesday 11th March - Reception Liturgy, Reception parents & families welcome at 9:00 am in the school hall

Friday 13th March - Year 6 Coffee Afternoon, 2:30pm in the school hall

Tuesday 17th March - Year 1 & 2 visit Safety Works

Wednesday 18th March - Year 5 & 6 visit Safety Works

Thursday 19th March - Reception class visit Hall Hill Farm

Thursday 19th March - Feast of St Joseph Mass 10:00am at St Joseph's Church - all welcome

Friday 20th March - Year 3 & 4 visit Safety Works

Friday 20th March - Year 6 Girls Football Final

Wednesday 25th March - Dance Festival

Tuesday 31st March - Year 5 Big Sing Event at St Thomas More

Thursday 2nd April - Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & 2 Easter Bonnets. Years 3 - 6 Easter Egg competition

Thursday 2nd April - Penny Challenge

Thursday 2nd April - School closes for Easter Holidays

Wednesday 22nd - Friday 24th April - Year 5 Residential visit to Ford Castle

Monday 1st - Wednesday 3rd June - Year 6 Residential visit to Youth Village

Wednesday 17th - Friday 19th June - Year 4 Residential visit to Holy Island

Term Dates 2025/2026

Friday 3rd April - Friday 17th April - Easter Holidays

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May - Half Term

Friday 17th July - School will close at 1:15pm

Awards**13th February 2026**

	Champion Handwriter	Golden Chair
Nursery		Eve
Reception	Alfie	Patrick
Year 1	Mylah	Alice
Year 2	Chester	Lincoln
Year 3	Lottie & Hallie	Jessica
Year 4	Abigail	Carmen
Year 5	Charlotte	Yanni
Year 6	Lennie	Aaliyah

20th February 2026

	Champion Handwriter	Golden Chair
Nursery		Sophia
Reception	Zoe	Gracie
Year 1	Kian	Luna
Year 2	Millie	Frankie C
Year 3	Frazer	Gabriel
Year 4	Daisey	Frankie
Year 5	Imogen	Lucas
Year 6	Olivia	Niyah

6th March 2026

	Champion Handwriter	Golden Chair
Nursery		Adriel
Reception	Elliott	Elsie
Year 1	Joey K	Lydia
Year 2	Annie	Deborah
Year 3	Alice	Declan
Year 4	Aaron	Tommy
Year 5	Lennon	James
Year 6	Charlie	Danielle

News

Nursery

This term in nursery the boys and girls have been busy learning their numbers through lots of fun activities and games.

We also had a very exciting visit from Hallie's Dad, who came to see us with the fire engine and his team. Thank you so much it was a fabulous afternoon.

The children loved exploring the fire engine and learning about the important work firefighters do in our community. We have enjoyed celebrating World Book Day by dressing up as their favourite characters, reading some favourite stories and taking part in lots of activities.

To welcome the sunshine the children have loved learning some new springtime yoga poses, helping them to stretch, move and also relax while having fun.



Reception

What a wonderful time we've had this half term in reception. We have been exploring and celebrating lots of different themes and events.

We have had Chinese New Year activities in the classroom supporting us in learning about other cultures, but also practising our maths, writing, fine motor skills and much more.

We are now in the season of Lent. The children learnt about pancake day and Ash Wednesday. We role played giving and receiving the ashes in class so the children understood what would happen in our Ash Wednesday service.

We also have had some exciting events. We visited Blaydon library and were able to choose a book each to borrow. We had a visit from the fire service and were able to look at their equipment, go on their fire engine and have a go at the hose. Then this week we have celebrated World Book Day. The children had so much fun looking at lots of different stories and characters.

What an exciting few weeks!



Year 1

In English, Year 1 have been reading *Jemima Puddle-Duck* by Beatrix Potter. The children worked with a partner to sequence key pictures from the story, discussing what happened and why. They then practised retelling the story together using vocabulary from the text and time connectives such as *first*, *next*, *then*, and *after that*.



Once they had rehearsed their ideas, the children confidently retold the story to the rest of the class, showing wonderful recall and enthusiasm.

In Geography and Science, the children have been learning all about the seasons. They looked closely at how each season brings different changes to the environment, nature, and animals, discussion how weather patterns and daylight can affect the world around us.

