



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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

Newsletter 2nd April 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. 9.3.2026	90.8%	96%	99.3%	99.5%	98.5%	91%	96%	97.8%
w.c. 16.3.2026	94.3%	99.1%	98.5%	96%	98.1%	98.2%	99%	97.8%
w.c. 23.3.2026	90.2%	99%	96.7%	93.4%	97.3%	95.7%	97.6%	97.5%
w.c. 30.3.2026	95.7%	95.4%	96.2%	93.5%	99%	98.2%	97%	98.6%

Dear Families,

Our Lenten Term has come to a close today, and I could not be more proud of how hard the children have worked and how thoughtfully they have prepared for Easter throughout Lent. It has been a truly special few weeks. Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting our Liturgies, Stay and Pray sessions, the Feast of St Joseph, and this week's Stations of the Cross led so beautifully by Year 5. Fr Adrian would like to encourage families to attend the various church services taking place over the Easter weekend.

Diocesan Discernment Exercise

A sincere thank you from Fr Adrian to everyone who has contributed to the Diocesan Discernment exercise. There is still time to hand in any remaining responses either to school or directly to Fr Adrian.

Lenten Fundraising

Penny Challenge for Zambia - This afternoon's Penny Challenge was wonderful to watch and very well supported. The children created impressive lines of coins, all of which will go directly to the Belauni Street Special School in Zambia. Thank you for your generosity.

Olympic Sports Challenge

A reminder that our annual Olympic Day in aid of CAFOD will take place on Thursday 30th April. A letter outlining the day was sent out last week. Mr Morris will be running the challenges on the day which will be exciting for the children. Children should come to school in warm sports kit. Sponsor forms have already been sent home, but a copy is also attached to this week's newsletter. As always, Lent is the only time we fundraise for charities outside of the PTA.

Celebrating Our Children

Thank you to everyone who attended our very popular Y6 Coffee Afternoon. Our Year 6 pupils are working incredibly hard as they prepare for their SATs. Please keep them in your prayers.

Every class has enjoyed a visit this half term, including trips to Safety Works, Hall Hill Farm, and Lildorei. After Easter, Year 5 will embark on our first residential of the year at Ford Castle PGA Activity Centre in Northumberland.

Huge congratulations to our Year 6 girls' football team for the success at the North of England Championships at Liverpool Football Club as reigning County Champions. They performed brilliantly and were superbly supported by parents and grandparents. It was a long day from 6:00am until 8:00pm but the girls managed to celebrate their achievements with a McDondalds at Lancaster Services.

A big thank you to Lewis Dickman and Ross Cavanagh for their outstanding coaching and commitment.



Our key stage 2 girls also shone at the Gateshead Dance Festival at The Glass House, receiving a well-deserved standing ovation. They were simply fantastic.



Easter Celebrations

Today we enjoyed our key stage one Easter Bonnet Parade and the key stage two Easter Egg Competition. Thank you to all families who supported these optional events. Special thanks to the Friends of St Joseph's for running the Easter Raffle and to the PTA for funding the competition prizes.

KS2 Egg Competition Winners:

Sonny, Alice, Niall, Molly, Jodie, Brooke, Yanni, Jacques, William, Dani, Isabelle and Olly.



Spring Term Attendance Award

Congratulations to Year 3, winners of the Spring Term Attendance Trophy! They will enjoy a free trip to Gibside at the end of May.

Clubs & Easter Childcare

We are delighted to offer a wide range of clubs again this summer term, please look out for the email with details of the new system to book clubs through Arbor. Most clubs remain free, with the exception of Irish Dancing, Grass Roots, Breakfast Club and Kidz Zone After-School Club.

Grass Roots Easter Camp will take place at St Joseph's throughout the holiday. Dates are included in today's newsletter.

Tax Free Childcare Vouchers

We are now registered to the Tax-Free Childcare Scheme. Please click on the link to register <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/tax-free-childcare>

Gold Book Winners

Congratulations to all our Gold Book Assembly winners who received their Metro Centre vouchers today. We are very proud of you all.

Toys/Fidget Items

We are becoming aware of an increase in number of children bringing toys and fidget items into school. This is not part of our school policy. While some pupils use specific resources that have been recommended by class teachers or our SENDCO, these items have only been put in place where there is a clear professional need. To help us maintain a calm, focused learning environment for all children, we kindly ask that pupils do not bring toys, fidget items or similar resources into school unless this has been discussed and agreed with staff.

Return to School

School will reopen after the Easter holiday on Monday 20th April. We look forward to welcoming everyone back after a restful break.

