



www.stjosephsnorton.bhcet.org.uk

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

NEWSLETTER

'Christ be our Light'



February 2023

Click on the link to view our school curriculum and see what your children are learning.
[St. Joseph's Catholic Academy Curriculum](#)

Dear Families,

Here we are at the half way point in the school year, how has that happened? After an extremely hardworking half term by both our wonderful children and staff, the children have shown that they are making great progress. We have high expectations of all of our children at St. Joseph's and we don't make any apologies for that. We are proud of their achievements year on year, and of the outstanding results they achieve, which place us in the top 20% of schools nationally!

As you know, we are a one and a half form entry school at St. Joseph's – this has always been the case and we are experts at running the school this way. 40 pupils are admitted into our extremely popular school each year. We place the children in their classes in chronological order, and always have. We don't ever set classes based on ability or friendships – both can change in a heartbeat. The tried and tested fairest way to set the class, is on age. There can be the very odd exception to this if a child has high special educational needs, but we would always try wherever possible to keep every child with their peer group and adapt our teaching.

At St Joseph's we have year group end points in place for every subject we teach – this means that each year group has a set of learning outcomes that need to be covered by the end of the year. Regardless of whether your child is in a pure year group or a split year group, they are all taught the same objectives for their year group: this will often be through a different genre or topic.

We have the most amazing enrichment programme at St. Joseph's, and provide our children with a vast amount of wider opportunities. Enrichment runs through the curriculum and lessons are made exciting. The children are taught about e.g. careers, mental health, safeguarding, financial capability, and Fundamental British values, in discreet lessons. Our PSHE curriculum is extensive and we are extremely proud of our offer. Please have a look [St Joseph's PSHE/RSE Curriculum](#) The wider opportunities we offer our children support their personal development as we strive to help them to 'write the chapters of their life story', one of the key drivers for our curriculum. All classes receive the same amount of opportunities. They may visit different places, at different times of the year but every child, and every class has the same core offer of school trips. Sporting activities are offered through Stockton Sports partnership – they dictate which year group competitions/training will take place. We hope you are as proud as we are of the amazing deal our children get in comparison to other children locally [Personal Development | St Joseph's Catholic Academy Norton \(bhcet.org.uk\)](#).

Please use our fabulous website for information about your child's school life at St. Joseph's and all that we offer. We have parents tab for practical information, alongside information about Our Faith and Curriculum.

Our door is always open. If you have any questions, please ask. Have a wonderful half term,
Mrs Dowson

Turkey & Syria Earthquake Appeal

We are proud that a number of children have come to us to ask what we can do as a school to support those tragically affected by the earthquake last week. They have decided that they would like to have a non uniform day where they bring donations in to send to DEC, which is co-ordinating a joint rapid response by 14 charities including CAFOD. Children are therefore invited to come into school in non-uniform on **Friday 17th February** with their donations for the appeal. Should you wish to make a further donation please use the link: <https://cafod.org.uk/?form=syriaturkeyearthquake>



Premises and Grounds Update

The soft play surfacing has been laid around our pirate ship, which will be ready to use when we return after half term. The outdoor classroom extension is complete, just a few snags to sort out. The next step is to lay the soft play surface on the EYFS ramp and playground, before finally having the landscaping done. The original grassed area will be extended and returfed, with new hedging planted along the full length of the perimeter fencing. Exciting times!



Numbers Club

1234567890

Please contact the school office to sign up! The more members the bigger the prize draw. All profits go into the school fund so that we can continue our vision to give our pupils the best experiences at St. Joseph's.

Book Fair

The Book fair will be in school from Monday 27th February to Thursday 2nd March. The book fair is open for you to visit each morning after drop off and each afternoon at pick up time. We accept cash only for the Book fair. The children can also use World Book Day vouchers at the fair



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! February

Aoife R
Buddy C
Lottie WH
James O
Emily C
Ethan C
Teddy B
Darcy H
Ava McC
Jasmine M
Eva R
Reece D
Archie K
Jack F
Nathan C
Hugo ST
Luca H
Alfie C
Daniel C
Effie R
Ted R
Wren B
Ethan T
Emmie D
Isla P
Lucia T
Freddie T
Florence C
Henry H
Alexa N

Dates for the Diary (please check MyEd for reminders)

13th February – Class 9 Swimming
14th – 16th February – Year 6 Bikeability
14th February – Class 7 Racket Skills
16th February – KS1 Mass 9.30am
17th February – Non-Uniform Day – Turkey & Syria Appeal
17th February – Break up for Half Term
27th February – Return to school
27th February – Book Fair in school until Thursday
28th February – Fair Trade Coffee Morning 9am

Strike Days

As unions continue to work with central government, we are scheduled to have further strike days in the second half of the spring term. The dates of these are:

Tuesday 28th February
Wednesday and Thursday 15th & 16th March.

