



# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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



*Newsletter 8<sup>th</sup> May 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. 20.4.2026	97.4%	97.8%	96.7%	99%	96.7%	97.5%	98.2%	97.5%
w.c. 27.4.2026	99%	98.2%	98.1%	97%	98.9%	97.5%	100%	99.3%
w.c. 5.5.2026	98%	99.4%	95.7%	96.8%	98.1%	96.8%	95.7%	98.6%

Dear Families,

A Wonderful Start to the Summer Term.

We have enjoyed a wonderful couple of weeks at St Joseph's since returning from the Easter holidays. I must start by congratulating the Year 6 boys for winning their football league last week. They have trained incredibly hard and, with the support of Lewis and Ross, managed to get over the line with some incredible performances to claim the league title. Yesterday, they took part in the Champion of Champions event at Fellside Primary School and once again they performed extremely well against other league champions and came away as winners! Mrs Clarke even came to support the boys.



Our Year 5 pupils were in fantastic spirits as they completed their three-day residential visit to Ford Castle in Northumberland. The children took part in a wide range of outdoor and adventurous activities during the day before enjoying campfires and fun events in the evenings. My sincere thanks go to all the staff who generously gave up time away from their families to ensure this residential was such a success.



We have also seen fantastic support from our school community during recent events. Our Lenten Walks for CAFOD and Lenten Olympic Day were tremendous fun, with the children enjoying a range of challenging and enjoyable activities while raising money for our Zambian charity. Many thanks to Mr Morris for his support on the day.

Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA fundraising day last Friday, which resulted in some eye-catching hairstyles, temporary tattoos, and an abundance of unhealthy snacks around school—for one day only. Thankfully, normal rules resumed this week.

Next week, our Year 6 pupils will complete their Key Stage 2 SATs. The children have worked incredibly hard and have been an absolute credit to our school. Thank you to all Year 6 families for the support given throughout this important time, and we wish the children the very best of luck. Year 6 pupils will also be invited in each morning next week for a special SATs breakfast.

The children will be presented with their leavers' hoodies in assembly next week, which they may wear with pride until the end of the academic year. Many thanks to Mrs Grant for organising this.

I wanted to share that Jessica Foster and Olivia Bowles were successful in their league cup final on Saturday.

They were both amazing and played so well.

It was 0-0 come full time and it went to penalties with Westend Lionesses coming out on top.

Finally, can I say a huge well done to all parents for not using mobile phones in and around school and following our Trust policy. It is wonderful to see children being greeted with a smile rather than a mobile. Please continue to help us keep our school safe by not using mobile phones on site.

### Wraparound Care

Our breakfast and afterschool club children have been making the most of the sunshine, enjoying the outdoors where they can run, climb, and play games that help develop their physical skills. Indoors, the children have been especially delighted with our new squishy corner, a cosy space where they can relax. They've loved playing shopkeepers, taking turns in different roles, and engaging in a variety of creative activities that have encouraged teamwork, communication, and most importantly lots of fun.



### Thank You

We received a lovely thank you letter from Blaydon Community Larder, please see below.

To the Children, Parents, Carers and Staff at St Joseph's School

I write to thank you for the wonderful donations of food and toiletries which you collected for the Community Larder during Lent.

It is very much appreciated and really helped us to stock the Larder. We really appreciate your support which gives those in the local area who need it, access to affordable food.

Thank you again for your support of the Community Larder in Blaydon.

### Dates for Diaries

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May - Class photographs to be taken by Phototronics

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May - Year 6 Residential Parent Meeting at 3:30pm

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May - Year 4 Holy Island Parent Meeting at 3:30pm

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May - Year 2 Liturgy, Year 2 parents & families welcome at 9:00 am in the school hall



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May- Year 6 Fun Run

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Year 3 Attendance Trip

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Year 6 Residential visit to Youth Village

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June - Year 3 Liturgy, Year 3 parents & families welcome at 9:00 am in the school hall

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June - Year 4 Residential visit to Holy Island

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - Training Day - school closed to pupils

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June - Training Day - school closed to pupils

### Term Dates 2025/2026

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Half Term

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July - School will close at 1:15pm

