

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Summer Newsletter



www.stjosephscoundon.bhcet.org.uk



A Message from Mrs Gibson-Crone

It is hard to believe we are rapidly approaching the end of this academic year. So far, it has been a hugely successful year with lots of celebrate and wonderful memories made. Year 6 have worked incredibly hard and completed their SATs, celebrating with their three day residential. Year 1 have completed their phonics screening checks, and Year 2 have finished their end of year tests. Year 4 have succeeded when completing the Multiplication Check and many of our Early Years children have achieved their goals!

We look forward to this final summer term, as we have lots of events and fun activities planned in.

As always, we thank you all for your continued to support and positivity.

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.

Mrs Gibson-Crone and all at St Joseph's

What's Been Going On!

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.

June	
Mon 2 nd June	School Closed – PD Day
Tues 3 rd – Fri 6 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Check
Mon 9 th & Tues 10 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Wed 11 th June	Year 3/4 Cricket Festival at Bishop Cricket Club – PE Kits Reception Starters Meeting at 3.30pm
Thurs 12 th June	Mass in church – Reception to Year 6 at 9.30am
Tues 17 th June	Rob Proud Fun Day – All children to wear PE kits
Wed 18 th June	King James Transition Day EYFS Grab a Grown Up – Time to be confirmed KS2 Frisbee Festival – PE Kits
Thurs 19 th June	Year 5 visiting St. John's – Uniforms Own Clothes Day (expect Y5) – Bring a Book or a Toy (donations for Summer Fair)
Fri 20 th June	Sports Day at 1.30pm - PE Kits
Sat 21 st June	First Holy Communion at 12.00pm. All are welcome to join us to celebrate the First Holy Communion of our Year 3/4 candidates.
Mon 23 rd June	Year 5/6 Rounders Festival at Bishop College - PE Kits First Holy Communion Photos
Tues 24 th June	Year 6 at the Youth Ministry Festival! Full uniform, including leavers hoodies
Thurs 26 th June	Early Years 'Our Achievements This Year' afternoon – 2.00pm
Fri 27 th June	Own Clothes Day – Bring a Bottle or a Box (donations for Summer Fair)
July	
Wed 2 nd July	King James Transition Day Year 1/2 and Year 3/4 Visit to the Auckland Project
Thurs 3 rd July	Mass in church – Reception to Year 6 at 9.30am Year 5/6 'Our Achievements This Year' afternoon – 2.00pm
Fri 4 th July	Summer Fair – More information to follow Please let us know if you own a small business and would like to be involved!
Tues 8 th July	Parent Drop In – Optional This drop-in session is for you to discuss any questions you may have about your child's end of year report
Wednesday 9 th July	Parent Drop In – Optional This drop-in session is for you to discuss any questions you may have about your child's end of year report
Wed 9 th July – Fri 11 th July	King James' Transition Days for Year 6
Thurs 10 th – Fri 11 th July	St John's Transition Days for Year 6
Thurs 10 th July	Year 1/2 'Our Achievements This Year' afternoon – 2.00pm
Fri 11 th July	Transition Day – Meeting Our New Class
Tues 15 th July	Year 3/4 'Our Achievements This Year' afternoon – 2.00pm
Wed 16 th July	Whole School End of Year Celebrations – St Joseph's Festival Children are invited to wear festival themed clothing!
Thurs 17 th July	Year 6 Leavers Mass at 9.30am (Reception to Year 6 attending) Followed immediately by celebration in the school hall for Year 6 families only
Fri 18 th July	Year 6 Shirt Signing – Children should wear a white t-shirt under their shirt. Last Day of the Year!

Events that involve parents/carers are red

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, even when on a lead.

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.

Our Achievements This Year

During this session, the children will share the achievements they are proud of and their favourite memories from the year. You will then have opportunity to sit with your child and look through their books from this year. It is a wonderful opportunity to see what your children have achieved.

Summer Fair



Our Summer Fair will start from 2.30pm until we have sold out.

Each class will be dismissed parents/carers before the fair 'opens'.

Please be patient with staff as they will need to go from dismissing their classes to their stalls.

Cash only.

Not permitted:

- vaping/smoking
- dogs
- bikes/scooters on the playground



St Joseph's Journey to 100%

We are still 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. Thank you to all of you who are honest and those who are working with us to improve your child's attendance.

Please note, we will always follow national legislation, our policy and procedures as this ensure consistency and fairness across all families.

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 in advance.

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 this year, 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.

As we near the summer, our uniform policy is still in place and we expect it to be followed by all.

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.

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 are not allowed.

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

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.

We are thrilled to be able to offer a free jumper, cardigan, tie and PE kits for next academic year. We will be in touch with you once they have been delivered by our supplier.

Do you have any embroidered jumpers or cardigans you no longer want? Or, any grey skirts, pinafores and trousers? Please donate to school for our pre-loved uniform stall which will be open at the Summer Fair.

Online Learning Platforms

Lexia

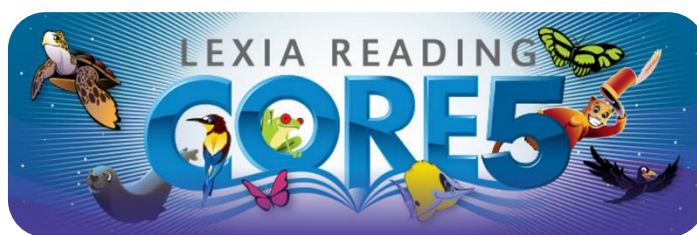
Your child now has a Lexia log in which they can access at home. It is an online platform that accelerate reading/literacy skills development through fun and interactive games, that can be used alongside traditional one to one reading with your child.

Their engagement is tracked by their class teacher.

Upon logging in, you may be prompted to input an email address, please use
admin@stjosephscoundon.bhcet.org.uk

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://ttrockstars.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
- **My Child at School App** – MCAS
- **Evidence Me** – EYFS only
- **Letters** (usually sent on MCAS)
- **Conversations and Phone Calls**
- **Face to Face Meetings, including Parents Evenings and SEN Support Meetings**
- **Reading Records**
- **Facebook** – St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Coundon
- **Website** – 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.

Please note: Our admin email address and MCAS messages are regularly checked, but as we are a very busy school and small staff, they are not constantly monitored throughout the day, so please be patient when awaiting a response.

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 – we are a paper free school so keep printed letters to an absolute minimum. Please check it daily.

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