

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

# **Spring 2**

# **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 restful half term. Spring is now here and we are half way through the academic year. It is the start of brighter mornings and more sunshine on an evening. We are excited for the field to dry out and we can now take our learning outside!

All of our children are continuing to work extremely hard, including our Year 6 pupils who are preparing for their end of primary school assessments in May. They are showing increased dedication to their learning – keep it up!

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





## Spring 1 Round Up!

Remember, 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 red

March	
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Start of Lent! Year 1 – Year 6 attending Mass at 10.30
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day! Children are invited to wear pyjamas or dress as their favourite book character. Hot chocolate and cookies will be available to purchase for £1 at breaktime.
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> March	First Holy Communion Prep Session in School – Children Only
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening appointments open on MCAS
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Fair is delivered and will be available every morning during breakfast club and after school until 3.45pm.
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> March	EYFS Starbooks at 2.30pm – You can take your child home early.
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 Tree Planting – Children should wear PE kits, and bring wellies/a change of shoes with them along with a warm coat.
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Urban Chaos Dance Group visit us – All children should wear PE kits.
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day to come to the Book Fair!
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	SEN Support Plan Meetings – Teachers will contact you to arrange an appointment during this week.
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3/4 Tennis Festival at Bishop Barrington – children need to wear their PE kits.
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Y1/2 Starbooks at 2.30pm – You can take your child home early.
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> March	St Joseph's Day Celebrations! Mass in Church at 9.30
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Careers Week
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> March	First Holy Communion Prep Session 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 – Children should come to school in their uniform. They will be back at school for home time.  Year 3/4 Starbooks at 2.30pm – You can take your child home early.
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Brewing Better Minds Coffee Morning at 9.00am – SEN and Wellbeing focus – Come along for a hot drink and chat to our school support team as well as our pupil Safeguarding Squad. There will be chance to speak to the SENCO and our Wellbeing lead/Parent Support.  Cricket Day for all classes – All children should wear PE kits.
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> and Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Parents Evening in the hall
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Egg Competition! Children are invited to decorate a hard-boiled egg and enter it into our whole school competition.
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> April	First Holy Communion Prep Session in school for children only
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 Trip to St. John's – Children should bring a packed lunch and come in their uniform.  Year 5/6 Starbooks at 2.30pm – You can take your child home early.
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Pilgrims of Hope Creative Afternoon – Starting at 2pm, parents and carers are invited to join us in class and take part in art activities and create a class Holy Door to celebrate the Pilgrims of Hope year. Don't worry if you have children in different classes as you can go between the classes.
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Last Day of School Easter Egg winners announced!

## Key Reminders for Parents/Carers

### Vaping/Smoking

Vaping and smoking are not permitted on the school premises. Please refrain from using them until you have left our ground.

### Dogs

Dogs are not to be brought into the school grounds, including on the path coming into school.

### Cars

Cars are not to enter through the double gates, unless you have a blue badge which has been shown to the office. It is not a car park or a turning point. The main gates will soon be getting locked throughout the day and will only be accessible via the intercom which is being fixed soon.

Please also be mindful where you are parking during morning and home time drop offs as we have had some complaints from the residents who live close by.

## Early Years

### Nappies, Wipes and Sacks

From this half term, we will no longer be supplying wipes and nappy sacks for those are still in nappies. Please ensure you send your child with a bag containing a supply of nappies, wipes and nappy sacks.

If you need any support with toilet training your child, please let us know or alternatively, contact the Family Hub service who will be able to support

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/FamilyHubs>

We want all of our children attending Nursery and Early Years to be toilet trained as soon as possible. This will allow our staff more time to deliver key interventions and support with learning.

## 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 are shown below and we will be trying a new time of 2.30pm. If you attend with your child, you will be able to take your child home early.

## STARBOOKS



2.30pm - 3.00pm

Wednesday 12th March - Class 1  
Wednesday 19th March - Class 2  
Wednesday 26th March - Class 3  
Wednesday 9th April - Class 4



Enter through the office and head to the hall for a cup of coffee whilst listening to your child read.

Children will be allowed to go home early if a parent/carer attends.



## 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!



We continue to encourage reading at home, and this only has to be 5 minutes per day. Please continue to support and sign your child's reading record so they are awarded gold coins and star prizes!



### St Joseph's Journey to 100%

Thank you to all of you who attended the attendance meetings over the last half term. It was really helpful to discuss your child's attendance and agree next steps.

We are making a strong effort to improve attendance, as our current absence rates are still 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 you are ever unable to attend a meeting, please let us know.

## Our Vision and Mission

**We would like to share with you our vision and mission we continue to develop.**

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 & Wednesday

**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.

## Online Learning Platforms

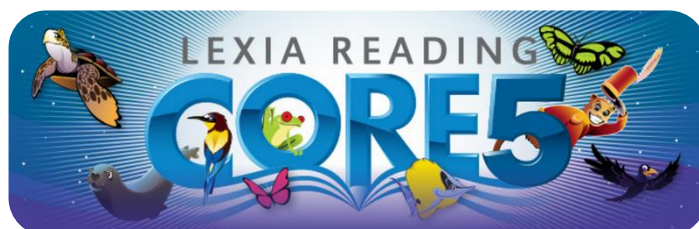
### Lexia

Your child now has a Lexia log in which they can access at home. It is an online platform that accelerate reading/literacy skills development through fun and interactive games, that can be used alongside traditional one to one reading with your child.

Their engagement is tracked by their class teacher.

You can access the website/app by googling Lexia Core 5. <https://www.lexiacore5.com/>

We strongly encourage all children to access this at least 3 times per week at home.



### Times Table Rock Stars

All children from Year 1 to Year 6 have a Times Table Rockstar log in which is an online maths programme that helps develop rapid recall of times tables, which are vital throughout education and life. Children can create their own avatar and compete against friends and other classes.

<https://trockstars.com/>



## 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 so they do not accumulate. If you have outstanding balances, you may not be able to access the additional services provided by school.**

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