

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



2024 - 2025

6th September

Our First Week



Monday 16th September

International Dot Day



Wednesday 18th September

Year 3/4 at Youth Ministry Retreat



CONFIDENCE



RESILIENCE



I TAKE
OPPORTUNITIES



I AM A CHILD
OF GOD

Thursday 19th September

Year 3/4 at Youth Ministry Retreat



CONFIDENCE



RESILIENCE



I TAKE OPPORTUNITIES



Thursday 19th September

Year 3/4 at Youth Ministry Retreat



CONFIDENCE



RESILIENCE



I TAKE
OPPORTUNITIES



I AM A CHILD
OF GOD

Friday 20th September Year 3/4 at Youth Ministry Retreat

What a wonderful time we have had with the Youth Ministry Team at the Emmaus Village! We have spent time thinking about the journeys we experience, and the hope, courage and strength God gives us. Our children were incredible during our stay, showing respect and compassion to one another and being brave during their first time away from home.

#WeAreGod'sChildren #WeTakeOpportunities

Parents:

Thank you for taking such good care of them, Austin's had a wonderful time, feel like I've got my right arm back now though

Mia has had so much fun, she's been telling me all about it. So pleased she's home however; I've missed her too much.



Tuesday 24th September

Pupil Leader Vacancies

There has been a buzz in the air this week, since we started advertising our Pupil Leader vacancies. Many are already working on their applications, so watch this space for our upcoming Sports Leaders, School Council, Stewards of Creation, Mini Vinnies, Anti Bullying Ambassadors and House Captains!

