



Autumn Newsletter



Welcome back to a brand-new school year! Everyone here at St. Joseph's hope you all have had a wonderful summer and are excited for the year ahead.



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mrs. Gibson-Crone, and I am thrilled to be the new headteacher of St. Joseph's. From the moment I visited, I knew this was the right place for the next chapter of my career—the warmth and enthusiasm of the children and staff made me feel instantly at home. With nearly a decade of experience in education, I have taught across all year groups, led key stages, and served as a deputy headteacher. Among these roles, I am most proud of my work as SENCO, as I champion the needs of all children, particularly those requiring additional support, ensuring they and their families have a voice, they have access to equal opportunities and are loved by all.

As headteacher, my goal is to bring stability to St. Joseph's while maintaining our high aspirations for every child, helping them realise they can achieve anything they set their minds to. I, along with our committed staff, are committed to providing the best possible education and enriching experiences for all our children, including exciting school trips, inspiring visitors, and engaging clubs. Ultimately, we want our children to be happy.

While times of change can feel daunting, I believe this new chapter for St. Joseph's is filled with excitement and promise. Be assured, the well-being and success of our children will always be at the heart of every decision, change, and plan we make.

Thank you to those who have already made me feel so welcome - I am eager to get to know each of you and the community of Coundon, so please don't hesitate to come and say hello!



Dates for the Diary



Please check MCAS for reminders or more information

closer the time of these dates

Thurs 12th Sept - Mass (Year 1 to Year 6)

Tues 17th Sept - Year 5/6 Handball Festival at St. John's

Wed 18th Sept - Individual Photographs
Year 3/4 at YMT

Thurs 19th Sept - Year 3/4 at YMT

Fri 20th Sept – Year 5/6 go Swimming
Year 3/4 return from YMT

Fri 27th Sept - Macmillan Coffee Morning for Parents,
Carers and Families
Year 1/2 Multi-Skills Festival

Thurs 3rd Oct - Mass (Year 1 to Year 6)

Tues 8th Oct - Year 1/2 Curling and Boccia Festival at
Bishop College

Thurs 10th Oct – World Mental Health Day – Children
are invited to wear one item of colourful clothing!

Fri 11th Oct – Year 3/4 Stay and Pray

Fri 18th Oct – Year 5/6 Stay and Pray

Thurs 24th Oct – Last day of Autumn term 1

Fri 25th Oct - PD Day – School closed for pupils

Mon 4th Nov – School Reopens for Autumn term 2

Welcome to St. Joseph's

This school year, we welcome new members of staff!

Miss Dove is our Deputy Headteacher and is the class teacher of Year 3 and 4. Miss Dove is an experienced teacher and has previously worked in a Bishop Hogarth school in Darlington. She has a passion for PE and RE, providing enriching opportunities for children to deepen faith and understand their responsibility as God's child.



Mr Hayler also joins our school family and is the teacher of Year 5 and 6. Mr Hayler has been teaching for three years and has previously worked in a Bishop Hogarth school in Billingham. He also has a passion for sport, along with Science and maths.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 27th September we will be holding the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' for parents, carers and families. All are welcome in the school hall from 9.00am once you have dropped your child off.

Children are invited to bring in a donation of cakes or biscuits which be brought into school on Thursday 26th September, or the following morning at the latest.



Congratulations!

Wedding bells were ringing during the summer holidays! Miss McGough became **Mrs Watson**, and Miss Billingham became **Mrs Gray**.

Congratulations to you both and we wish you a lifetime of love and happiness.



Our New Uniform



I think we can all agree our Year 6 children look fantastic in their new uniform – they are certainly wearing it with pride and the younger children are impressed. The new uniform for Year 6 consists of a white shirt with a tie, a jumper with charcoal grey trousers/skirt/shorts and black school shoes. They seem most excited about wearing a tie; this will prepare them for the uniform in secondary school and later life.

To ensure our uniform is a representation of the high expectations we uphold, we will be having a focus on uniform this term. The uniform for Reception to Year 5 is: a navy school sweatshirt/cardigan and a white polo top, with grey trousers/shorts/skirt or pinafore and black shoes. During the colder weather, girls can wear grey tights. Tracksuit bottoms or leggings should not be worn in place of trousers.

If you require any support with uniform, please do not hesitate to contact us. Alternatively, if you have any uniform to donate, which is in good condition, please bring it to the school office. Thank you!



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** sent by teachers, deputy or head teacher.
- **Conversations** at drop off and pick up times
- **Phone Calls**
- **Face to Face 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.

We are committed to ensuring that our families are satisfied with the education and support provided at St. Joseph's. If you have any praise or thanks for our staff, we'd love to hear from you. Likewise, if you have suggestions for improvement, please don't hesitate to come and talk to us!



PE Days



The days for PE are as follows:

EYFS - Monday & Friday

Year 1 & 2 – Monday & Thursday

Year 3 & 4 – Monday & Thursday

Year 5 & 6 – Friday (Swimming & PE)

On the days listed above, children should come to school in their PE kits which consists of black shorts or joggers with a plain white t-shirt. A black sweatshirt or zip up jacket can also be worn on PE days. Branded clothing items, such as Under Armor and Nike, should not be worn.

My Child at School App

Thank you to everyone who has an MCAS account.

We would like to start to use MCAS for letters, instead of printing and sending paper copies, so it is important everyone has the app. This is in a bid to reduce costs of printing which can be spent elsewhere.

Afterschool Clubs for Autumn 1

The clubs we will be offering are for children in Reception to Year 6. All clubs start next week.

Monday – Sports Multi Skills with Thomas – 3.15 till 4.15 - £1 per session

Tuesday – Rob Proud's Fun Club – 3.15 till 4.15 - £1 per session

Wednesday – Football with Kyle - £1 per session

Thursday – Mrs Watson's Glee Club - Free