School will be open as usual on Tuesday 28th February. We will inform you of any possible disruption to the school for further dates once we are aware of any

Lent

We will be supporting the CAFOD charity during Lent this year with the Big Lent Walk. Starting at half-term we would like to invite children and their families to join St. Joseph's Lenten challenge around the Diocese in 40 days.

We will be hosting a range of Lenten activities including daily reflections for staff and pupils, prayer stations and liturgical prayers, we will also be hosting an organised liturgical prayer for our families to attend one evening, more information to follow.

PE Days

C2	Wednesday	C7	Monday Wednesday
C3	Tuesday	C8	Monday Wednesday
C4	Tuesday	C9	Monday Wednesday
C5	Tuesday	C10	Wednesday Friday
C6	Monday & Wednesday	C11	Wednesday Friday

Attendance

Your children attend school for 190 days out of 365 in the year. This leaves 175 days a year for holidays. Please book your holidays during these 175 days – all holiday requests will be unauthorised and may result in a fine from the local authority.

Class	Overall attendance % this term
2	86.3%
3	95.9%
4	96.8%
5	94.9%
6	94.4%
7	96.2%
8	95.8%
9	94.7%
10	95.9%
11	96.6%
Total	94.2%

Well done to class 4 with an amazing 96.8% Let's see if we can reach our school target of 97% this term.

Safeguarding

Building cyber resilience at home

10 WAYS GAMING CAN SUPPORT POSITIVE OUTCOMES in Children and Young People

Gaming, of course, is phenomenally popular with children and young people. In 2021, for instance, more than three-quarters of teenagers played online games, with almost 70% of primary school aged children doing likewise. Engaged in moderation and supported by a healthy routine (staying hydrated, good sleep habits, taking breaks and so on), gaming can actually benefit a person's mental health. As long as we stay alert for potential risks, games can be much more than what we see on the surface: they can be a way to socialise, an avenue for creativity and a route to solving problems. Check out our top ten tips on how gaming online can sometimes work to your child's advantage.

THE FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

Gaming can be a great way to feel good. It can be a way to relax, to unwind, to have fun. It can be a way to feel like you're part of something bigger than yourself. It can be a way to feel like you're achieving something. It can be a way to feel like you're making a difference. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a team. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a community. It can be a way to feel like you're part of something special.

ACHIEVEMENT & PRIDE

Gaming can be a great way to feel like you've achieved something. It can be a way to feel like you've overcome a challenge. It can be a way to feel like you've won a competition. It can be a way to feel like you've made a difference. It can be a way to feel like you've part of a team. It can be a way to feel like you've part of a community. It can be a way to feel like you've part of something special.

SOCIAL SALVATION

Gaming can be a great way to feel like you're part of something bigger than yourself. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a team. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a community. It can be a way to feel like you're part of something special.

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

Gaming can be a great way to feel like you're part of a team. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a community. It can be a way to feel like you're part of something special.

REAL-WORLD RELATABILITY

Gaming can be a great way to feel like you're part of something bigger than yourself. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a team. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a community. It can be a way to feel like you're part of something special.

A DIGITAL COMFORT

Gaming can be a great way to feel like you're part of something bigger than yourself. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a team. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a community. It can be a way to feel like you're part of something special.

PROBLEM-SOLVING PRACTICE

Gaming can be a great way to feel like you're part of something bigger than yourself. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a team. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a community. It can be a way to feel like you're part of something special.

THE GREAT ESCAPISM

Gaming can be a great way to feel like you're part of something bigger than yourself. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a team. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a community. It can be a way to feel like you're part of something special.

TRIED & TRUSTED

Gaming can be a great way to feel like you're part of something bigger than yourself. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a team. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a community. It can be a way to feel like you're part of something special.

ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY

Gaming can be a great way to feel like you're part of something bigger than yourself. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a team. It can be a way to feel like you're part of a community. It can be a way to feel like you're part of something special.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Sarah Johnson is a leading expert in the field of child psychology and gaming. She has been working in the field for over 10 years and has helped many children and young people overcome their gaming addiction. She is a member of the British Psychological Society and has published several papers on the topic of gaming and mental health.

National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety

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In the guide you'll find a number of potential benefits including a sense of achievement, learning about teamwork and encouraging creativity.