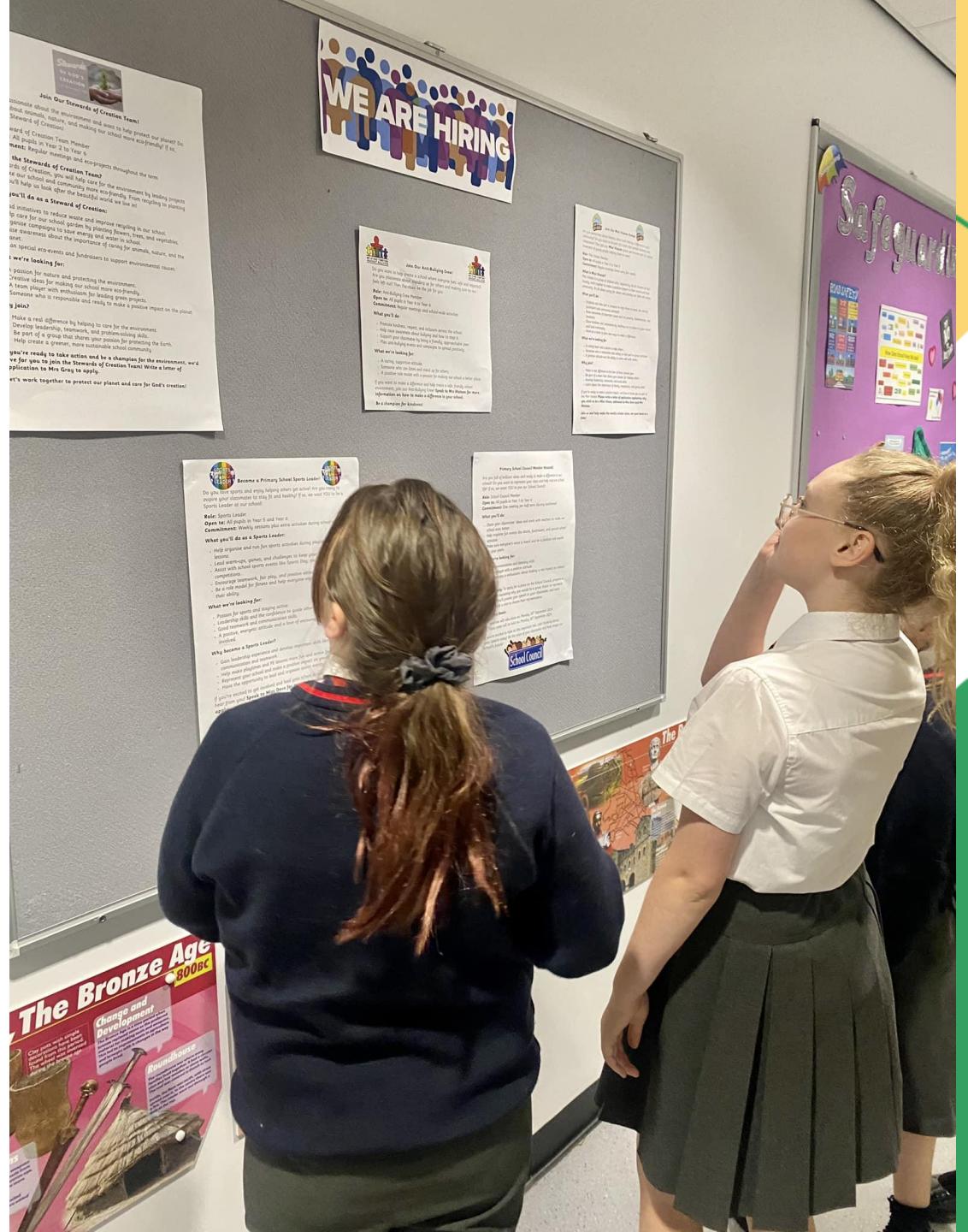
#WeTakeOpportunities

Parents:

Kailah came home talking about this tonight, she already knows which job she is applying for x

This is absolutely fantastic!

Amazing thing to do xx



Wednesday 25th September

International Day of Peace

This week, we have been celebrating International Day of Peace during our creative prayer sessions. We have learnt how we can be peacemakers and how we can show solidarity for a peaceful school and a peaceful world.

#WeAreGod'sChildren



COMPASSION



Friday 27th September

Year 1/2 Multi-Skills Festival

A fun and active morning in KS1 for the Multi-Skills Festival with Thor!



CONFIDENCE



RESILIENCE



Friday 27th September Macmillan Coffee Morning

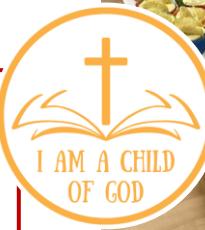
Thank you to everyone who donated cakes and came along to our coffee morning. It was wonderful to see you all.

Because of your generous cake donations, every child enjoyed a cake, as well as a cookie and hot chocolate with their class.

#StJoseph'sFamily #WeAreGodsChildren



COMPASSION



Our Parents, Carers and Families
are invited to the...

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

Friday 27th September
9.00am in the School Hall

Donations of nut free cakes and biscuits are
greatly received.

Please bring them into school no later than the
day before, Thursday 26th September.

Children will join in by having a cake/biscuit and
hot chocolate/juice in class and are invited to
bring in a donation to raise money!