Using their art skills, the children then created beautiful seasonal trees, each one showing the unique colours and characteristics of spring, summer, autumn and winter. The results were fantastic and show great observations and creativity.



How wonderful we looked for World Book Day this week! We came to school dressed as characters from our favourite books, or in comfortable clothes so we could relax and enjoy listening to lots of stories. The children showed great enthusiasm and creativity, making it a truly magical day filled with reading and imagination.



Year 2



Year 2 are growing up so fast, and Miss Devereux cannot believe we are already in the middle of Lent! The children really enjoyed chopping fruit using the claw grip method to decorate their pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. They learnt the importance of Shrove Tuesday being the last day before the beginning of Lent where Jesus fasted in the desert.

We also went on our Library visit and the children were fantastic at spotting which books were fiction and non-fiction. This linked well to our RE topic on books in the community.

The children have really enjoyed starting music again and did a performance for Mr Angus and Judge Ezra. Let's just say the children blown them away with their musical karaoke!

We are very proud of our School Councillors who went to London this week and even made it to number 10! We have enjoyed hearing about



their adventures, including about the incredible views they saw from the London Eye. Miss Devereux even said they might have saw Paddington Bear!

We are also enjoying seeing the sun beaming through the windows which has made the classroom look very radiant, particularly when the sun shines through the primary colour trees. We are definitely going to go for a Spring watch around the school grounds this term!

The children dressed up fabulously for World Book Day yesterday and enjoyed sharing their stories.



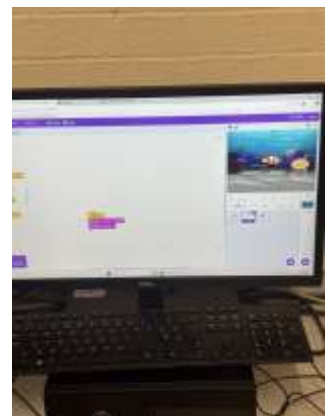
Year 3

Earlier this month, Year 3 enjoyed taking part in Internet Safety Day. They followed a Live Lesson in which they created their own Chat Bot and learned about how to use AI safely.

In our Computing lessons, we have been using Scratch to create a program. We have chosen a background and different sprites to control. We had to use a minimum of 3 commands for each sprite and choose a button to start the program. The children really enjoyed using Scratch and were very good at it!

In Maths, we have been using flexible partitioning to divide a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number. Using the base 10 materials has really helped us to understand the process.

Our new text is called *Stone Age Boy* which is about a boy who falls down a hole and finds himself in the Stone Age. He meets a girl called Om who shows him her way of life. We enjoyed a drama activity in which the children created freeze frames to show interactions between the boy and girl.



Year 4



Year 4 have been working really hard in their English lessons and have thoroughly enjoyed reading “The Firework Maker’s Daughter”. A really interesting, challenging book based in Indonesia about a child who wanted to know the secrets of making fireworks.



As part of their work, the children had to make advertisements for their special fireworks. It was decided the best way to create a vibrant and effective advertisement was to use their computing skills to create such a piece.



I’m sure you will agree that the children have shown great English skills but also fantastic computing skills.



Year 5

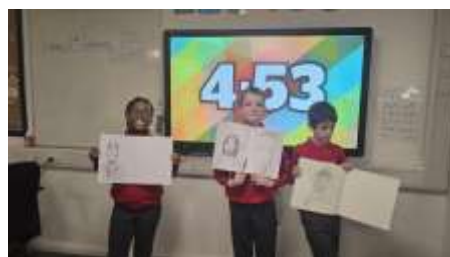
We’ve had a very busy few weeks in year 5. We celebrated National Storytelling Week by learning about how to produce a rap and we made our own. In Art, we learnt about continuous line drawings and made portraits using continuous lines. Father Adrian joined us to celebrate mass in our classroom, based on our RE topic, Eucharist. It was beautiful. Thank you, Father. Also, our remaining groups led their class Collective Worship which they have really enjoyed.



A member of staff from Northumbria Police came to speak to us about hate crime, which was very informative.

We achieved 100% attendance and loved our extra 15 minutes break outside!

