

**St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School**

# **Spring 1**

# **Newsletter**



**[www.stjosephscoundon.bhcet.org.uk](http://www.stjosephscoundon.bhcet.org.uk)**



## **A Message from Mrs Gibson-Crone**

Welcome back to school after what we all hope was a joyful and restful Christmas. Autumn of 2024 was a wonderful term here at St. Joseph's with a lot to celebrate and be proud of as our school continues to go from strength to strength. A brand-new year brings with it so much hope and possibility, and we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a 2025 filled with happiness, good health and love. We give thanks to a new year ahead and ask for guidance, strength and courage in helping to fill the days and months to come with good memories, laughter and learning.

Please follow our Facebook page as we upload reminders and photos, please keep an eye on our website as we continue to update it and please ensure your notifications are turned on for MCAS as this is our main communication platform.

Thank you so much for your continued support

Mrs Gibson-Crone



## Christmas Time at St. Joseph's

Our Christmas events were a huge success. Thank you for joining us for our nativities, tableaux and Christmas crafts. We would also like to thank you for your generosity as we raise over £1000 from the Fun Run and the Christmas Raffle. Here are some pictures of Christmas time.

Regular pictures are posted onto our Facebook page – St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Coundon.



## Dates for the Diary So Far

Please check MCAS for reminders or more information closer the time of these dates. **Events that involve parents/carers are highlighted.**

January	
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Welcome Back!
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Mini Police Session 1 for Year 5
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 1/2 Maths Café with Durham Learn in the School Hall 9.00 – 11.00 am First Holy Communion Prep Session in School – Children Only
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Mass in Church at 9.30
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 3/4 Maths Café with Durham Learn in the School Hall 9.00 – 11.00 am First Holy Communion Prep Session for Children and Parents/Carers in Church with Sister Anna
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> January	Mini Police Session 2 for Year 5
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 5/6 Maths Café with Durham Learn in the School Hall 9.00 – 11.00 am
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Mini Police Session 3 for Year 5
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Early Years Stay and Pray at 9.00am
February	
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Children's Mental Health Week – Rainbow Day – Children are invited to wear their brightest clothes and bring in £1 First Holy Communion Prep Session in School – Children Only
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Brewing Better Minds Coffee Morning from 9.00am in the hall
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> February	National Story Telling Week
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Mass in Church at 9.30
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 1/2 Stay and Pray
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> February	First Holy Communion Prep Session in School for Children and Parents/Carers in Church with Sister Anna
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3/4 Stay and Pray at 9.00am
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5/6 Stay and Pray at 9.00am Last Day for Children
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	School Closed – PD Day for Staff
March	
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Welcome Back to school for Spring 2!
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Start of Lent!
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day! – More information to follow
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> March	First Holy Communion Prep Session in School – Children Only
From Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> March	SEN Support Plan Meetings – Teachers will contact you
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> March	St Joseph's Day Celebrations Mass in Church 9.30
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> March	First Holy Communion Prep Session in School for Children and Parents/Carers in Church with Sister Anna
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5/6 Trip to the Life Centre in Newcastle
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> and Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Parents Evening – A message will be sent when bookings are live on MCAS

## **Thank You and Goodbye!**

### **Mrs Ann Gregg**

Mrs Gregg has decided to retire from her role as Chair of Governors. On behalf of the entire school community, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs Gregg for her unwavering dedication to the mission and values of our Catholic school, always putting the needs of our children, staff and families at the heart of her work.

Her leadership, wisdom, and tireless support have played a crucial role in shaping the direction of our school and ensuring a nurturing, faith-filled environment for all. We are deeply thankful for her selflessness and the many hours she has devoted to supporting the school's growth and development.

As Ann enjoys her retirement, we want to take this moment to acknowledge her invaluable contribution and express our sincere appreciation for all that she has done. We pray that God continues to bless her in all her future endeavours and we look forward to still seeing her around school.

### **Mrs McGuiness**

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Mrs McGuiness who has decided to retire and focus on her health and family. Over the years, Mrs McGuiness has been a dedicated and caring member of our school community, providing invaluable support to both pupils and staff. Her kindness, patience, and commitment have made a lasting impact on everyone she has worked with.

While we will miss her, we fully support her decision to prioritise her well-being and family. We wish her all the best in this next chapter of her life and are deeply thankful for the time and energy she has devoted to our school.

## Starbooks

Thank you to everyone who attended Starbooks.



It was a great opportunity for your child to show you how well they were coming on with their reading. Our next Starbooks sessions will be held in Spring 2.

If you have any suggestions of how Starbooks could be improved, please let us know.

## Reading is a Treasure

Everyone has been trying really hard to read more at home and in school and our treasure chests are full every week. So far, classes with the most coins have been rewarded with ice lollies, books for their reading areas, cookies and extra playtimes! Please read with your child at home, it only has to be 5 minutes.