### Awards

24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

	Champion Handwriter	Golden Chair
Nursery		Archie
Reception	Arthur	Louie S
Year 1	Elsie	Tommy R
Year 2	Bill	Charlie
Year 3	Freddie	Feso
Year 4	Levi	Brooke
Year 5		All of Year 5
Year 6	Ethan Cd	Samuel

1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

	Champion Handwriter	Golden Chair
Nursery		Charles
Reception	Hope	Sonny
Year 1	Kit	Marcel
Year 2	Chester	James
Year 3	Amelia M	Mia
Year 4	Isabella	Daisey
Year 5	Jack	Joseph
Year 6	Lauren	Max

8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

	Champion Handwriter	Golden Chair
Nursery		Felix
Reception	Cass	Arabella
Year 1	Joey	Layne
Year 2	Harriet	Isla
Year 3	Jessica	Oliver
Year 4	Noah	Oliver
Year 5	Lockey	Luke
Year 6	James	Lucy B

## News

### Nursery & Reception



It's been a busy half term already. We kicked off with our wonderful Lenten Olympics and Big Lenten Walk. The children had a fantastic day reflecting on our Lenten promises and how we've managed to see them through. We had so much fun.



Now the sun is back, (occasionally) we've been able to get our outdoor area back up and running properly with some lovely resources. Nursery and reception have loved being out in the fresh air and playing and learning with their friends.



In reception we've been reading 'Where the wild things are'. The children have loved the story, and we incorporated some of the themes into our forest school adventures.

Mrs Lewis even had a dress up costume for the children to have a turn of. We enjoyed having a wild rumpus at forest school.

We have been focusing lots on our letter formation and sentence structure. There's been lots of practise in class on whiteboards, in books and even on our new writing pads. The children are thriving! What a super start to the term!



## Year 1



Father Adrian visited Year 1 and supported the children in a class Celebration of the Word. During the thoughtful session, the children reflected on the two forthcoming feast days, the Ascension and Pentecost. They explored their meaning within the Church's liturgical calendar. The children imagined they were the disciples and considered how they may have felt during these events.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their music lessons with Mr Angus this half term. They have been recapping on previous learning by composing different rhythms and have then used boomwhackers to help generate and perform not only their own music but some well known tunes too. All of the children were enthusiastic and engaged, worked collaboratively as a team, and had lots of fun throughout the lessons.



Earlier this term, the children took part in the BIG Lent Walk, completing laps of the school cross-country track. After each lap, they paused for a quiet moment of prayer and reflection, thinking about the meaning of Lent and how we can help others in our own country and from around the world. We prayed for peace in our world and reflected on how we can each play our part by showing kindness, care, and compassion to others.

Break the Rules Day was lots of fun. The children came to school in non-uniform, some with dyed hair, nail varnish, tattoos, and they even had some unhealthy snacks. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to do something a little different and embraced the spirit of the day.



## Year 2



The Year 2 children have had a lovely half term so far and looked fabulous for Break the Rules Day! The children also loved the Lenten Olympics and enjoyed the sunshine for our sponsored walk where they reflected on what 'Peace' meant to them.

In English, the children have been learning about 'Tadpole's Promise' by Jeanne Willis and made fantastic tadpole collages in art. We have also been focusing on expanded noun phrases, and the children enjoyed reading with expression through Reader's Theatre.



In preparation for the Year 2 Number Check in June, the children will be receiving math's homework on a Tuesday alongside their spellings in their homework folder. It would also be beneficial if your child could access the website Hit the Button, so they further develop their confidence in preparation for their assessment.



Year 2 have had excellent attendance so far this half term, and we have been proud of their hard work so far. Well done Year 2!

### Year 3

Year 3 are very much enjoying reading *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton - we have been looking closely at the thoughts and feelings of each character. We have also been developing our discussion skills by debating whether or not the title should be changed to *The Thieves*.

In Science, we have been investigating how water is transported through a plant. We used food colouring and celery and were amazed by the results. Music is really fun this term because we are making melodies with Boom Whackers!