Finally, a big congratulations to our class trainee teacher, Miss Rudd, who completed our final placement with us. You will be missed by the class. Good luck for the future!



Year 6

Since the last newsletter, our Year 6 children have been working very hard. It hasn't all been SATs preparation though. We had a visit from Suzanne from Northumbria Police, teaching us about hate crime. The children were very pleased with their trip to the newly-refurbished Blaydon Library. Their comments included, "This was the best trip ever!" and "It's better than going to the pictures!" We really hope this library visit has fed their love of reading, which will stand them in good stead their whole lives long.



We said a fond farewell to Miss McBeth, a final year student from Northumbria University. To mark the occasion and express our gratitude, we had a small celebration in class. We wish Miss McBeth all the very best for her future career.



Gospel

Sunday 8th March 2026 - The Samaritan at the Well

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied, 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you "Give me a drink", you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered, 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied, 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said, 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus, 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Did any words or phrases stand out to you in the Gospel? If so, take a few moments to meditate on them.

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

Paul Naughton



THE FRIENDS OF ST JOSEPHS PTA

We often get asked....

"Where does our money go?"

"Why do we fundraise so often?"

"Why are we paying for non-uniform days?"



Here's a few things our PTA do...

- ✦ Organise our fantastic School Fayre
- 🏆 Contribute to End of Year Awards & Medals
- 🎁 Provide Treat Bags for Cinema & Theatre Trips
- 👑 Fully fund and organise all School Discos
- 🎄 Supply Christmas Presents & Treats
- 🥚 Provide Easter and End of Year Treats
- 📅 Regularly organise themed days and activity events
- 🚌 Contribute towards school trip coach travel
- 📺 Replaced Nursery Fridge, & help fund other school equipment
- 🍷 Help supply food and drinks to Kidzzone
- 🍷 Support the food larder and local food bank
- ✦ And Much More!

WE TRULY APPRECIATE EVERY DONATION & BIT OF HELP WE RECEIVE, WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

If you'd like to help or get involved, please contact the school office or Vickie Roberts

To book Yoga please click the link [TeamUp](#)

Kids Yoga Club

Ages 5-8



Friday 10th &
Friday 17th April
1-2.30pm
£20 per session,
Book both days for £30
includes snacks and drinks.

Friday 13th March - Cake donations required can be brought to the school office

YEAR 6 LEAVERS

EASTER RAFFLE

£1 PER STRIP

DRAW
13TH MARCH
AT OUR
COFFEE
AFTERNOON

LOTS OF
EASTER
TREATS TO
BE WON

BUY TICKETS ON THE YARD AT PICK UP OR
AT COFFEE AFTERNOON

Year 6

Coffee Afternoon!

Friday 13th March at 2:30pm

Cakes for Sale!

Raffle!

Tombola!

Name the Teddy!

Join us for an afternoon of fun!

RYTON ROCKETS

UNDER 6&8
UNDER 10
UNDER 12
UNDER 14
UNDER 16&18

Looking to give basketball a go?
Come and join in a FREE taster session
and train with a local team.

J.Bertram@eaglescommunityfoundation.com

Blaydon Youth Centre

<https://newcastle-eagles.com/rockets/>

SCOUTING - 52 WEEKS A YEAR

All Seasons. All Year. No Long Breaks.

Everest Scouts
Widlaton

Summer Autumn Winter Spring

Otters 5-7 Yrs	Wolf Cubs 8-10 Yrs	Scouts 11-15 Yrs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Meetings Events Available Throughout the Year Crafts, Skills, Being Active, Learning Outdoor Sessions Throughout The Year Learning Through Fun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Meetings Events Throughout the Year Active Program Camps and Events Throughout The Year Increases Confidence Multiple Outdoor Weekly Sessions Over Warmer Months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Meetings Including School Holidays Entirely Outdoor Summer Program (Weather allowing) No Long Gaps in Program Multiple Events per Month International Opportunities Available

Endless Adventure!
Camps, Hikes, Diving, Sailing Crafts, Life Skills and more
No-one Does Scouting Quite Like Everest Scouts!

info1st2ndwinlaton-fse-scouts.org.uk