RE

This Lenten term has been a particularly busy and meaningful time in our school community. We have

come together to support others by collecting donations for the food bank, showing care and compassion in action. Our times of prayer, especially through Stay and Pray, have given us opportunities for reflection and spiritual growth. Each week, we have shared in Celebration of the Word, linking closely to the Gospel and deepening our understanding of its message. We have also been blessed to celebrate Mass both in our classes and in honour of our patron saint, St Joseph. This week we have shared in various celebrations to mark Holy Week. Year 6 began the week sharing a Palm Sunday reflection and Year 3 helped us focus on Maundy Thursday. Year 5 lead us in the Station of the Cross which help us prepare for the resurrection that we will celebrate this coming Sunday. Throughout the term, we have truly lived out the Gospel through our words and actions, showing kindness, generosity and faith in all that we do. We welcomed Fr David Smith into school to help us focus on our Lenten missions to give to others. He shared his story of a charity he works with in Kenya to provide better living for many. We met many of his friends in Kenya and understood how we can support them through donations and prayer from home.



Wraparound Care

Over the last couple of weeks, the children have been enjoying a variety of craft activities. From making our very own Easter bonnets, St Patrick's Day pictures, and drawing our own spring pictures, the children have demonstrated many skills that they have developed through exploring and using a variety of tools and equipment. The children have also enjoyed being outdoors, exploring our surroundings and practising balancing skills using the scooters and balance bikes.

As we lead into Holy Week and come to the end of the spring term, we would like to wish everyone a very happy Easter and hope you all enjoy the holidays.



Dates for Diaries

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

Thursday 30th April - Lenten Olympic Sports Challenge

Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday, school closed

Monday 18th May - Class photographs to be taken by Phototronics

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

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

Monday 22nd June - Training Day - school closed to pupils

Tuesday 23rd June - Training Day - school closed to pupils

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 March 2026

	Champion Handwriter	Golden Chair
Nursery		Eva
Reception	Cass	Harry
Year 1	Alannah	Charlie
Year 2	Raye	Zach
Year 3	Thomas	Niall
Year 4	Emily	Eve
Year 5	Michael	Toby
Year 6	Lilly	Freddie

20th March 2026

	Champion Handwriter	Golden Chair
Nursery		Ada
Reception	Neave	Vinnie
Year 1	Tommy D	Elise
Year 2	Rosie	James
Year 3	Savannah	Wilfred
Year 4	Ikem	Annaliese
Year 5	Amelia	Darcy
Year 6	Amelia	Lucy D

27th March 2026

	Champion Handwriter
Nursery	
Reception	Ava
Year 1	Darcey
Year 2	Charlie

Year 3	Joe
Year 4	Deacon
Year 5	Cameron
Year 6	Eloise

2nd April 2026

	Gold Award
Nursery	Orla
Reception	Henry
Year 1	Alannah
Year 2	Ciara
Year 3	Freddie
Year 4	Lotta
Year 5	Caitlin
Year 6	Eloise
Year 6	Ethan Cl

News

Nursery & Reception

What a fantastic term we've had in our nursery and reception. We couldn't be prouder of the children and how they've progressed. Its been very busy full of exciting events.

The children loved taking part in our Holy week events. They learned all about Good Friday and Easter Sunday and completed some beautiful crosses afterwards to reflect on the events. We had some beautiful easter bonnets and they really blew us away with their efforts for our penny challenge. We have welcomed parents in to our Lenten Stay and Pray sessions where the children loved sharing prayers and gathering together with their parents.

Both classes loved our careers day. The children all dressed up as their chosen career, we had teachers, make up artists, builders, pilots, it really was fantastic to see their ideas.

In our provision we have had measuring carrots, a sensory easter tray, spring flower painting, an egg hunt and much much more that the children have absolutely thrived in.

Reception had a fantastic spring visit to farm where we saw signs of new life and even had a tractor ride and a visit to the park. The children were a delight and a credit to the school.



Wishing everyone a restful Easter.



Year 1

Last week, the children loved coming to school in non-uniform for our Careers Day. We had an amazing variety of future professionals on show - from teachers, astronauts, nurses, police, pilots to footballers, builders, artists and many more. It was a wonderful celebration of ambition and imagination, and the children took great pride in sharing who they might be in the future.



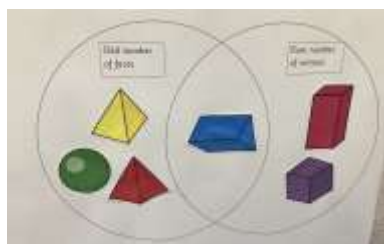
We have visited Safety Works in Newcastle, where the children learned about a wide range of important safety topics. These included road safety, staying safe near train lines, keeping safe around lakes and water, fire safety in the home and also thinking about our own mental well-being. It was a very interesting and engaging morning, and the children came away having learned a great deal.