The poster has a light pink background. At the top, the words "READING IS A TREASURE" are written in a playful, hand-drawn font. Below the text is an illustration of an open wooden treasure chest filled with gold coins. Surrounding the chest and text are various illustrations of books, some open and some closed, and decorative swirls. At the bottom, there are three lines of text explaining the program, followed by a small illustration of a ribbon or prize tag.

**READING IS A TREASURE**

Each time you read at home or in school, you will get a gold coin to put into your class treasure chest.

To get a gold coin, you must have an adult's signature or comment in your reading record!

The class and child with the most coins will be given a prize!



### St Joseph's Journey to 100%

We are making a strong effort to improve attendance, as our current absence rates are above the national average. Missed hours and days in school leads to missed learning and poorer outcomes, both academically and socially.

Please see Miss Harrison if you require any information regarding the latest changes with national and regional attendance legislation.

#### Each Week

The class with the best attendance will be awarded £10 or £20 to go into their piggy bank. There will also be spot prizes for the least late marks and most improved. Classes can save up their money and then collectively decide what they would like to spend their money on from our Attendance Menu.

#### Each Half Term

The class with the best attendance for the half term will be awarded additional money for their piggy bank.

Each child with 100% attendance will receive a special certificate and a prize.

#### Each Term

The class with the best attendance for the term will receive a certificate and an attendance badge.

Bronze for a term of 100% attendance

Silver for two terms of 100% attendance

Gold for three term of 100% attendance

If we are concerned about your child's attendance, these are the steps we follow:

Phone call from Miss Harrison or Headteacher to raise concerns

A letter sent outlining concerns

A formal meeting with Headteacher and Attendance Lead/PSA

Referral to Durham Local Authority for legal intervention

**If your child is not in school and you have not contacted with us, we will phone the numbers that are listed on our system. For safeguarding and welfare reasons, if we cannot contact anyone, we will conduct a home visit.**

## Our Vision and Mission

**We would like to share with you our vision and mission we have been developing over the past term.**

At St. Joseph's, we strive to be a happy, inclusive environment where all children feel loved, nurtured and equipped to achieve. Christ is at the centre, and our school reflects His love, fostering faith, character, and academic growth. Recognising everyone as a child of God, we encourage them to embrace their unique gifts with confidence and make the most of every opportunity. As a beacon of Christ's light within Coundon and the Bishop Hogarth, we guide our children to be *resilient*, *responsible*, and *compassionate* individuals who understand their place in the world and are ready to make a positive impact within and beyond their community.

Through a curriculum focussed on equity, excellence, and meaningful opportunities, we equip our children with the virtues, values and skills for success at St. Joseph's and beyond, empowering them to aspire high, pursue their dreams and go into the world to let the light of Christ shine from within them, so they are ready to stand shoulder to shoulder with others they meet.

We want every St. Joseph's child to flourish and to do that we want them to know:



### **I Can Achieve**

Each child in our care can achieve anything they put their mind to and can be anything they want to be. With an ambitious curriculum focussed on excellence, with encouragement, and through a nurturing environment, we inspire them to strive for success, dream big and realise their full potential.



### **I Can Take Opportunities**

We empower children to seize opportunities given to them. We help them explore new experiences, develop their talents, and build confidence in their abilities.



### **I Am a Child of God**

We instil in every child a sense of belonging and purpose, reminding them that they are loved exactly how God created them and have a duty to live out our Character Virtues and Gospel Values. This understanding fosters a spirit of compassion and respect for themselves and others.



### **I Belong to God's World**

We encourage children to recognise they belong to a world beyond the place where they live that they can explore but have a responsibility to care for. By teaching them about diversity and the importance of responsibility as God's children, we help them appreciate their connections to others and inspire them to make a positive impact in the world around them.

## Uniform and PE Kits

Thank you to everyone who is supporting our uniform policy, our children are looking incredibly smart. We are committed to ensuring that our children take pride in their appearance; our uniform is a representation of the high expectations we uphold and it reflects our sense of unity as one family.

**PE Kits and Clubs:** PE kits are only to be worn on designated PE days. If your child attends an afterschool club which is not on their PE day, they are to wear their uniform and may bring a change of shoes in a bag for club.

**Branded Clothing:** We have noticed a small number of children wearing branded tracksuits, which does not comply with our uniform policy. Please ensure your child wears a plain navy blue or plain black jogger suit/shorts, along with a plain white t-shirt or polo top. School jumpers and cardigans can be worn. Please note that grey or other colours are not part of our uniform.

### PE Days – Please note the following changes

The days for PE during Spring 1 are as follows:

**EYFS** - Monday & Friday

**Year 1 & 2** – Monday & Tuesday

**Year 3 & 4** – Tuesday & Friday (Swimming but children are still to wear full uniform)

**Year 5 & 6** – Monday & Tuesday

**Hair, Earrings, Nails and Make Up:** Hair should be tied back in a bobble. Earrings and makeup are not permitted in school. Your child will be asked to remove their earrings which will be returned at the end of the day. They will also be asked to remove any makeup. Nail varnish or false nails is not allowed.