Monday 30th September

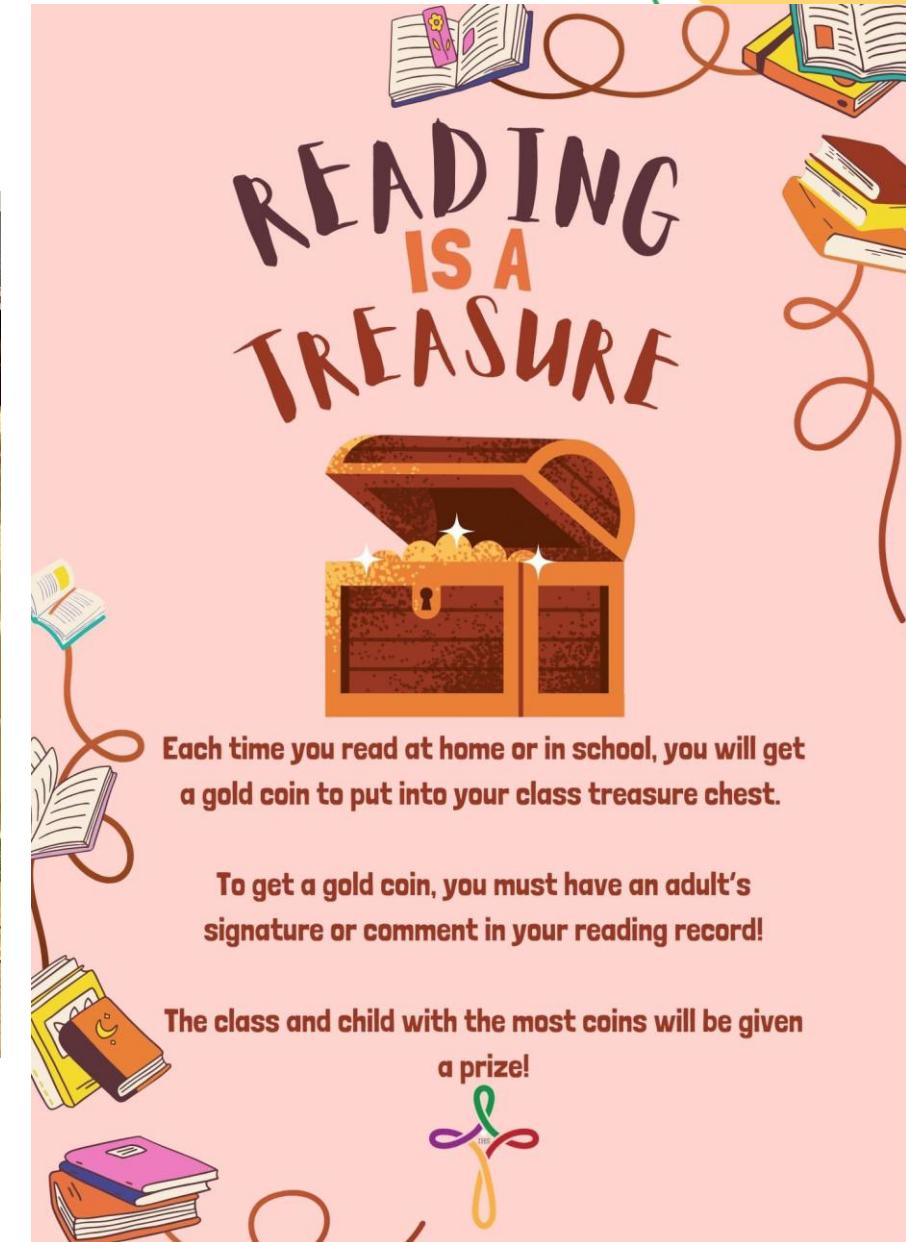
Reading is a Treasure

Here at St. Joseph's, we want to create children who are fluent readers, who use what they have read in their writing and spoken vocabulary, and overall love reading!

Every time your child reads with an adult and has their reading record signed; they will get a gold coin to put into their class treasure chest. The class with the most coins at the end of each week will spin the wheel of prizes!

It doesn't have to take long, five minutes will do, and it can be any text! Let's get reading!