In preparation for Holy Week, the children have spent some time in class taking part in a Mark 10 collective worship enabling them to reflect and prepare themselves spiritually and understand the importance of compassion and service. They know that Jesus gave His life for us and how He wants us to show love, kindness and compassion to others each day.



Year 2



Year 2 have had a fantastic Spring Term and have been working well as a class to connect to our Catholic Social Teaching mascot, Patariki the Penguin. This has included being a team player in PE where children have participated in team sport such as tag rugby. In maths, the children have worked together to reflect on their learning and sort different



2D and 3D shapes into groups in mathematics. The children have been considering edges and vertices and have even created an Easter card with the theme of shapes!

The children looked fabulous on Careers Day, and we enjoyed seeing everyone's Easter Bonnet creations! Miss Devereux remembers when she had an Easter bonnet at St Joseph's all those years ago! Year 2 have also gained an impressive number of pennies and have been trying really hard with their reading and handwriting. Keep up the good work Year 2 and we are looking forward to a sunny Summer Term! Have a lovely Easter!



Year 3

Year 3 have had a wonderful few weeks. At the beginning of March, we enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. We heard stories read by two authors and listened to them answering questions about their books. We designed our own book covers and took part in a workshop by an illustrator. Soon after that, we visited Blaydon library. We listened to a story and were then able to choose a book to borrow for a few weeks.

Our visit to Safety Works was very informative and lots of fun. We learnt about how to identify fire hazards in the home and what to do if a fire was to break out. During the E-safety session, we learnt some tips on how to stay safe when playing games online. We also had sessions on Road Safety, Metro Safety and Water Safety.

Mrs Blakey and I were proud to be invited to take Year 3 down to St. Joseph's church where we joined a service for the World Day of Prayer. The children represented school brilliantly.



I hope that the children have a fantastic Easter break - they have worked very hard and certainly deserve a rest!



Year 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic end to their term, showing great enthusiasm across all subjects. In English, the children have been exploring the opening of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', using rich vocabulary and descriptive techniques to bring their writing to life. In Maths, they have been developing their understanding of fractions, building confidence in recognising and working with different parts of a whole. Meanwhile, in Science, pupils have been learning about solids, liquids and gases, and investigating how particles move in each state. We brought our Science learning to life by acting as particles in solids, liquids and gases outside on the yard. In French, the children have been enjoying learning new vocabulary and have been using actions to help them remember and understand key words and phrases.

Finally, everyone in Year 4 is working hard on their times tables in preparation for the test in June. Well done and keep up the good work.



Year 5



In Year 5, we've had a busy few weeks. We had a lovely trip to Safetyworks where we had experience of different safety scenarios including road safety, dog safety, water safety, peer pressure and a police session. We learnt so much and really enjoyed it too! In class, we've been working on forces in science, and we had fun carrying out investigations. We've been reading 'The Chessmen Thief' in English and have learnt



lots of new vocabulary.

We enjoyed exploring different jobs as part of Careers Day and coming into school dressed up.

Our Stay and Pray sessions have been lovely. Thank you to the parents who have been able to join us.

As part of our Lenten activities, we have collected our pennies for the Penny Challenge, raising lots of money for the Bellini Street School and bringing things in for the Food Larder. We've been practising for our Stations of the Cross service, and we're looking forward to sharing it with the rest of the school, families, governors and parishioners. Happy Easter everyone.



Year 6

Year 6 have been working so hard towards their SATs but have still had time for a visit to Safety Works, learning about water safety, road safety, peer pressure, dog safety and also looked at a shoplifting and police station scenario.

We hosted an extremely successful and enjoyable cake sale that Mrs Grant organised to raise funds for an end of school party. Thank you so much to all who facilitated and supported this.

During the whole of Lent, we have welcomed parents into class for 'Stay and Pray' sessions. Father Adrian came into class last Wednesday to say Mass and it was lovely.



Happy Easter to all!



Gospel

Sunday 5th April 2026 - The Empty Tomb

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.' So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 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 Easter break. God Bless.

Paul Naughton

GRASS ROOTS

EASTER SPORTS & ACTIVITY WEEKS

OPTION 1: Tuesday 7th - Friday 10th April 2016
(St Joseph's Catholic Primary School) £60

OPTION 2: Monday 13th - Friday 17th April 2016
(St Mary & St Thomas Aquinas Primary School) £75

TIME: 9:50am-3:30pm



COURSE DETAILS:

The week will involve various sports including football, cricket, gymnastics, rounders, tennis, hockey etc and will involve fun based activities such as water games/fights, crash mat tournaments and tug of war competitions.