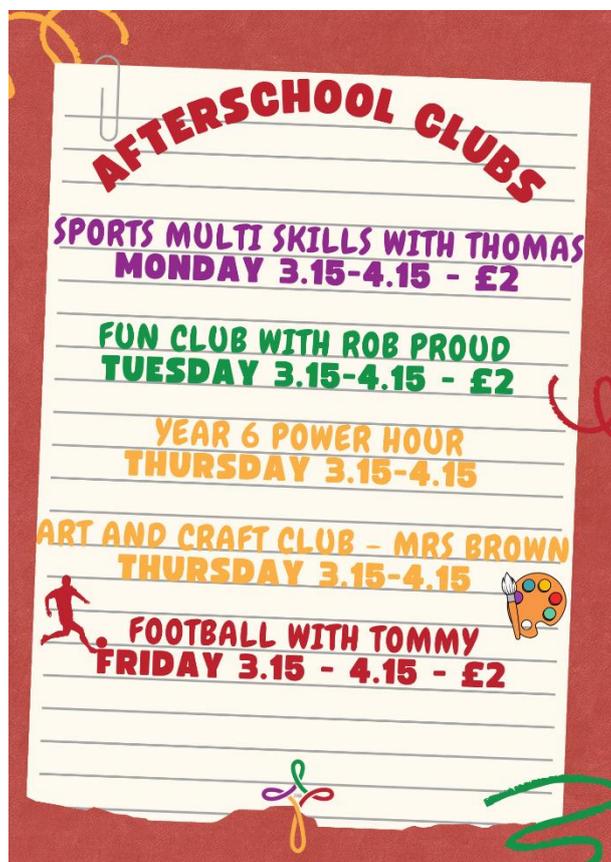
**Trainers:** Coloured trainers, or trainers with white soles/logos are not permitted. Any trainers worn must be completely black – black soles, laces, logos etc.

**Crocs:** Crocs are not permitted in school under any circumstances. They are not a part of our uniform policy and are not safe to wear in and around school. If your child comes to school wearing crocs, you will be asked to bring shoes into school.

# St. Joseph's Journey Beyond the Classroom

## Our Enrichment Offer

Clubs start from 13<sup>th</sup> February



## Maths Cafes

### MATHS CAFES

Multiply Champions will be in school this half term to host a Maths Cafe for each class! They have a range of fun activities and games for you to play with your child. All activities are linked to what your child is learning in school which will help you to support them with maths homework.

Attend a Maths Cafe and receive a FREE £20 Asda voucher  
T&C's apply  
Please bring along ID.

The Maths Cafe will run from 9.00am till 11.00am.

Please enter via the office.

Tea and Coffee will be available throughout the workshop

Monday 13th January - Year 1 and 2 - Mrs Watson  
Monday 20th January - Year 3 and 4 - Miss Dove  
Monday 27th January - Year 5 and 6 - Mr Hayler

Funded by UK Government **Multiply LEARN** anytime, anywhere

## Keeping in Touch

We aim to keep you informed with everything happening in school. This is how we communicate:

- **Half Termly Newsletter** from Mrs Gibson-Crone
- **Class Termly Newsletter** from class teachers
- **My Child at School App** – MCAS
- **Evidence Me** – EYFS only
- **Letters**
- **Conversations and Phone Calls**
- **Face to Face Meetings, including Parents Evenings**
- **Reading Records**
- **Facebook** – St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Coundon
- **Website** – [www.stjosephscoundon.bhcet.org.uk](http://www.stjosephscoundon.bhcet.org.uk)



If you need to arrange a phone call or meeting with a member of our staff, please contact the office or send a message/email. Teaching staff will reach out to you before or after the teaching day, while other members, such as Mrs Gibson-Crone and Miss Harrison, will respond as soon as they can. If your query is regarding friendship concerns or questions regarding work and your child's progress, please speak to the class teacher in the first instance.

## My Child at School App

Thank you to everyone who has an MCAS account.

Please ensure your notifications are turned on as this is our primary method of communication.

Please can any outstanding balances be paid promptly.

AT ST. JOSEPH'S,  
WE ARE...

Respectful

Responsible

Compassionate

Safe

YOU ARE GOD'S CHILDREN...  
LET THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINE BRIGHT

## OUR SAFEGUARDING & WELLBEING TEAM



**Mrs Gibson-Crone**  
Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Headteacher  
SENCO



**Miss Harrison**  
Deputy Safeguarding Lead  
Wellbeing Lead  
Parent Support



**Miss Dove**  
Deputy Safeguarding Lead  
Deputy Headteacher

## 5 STEP PLAN

Reminder

Warning

Withdrawal of Privileges

Complete Loss of Play/Lunch &  
Visit to the Headteacher

Parents Informed &  
Behaviour Recorded

SIT UP STRAIGHT

ACTIVE LISTENING

INTERACT

NEVER INTERRUPT

TRACK THE SPEAKER