#WeCanAchieve



Tuesday 1st October

St. Joseph's Polling Station

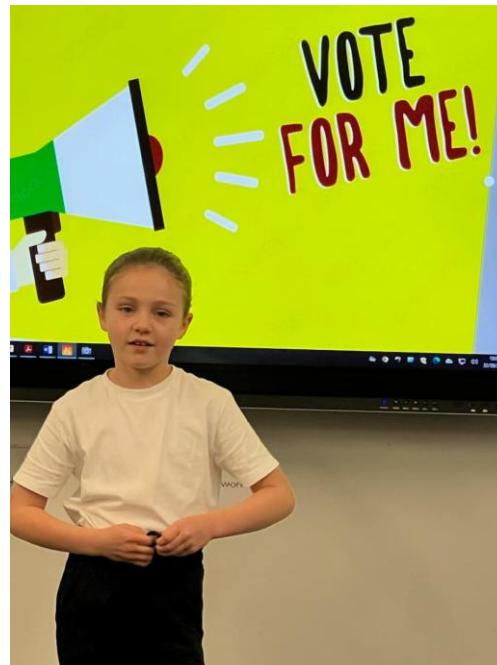
St. Joseph's turned into a polling station! Candidates for School Council showed great confidence as they presented their speeches to their class. Each class learned about the British Value of Democracy, and then had time in the Polling Station, so they could privately vote for their chosen School Council representative.

School Councilors, along with our other Pupil Leaders, will be announced this week!

#WeTakeOpportunities



CONFIDENCE



Friday 4th October

Early Years PE



CONFIDENCE



RESILIENCE

Class 1 have been loving their PE lessons this half term. They have been developing lots of their skills like climbing, balancing and skipping, and learning how to do these things safely!



Monday 7th October

Year 5/6 Library Visit



Our Year 5 and 6's enjoyed their walk to the library this afternoon. They spent some time exploring the books available and many lent one. Some didn't even wait until they got back to start reading!

We are so lucky to have a library so close to school. Each class will take it in turns to visit on Monday afternoons in a bid to raise the profile of reading at St. Joseph's!

#WeCanAchieve
#WeTakeOpportunities



Tuesday 8th October

Year 1/2 Curling and Boccia Festival

Year 1 and 2 were amazing this morning at the Curling and Boccia Festival. They demonstrated brilliant skills and behaved superbly.

A huge thank you to [Education Enterprise](#) and [Bishop Auckland College](#) for being wonderful hosts!

#WeTakeOpportunities



CONFIDENCE



RESILIENCE



Thursday 10th October World Mental Health Day

Today we wanted to turn St. Joseph's into a rainbow...and we succeeded! We have had a wonderful day, full of colour, smiles, singing, dancing and laughter!



RESILIENCE



COMPASSION

Thursday 11th October

Stewards of Creation

Some of our Stewards of Creation have met up this lunchtime and have come up with some ideas to help our God-given planet.

We challenge everyone to bring to school used plastic milk cartons (washed out) to be recycled. As an additional challenge, in order to reduce plastic waste, can you turn your plastic waste into something else? Maybe to use as something else or a creative model. We can't wait to see what you come up with!

#WeAreGod'sChildren #WeBelongToOurWorld



COMPASSION

Give Thanks
TO THE Lord
for He is Good;
His love endures
REVER
Psalm 107:1



Caring for God's gifts
Stewardship



Friday 12th October Hot Chocolate Friday!

A huge well done to those who received the first tickets to Hot Chocolate with the Head! These children were nominated by their teachers for an excellent work ethic, a fantastic attitude and being wonderful role models around school. Many have been completing extra work at home!

It was a great opportunity to spend time with one another, sharing what we are enjoying about school and making suggestions of what could make it even better.

Mrs Gibson-Crone is feeling truly blessed to work with such wonderful children! We wonder who will be picked next time...

#WeCanAchieve #StJosephsFamily



Monday 14th October Harvest Appeal

During the month of October, we are working in partnership with [Angel Trust](#) to collect food and toiletry donations. Donations can be brought in each day until Thursday 24th October.

#WeAreGodsChildren #WeBelongToOurWorld



Tuesday 15th October Pumpkin Soup in EYFS

Children in EYFS have loved making pumpkin soup today. They learned about different kitchen utensils and how to peel and chop safely! Once cooked and blended, many enjoyed tasting their creation, although some weren't keen and gave it a thumbs down.