The course will be taken by qualified coaches/trainers.

All of our coaching staff have been through a recent police clearance.

Children should be between the ages of 5-14 (in line if in exception) and a DV-L.

YOU WILL NEED:

- A Packed lunch
- Change for the tuck shop
- A change of clothes in case we play water games!
- To be collected promptly at 3:00pm



BOOKING INFORMATION:

To book onto the course, please visit www.grassrootsports.co.uk where you can pay by debit/credit card.

Individual days are priced at £25 per day and can be booked via email (enquiries@grassrootsports.co.uk).

If you are unable to pay online, please contact us directly on 07734 533 536 (KATH) or 07735 428 70 (SARAH).



07734 533 536

www.grassrootsports.co.uk

Grass Roots UK

GRASS ROOTS



KS2 Summer Sports After School Club

VENUE: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

DAY/TIME: Every Thursday 15:15 – 16:30

Starting Thursday 23rd April for 10 weeks

COST: £32.50 (10 weeks)

No club on Thursday 21st May 2016

COURSE DETAILS:

The course will involve various sports such as basketball/cricket/rounders/hockey/crashmat rounders/ tug o' war competitions and in warmer weather may include water games such as drip drip splash and waterfights!!

You will need:

- 1- to be collected from the school just prior to the above time
- 2- a PE kit, please ensure your child has footwear suitable for outdoor sessions.

The after school club is open to children from Year 3 through to Year 6

To secure your place, please head over to our website; www.grassrootssports.co.uk and go to the 'School Clubs' section. First come, first served basis.

The course will be listed and you can follow the online instructions to book and pay.

Any queries call Rachel on 07846539221.

GRASS ROOTS



KS1 Summer Sports After School Club

VENUE: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

DAY/TIME: Every Wednesday 15:15 – 16:30

Starting Wednesday 22nd April for 11 weeks

COST: £35.75 (11 weeks)

COURSE DETAILS:

The course will involve various sports such as basketball/cricket/rounders/hockey/crashmat rounders/ tug o' war competitions and in warmer weather may include water games such as drip drip splash and waterfights!!

You will need:

- 1- to be collected from the school just prior to the above time
- 2- a PE kit, please ensure your child has footwear suitable for outdoor sessions.

The after school club is open to children from Rec through to Year 2

To secure your place, please head over to our website; www.grassrootssports.co.uk and go to the 'School Clubs' section. First come, first served basis.

The course will be listed and you can follow the online instructions to book and pay.

Any queries call Rachel on 07846539221.

GATESHEAD WEST UNIFORM SCHEME



Who are we?
We are a registered charity,
operating in Gateshead West since
2021.

We provide good-quality preloved
and brand new school uniforms to
our community
from our Blaydon site
behind Morrisons.

We operate on a pay-what-you-feel
basis.

Did you know?
We sell surplus stock
on Vinted as gwusne.
If it's easier, please
buy from us online.

**All markets
are at
Blaydon,
NE21 5PT.**

Please check for changes to
dates/times on Facebook, before
you travel to a market...

March/April 2026 Markets...

Fri 6th March 3:30pm - 5pm
Sat 14th March 9:30am - 11am
Sat 21st March 9:30am - 11am
Mon 30th March 6pm - 7pm
Fri 3rd April 3:30pm - 5pm
Sat 11th April 9:30am - 11am
Sat 18th April 9:30am - 11am
Mon 27th April 6pm - 7pm

All at St Cuthbert's
Community Hall, Blaydon
NE21 5PT, next to the big
blue building which is
behind Morrisons.

**As the weather
improves,
please come
and get school
summer dresses
& shorts from us!**



www.facebook.com/gatesheadwestprelovedschooluniform
<https://www.gatesheadwestuniformscheme.org.uk>
contactsGatesheadWestUniformScheme.org.uk
and find us as gwusne on Vinted

CALL: 07823468222 EMAIL: HATCHLINGSTHEATRESCHOOL@OUTLOOK.COM



**HELPING YOUNG
PERFORMERS
COME OUT OF
THEIR SHELL!**

**ENQUIRE NOW
FOR A
FREE TRIAL
ON SATURDAY 9TH MAY**

**ALONGSIDE
THEATRE SKILLS,
YOUR CHILD WILL
ALSO GAIN...**

- Confidence & self-belief
- Clear speaking & voice control
- Imagination & creativity
- Teamwork & social skills
- Movement & stage presence
- Focus & listening skills
- Self-expression & emotional awareness



SUITABLE FOR AGES 7-11

