



Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust



Week Commencing 14th September 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and the Wider Community,

Welcome back to a brand-new school year at **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**. I hope you enjoyed a joyful and restful summer break. Our school has returned full of energy, laughter and enthusiasm for learning. A particularly warm welcome goes to all our new children, families and staff. We are delighted to have you with us and look forward to sharing many great experiences together over the coming year.

Hope

As a Catholic school within the Parish of St Joseph's and as part of **Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust**, we begin this year with hearts full of hope. Our mission is to nurture every child spiritually, academically and emotionally. This term, our Gospel Value focus is **Hope**. Throughout the coming weeks, children will explore what it means to show kindness, empathy and understanding towards others, within school and in the wider world.

First Holy Communion

We are looking forward to strengthening the excellent links between school and **St Joseph's Parish**. By working together in partnership, we can support one another in helping our children grow in faith.

Any Year 4 child wishing to make their **First Holy Communion** this year should attend Sunday Mass and register their interest with the school office. Please ensure this is completed by the end of September.

A Positive Start to the Year

We have been extremely impressed by how quickly the children have settled back into positive learning routines. Our pupils are focused, purposeful and enthusiastic. Lessons are engaging and productive, and it is clear to see that children are working hard, achieving well and enjoying their school day. There is a sense of pride throughout the school, and it is evident that children and staff genuinely enjoy being part of St Joseph's family.

A Few Introductions

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new members of staff. We have successfully appointed excellent teachers and teaching assistant who are making a positive contribution to school life.

We are delighted to welcome:

- **Miss Bowens** - Nursery Teaching Assistant
- **Miss Dobbing** - Year 1 Teacher
- **Mrs Patterson** - Year 6 Teacher
- **Miss Dixon** - who has joined our team full-time
- **Mr Ferriday** - who begins his career as a class teacher

We wish all our new colleagues every success as they begin their journey with us.

Mr Conway remains absent from school in the meantime, I am proud to be serving as Interim Head Teacher and to be leading our wonderful community.

Attendance and Punctuality

At St Joseph's, we believe that every school day counts. Each day represents a precious opportunity for children to grow, learn and flourish.

Strong attendance and punctuality are essential for building friendships, developing confidence and making consistent academic progress. We have robust procedures in place to support children and families where attendance or punctuality may be a concern, and we encourage parents to contact us if we can help in any way.

We would also like to remind families that term-time holidays will not be authorised. Even short periods of absence can have a significant impact on a child's learning, progress and sense of belonging within the classroom.

Breakfast Club

No Booking Required – Just Come Along and Start the Day Well!

We are delighted to welcome children back to our Breakfast Club, which runs every school day from **8am until 8.45am**.

It is the perfect way to begin the morning, providing a healthy breakfast, a warm welcome and opportunities for children to relax, socialise and play before the school day begins.

- **8.00am - 8.15am:** Paid Session
- **8.15am - 8.45am:** Free Session for All Pupils

Future Dates

Please see the draft calendar of key dates and events attached so that families can add them to their diaries. Going forward, we will write to you twice each half term to keep you updated with school news, celebrations and important information.

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening is traditionally extremely well attended, with almost every family taking part. We are pleased to confirm the following arrangements:

- Children in **Years 4 to 6** are welcome to attend alongside their parents and carers.
- There will be a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere in the hall, with year groups located together.
- Parents will have the opportunity to view their children's work and celebrate their achievements.

To ensure the evening finishes at a reasonable time while still allowing families sufficient opportunity to meet with class teachers, Parents' Evening will begin at **2.15pm**. To facilitate this, the school day will finish at **2.00pm** on one day only, in line with arrangements last year. **Date:** Monday 9 November 2026

Please make arrangements to collect your child promptly at **2.00pm** on this day.

Looking Ahead

I look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks. I know it is going to be a fantastic year and I am excited about all that we can achieve together for the children of St Joseph's.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, encouragement and partnership.

Mrs Toward

Interim Head Teacher

September

Tuesday 22nd September – **Year 3 Celebration of the word @2:30pm**

Wednesday 23rd September – **Whole school mass @9:30am**

Friday 25th September – **Macmillan Coffee morning, Pupils**

Wednesday 30th Sept - **Year 1 and Year 5 mass @9:30am**

October

Friday 2nd October – **Reception and Year 6 buddy assembly @2:00pm**

Friday 9th October – **Year 4 Celebration of the world @ 2:30pm**

Wednesday 14th October - **Year 2 and Year 6 mass – @9:30am**

Wednesday 21st – 23rd **October – Year 6 Derwent hill**

Friday 23rd October – **Year 1 Celebration of the word @2:30 pm**

Friday 23rd October - **Half term break up @3:20pm**

November

Monday 9th November - **parents evening @2:15pm**

Wednesday 11th November - **Year 3 and Year 4 mass @9:30am**

Monday 16th November - **Odd socks day**

Friday 27th November – **Year 5 Celebration of the word @ 2:30pm**

December

Monday 14th December - **Christmas lunch and jumper day**

Tuesday 15th December - **Nursery nativity @ 9:30am**

Wednesday 16th December - **KS1 and Reception nativity @2:15pm**

Thursday 17th December - **KS2 carol service 9:30am**

Thursday 17th - **Nursery Nativity @ 2:30pm**

Friday 18th December – **Christmas Party day and Close for Christmas@1:00pm**

*** Our Nursery Nativity performances will be split across two days according to your child's attendance group. Children who attend at the beginning of the week will perform on Tuesday 15th December, while children who attend at the end of the week will perform on Thursday 17th December. Your child's usual attendance pattern will determine which performance group they are in. Further details will be shared closer to the date.***