One of the highlights since returning to school has been the Big Lent Walk and the Lenten Olympics. The children love being outside and having fun with their class. We have decided that we will take the opportunity to go outside for collective worship whenever possible. We also enjoyed breaking the rules last Friday!

We still have lots to look forward to before we break up for half term - including our reward for having the best attendance last term.



### Year 4

Year 4 have worked very hard these last few weeks in all areas of the curriculum and school life. They have worked especially hard on their tables in preparation for the upcoming test in June. Keep this up Year 4, you are blowing us away with your amazing progress. Our 'Times Tables clubs are continuing to run in the mornings and Wednesday lunch times.

The children wrote descriptive story openings on the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and their writing is now proudly displayed in the classroom. We have been working on decimals in Maths and Tourism in Geography which the children really enjoyed.

Well done to everyone who took part in the Lenten Olympics and Break the rules day, both were wonderful and enjoyed by all.

Finally, we will be holding a meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May about our upcoming residential trip to Holy Island where we will provide details of the trip and you can ask any questions you may have.



## Year 5

We've had an action-packed few weeks in year 5! We started this half term with our class residential to Ford Castle. We had a fantastic two nights away with our friends, working well as a team, challenging ourselves and overcoming our fears. The staff were so proud of all of the children.



As part of the National Year of Reading, we visited the library. We learnt how a library works, designed book title emojis and chose our own book to take back to school.



We completed our class CAFOD walk around the school grounds where we walked laps and stopped at different stations reflected about our responsibilities in our world. We enjoyed the activities fundraising in the Lenten Olympics. The tug of war was our favourite!



The children enjoyed Break the Rules Day and we saw a lot of children with coloured hair, tattoos and they enjoyed their unhealthy snack.

Many of our class have taken part in in bikeability sessions from The Cycle Partnership. We experienced so many new skills and how to be safe on the roads in the community.



## Year 6

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard towards their upcoming SATs and the whole school is very proud of them. It hasn't been all hard work though!

The children have taken part in a walk around our beautiful school grounds, stopping at prayer stations to reflect on Jesus' teachings and what we can do to help people. Last week, we also enjoyed Lenten Olympics led by Mr Morris. The highlight of our time since the last newsletter has been Break the Rules Day, with our own clothes, dyed hair and even tattoos!



## Gospel

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - The Advocate whom the Father will send

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'



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

**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 site in Blaydon (NE21 5PT)  
We operate on a pay-what-you-feel basis.

Proof of eligibility drop in sessions to help with paperwork to claim brand new uniform, on 9/5 and 20/6 alongside our usual Saturday markets.

Please check our Facebook page for any changes to market days, including additional summer markets.

**May/June 2026 Markets... ALL AT BLAYDON**

Friday 1st May 3:30pm - 5pm  
Saturday 9th May 9:30am - 11am  
Saturday 16th May 9:30am - 11am  
Monday 25th May 6pm - 7pm  
Friday 5th June 3:30pm - 5pm  
Saturday 13th June 9:30am - 11am  
Saturday 20th June 9:30am - 11am  
Monday 29th June 6pm - 7pm

Enter via THE BACK DOOR of St Cuthbert's Community Hall, Blaydon NE21 5PT, next to the big blue building which is behind Merrisiana.

[www.facebook.com/gatesheadwestprelovedschooluniform](https://www.facebook.com/gatesheadwestprelovedschooluniform)  
<https://www.gatesheadwestuniformscheme.org.uk>  
contact@GatesheadWestUniformScheme.org.uk  
and find us as gwusne on Vinted

**SEND PARENT/CARER Meet-Up**

FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF CHILDREN AT ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, BLAYDON

A friendly space to connect, share & support one another.

Whether you're navigating challenges, seeking advice, or just fancy a chat with people who "get it" - you are warmly welcome here

Share experiences  
Ask questions  
Meet other local parents & carers

LOCATION: Starbucks, Blaydon (OFF-SITE MEET-UP)  
DATE: Friday 22nd May  
TIME: 9:15am

Inclusive & welcoming to all  
No diagnosis needed - if you feel your child may have additional needs, this space is for you.

Come for a coffee, stay for the community  
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE

SUPPORT UNDERSTANDING FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY