



6<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Spring Term 2

Dear Parents, Carers, and Families,

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back as we begin the second half of the Spring Term. I hope you all enjoyed a restful and happy half-term break. As we move forward together through this Lenten season, I guarantee we will be supporting every child to excel and feel loved within our school community.

### **Looking Back at Last Half Term**

We enjoyed so many special moments together. I love being the Head Teacher of St Joseph's—our children are hardworking, well-behaved, and fun-loving.

**Year 6** have been working incredibly hard in preparation for their end-of-year SATs.

**Year 5** have enjoyed their English lessons on the Giant's Causeway and have been writing at length very effectively.

**Year 4** had a fantastic residential visit to the Youth Village in Consett, returning with wonderful memories and new friendships. We look forward to celebrating with them on Thursday evening at 6.00pm as they receive the Sacrament of Confession.

**Year 3** have begun exploring exciting new topics in Poetry and Geography—Our Place in the World—with great curiosity and enthusiasm.

**Year 2** are beginning to write in a cursive style with the most beautiful handwriting.

**Year 1** are working incredibly hard as they prepare to meet their age-related expectations in phonics and early reading.

Across the school—**from Nursery and Reception** upwards—the children have begun Lent by sharing their Lenten bags. Our youngest children have made a beautiful start to their Lenten journey, talking about kindness, making thoughtful promises, and learning simple ways to show love to others. It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm, gentleness, and understanding at such a young age.

### **Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday**

We enjoyed a wonderful end to the half term. On Shrove Tuesday, our amazing catering team served 250 pancakes—the hall was filled with happy faces and sticky smiles! On Ash Wednesday, our Year 5 and 6 children attended a beautiful parish Mass, while the rest of the school gathered for a reflective liturgy. Every child received ashes—a meaningful start to Lent. We are incredibly proud of the reverence and maturity shown by all our pupils.

### **World Book Day**

The whole school has been buzzing with excitement as we celebrated World Book Day this week. This year, our theme is inspired by the much-loved story *Aliens Love Underpants*. Classrooms have been filled with reading, creativity, and imagination. We thoroughly enjoyed the children's and staff enthusiasm as we celebrated stories and the joy of reading together. We are so proud of the effort, commitment, and joy our children show every single day.

### **Website and Termly Overview**

Our updated termly overview is attached for you to view. We have been working hard to improve our school website so that it is more user-friendly, useful, and accurate. We will continue to update the school diary regularly. You will still receive reminders on Facebook,

and we will always aim to give plenty of notice for key events. A 2026/27 term-time list is also available on the website.

### **Parents' Evening – Tuesday 24th March**

Last term's Parents' Evening was extremely well attended, with almost every family taking part. The feedback about the changes we introduced was very positive, so we will continue with the same format:

- Childcare provided
- Children in Years 4–6 welcome to attend with parents
- A relaxed atmosphere in the hall
- Opportunities to view children's work
- All year groups located together in one space

As I have informed you before and to ensure everyone has enough time with class teachers—and to ensure the evening finishes at a reasonable hour—Parents' Evening will begin at 2.15pm.

#### **Tuesday 24th March**

**School closes: 2.00pm (one day only)**

Appointment slots will be released early next week. Please book your slot on Arbor.

### **School Uniform**

We would like to tighten up on school uniform expectations. Recently, we have noticed an increase in trainers being worn and brightly coloured sports kits replacing PE uniform.

A few reminders:

1. No jewellery (including earrings, bracelets, or necklaces)
2. Children may wear a watch, but not a smart watch
3. No makeup or nail varnish
4. Children may wear their PE kits on PE days (plain white T-shirt, not football colours)
5. School shoes must be worn inside the building

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

At St Joseph's, every school day counts. Strong attendance and punctuality help children build friendships, develop confidence, and make consistent academic progress. We have robust procedures to support families where attendance or punctuality is a challenge—please reach out if we can help. A reminder that term-time holidays cannot be authorised. Even short absences can disrupt learning. Our attendance remains excellent and continues to improve. It currently stands at 97.1%, well above the national average.

### **REMINDER: End of Term – Wednesday 2nd April**

Our final day of the Easter term is Wednesday 2nd April. In line with our Trust family of schools, the school day will finish at 1.00pm.

### **St Joseph's Day Celebrations**

We are deeply proud of our school community and of St Joseph, our patron saint—a model of kindness, patience, and quiet strength. To celebrate St Joseph's Day, we will enjoy:

A Mass of celebration

A Lenten walk (approximately one mile) **PLEASE VOLUNTEER**

A picnic lunch - an ice-cream treat for the children

We do need parental support, so if you are free, we would be very grateful.

### **Looking Ahead**

You will notice that we have moved the class liturgy slightly earlier in our final week—from 9.15am to 9.05am—to reduce waiting time. I hope this helps.

There is so much to look forward to this half term—new learning, enrichment opportunities, sporting events, and many chances to celebrate the unique gifts each child brings to our school. As always, I am incredibly proud of our

pupils and deeply grateful for your continued support, trust, and partnership.

Wishing you all a great half term ahead.

Nick Conway

Date	Time	Year Group	Event
5 <sup>th</sup> March	6pm	Y4 and KS2 CHOIR	Sacrament of Reconciliation @ St Joseph's Church
11 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am	Y3	Y3 Mass
19 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30	ALL	St Joseph's Day Mass followed by Lenten Walk and picnic – more details to follow
24 <sup>th</sup> March	2pm	ALL	NOTE SCHOOL EARLY CLOSURE DUE TO PARENTS EVENING
24 <sup>th</sup> March	2.15-5.30pm	ALL	Teacher / Parental Consultations –childcare provided
27 <sup>th</sup> March	9.05	Y2	Y2 Celebration of the Word - note earlier time
31 <sup>st</sup> March	9.05	Y3	Y3 Celebration of the Word - note earlier time
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	9.05	Y5	Y5 Celebration of the Word - note earlier time
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	10.30	ALL	St Joseph's East Bonnet Fun Run – prizes best hat
	1.00	ALL	End of Spring term, break up