Thursday 17th October

Homes by Esh STEM Workshops

Last week, EYFS and Year 1/2 enjoyed a STEM workshop delivered by Homes By Esh. During the workshop, they learned how to stay safe near construction sites and what jobs are available. They loved exploring the foam bricks, measuring equipment and protective equipment!

Thank you Rachael from [Homes By Esh](#).



Friday 18th October

Bonfire Safety & Fire Engine Visit

With Bonfire Night fast approaching, we have had a visit last Friday from Durham Fire Service. They talked to us about the best ways to keep safe around fire, fireworks and sparklers. We then had chance to explore the fire engine, sit inside, squirt the water hoses and listen to the sound of siren.

Thank you to County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service for coming to see us!



Monday 22nd October

Year 1/2 Visit to the Library

Year 1 and 2 visited Coundon Library yesterday and selected some exciting class readers.

We cannot wait to get stuck into our books!



Wednesday 23rd October St. Joseph's Spooky Party

Wow! What a wonderful party we have had tonight! All the children looked fantastic in their costumes - we were so impressed with the amount of effort that was made. They enjoyed hot dogs, juice, sweeties and lots of party games. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket!

#StJosephsFamily



Wednesday 23rd October EYFS Spooky Party

Our younger children enjoyed a Spooky Party today.
Look at their scary costumes!



Wednesday 23rd October

NSPCC Workshops

This week, our Year 2 and Year 5/6 pupils concluded the Speak Out, Stay Safe program by taking part in a workshop. With the help from their mascot Buddy, the Speak out Stay safe program covered topics like bullying and abuse - without using any scary words or adult language. Children learned about the different types of abuse in a child-friendly and age-appropriate way, so they can get help if or when they need it, for themselves or their friends.

Thank you to **NSPCC** for coming into school to teach us these valuable lessons. **#WeAreGodsChildren**



Thursday 24th October

Class 2 Celebration of the Word

This half term, Class 2 have been learning how to plan, prepare and deliver their own liturgies. As a group, they delivered a prayerful liturgy celebrating Our Lady. They gathered as a class, listened to the Holy Gospel and responded by singing a song to Mary using instruments - all planned and delivered by them! Well done for showing such confidence and responsibility!

We will be inviting our parent and carers to join us during our times of prayer next half term - keep an eye on the next newsletter for dates!

#WeAreGodsChildren



Thursday 24th October 5 for 5 Reading Winners

Prizes and certificates were awarded to those who have successfully completed the challenge and read for at least 5 minutes 5 times a week for 5 weeks!

We also awarded the children who are most improved at reading at home.

Well done everyone and keeeeep reading!

#WeCanAchieve



31st October

Harvest Celebration of the Word

A huge well done to Class 3 who led a Harvest Celebration of the Word last week for all of our children and parents. They led us in prayer and song, reminding us to be grateful for all that God gives us and to care for those in need. Thank you to the parents and carers who came to join us.

#WeAreGodsChildren



1st November Harvest Appeal

Our Mini Vinnies would like to thank everyone who donated food and toiletries to our Harvest Appeal. On Thursday, the [Angel Trust](#) came to collect all of the donations which will be taken to the [Angel Trust Community Pantry](#) to be shared with those most in need.

We will continue to support this local charity throughout the year. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

[#WeAreGodsChildren](#)



8th November

Hot Chocolate Friday

A huge well done to those who received tickets to Hot Chocolate Friday for wonderful work, a great attitude and being fantastic role models. They spend time with our Deputy Head, Miss Dove. We wonder who will be picked next time...

#StJosephsFamily



12th November

Dogs Trust Workshop – Animal Safety

We had a visit from Suzie. The majority of our children have a dog within their family, so we thought it was important for them to learn how to keep themselves safe and their dogs happy. Children finished their session by making a pledge of how they will look after dogs. We were reminded that as God's children we have a responsibility to respect and care for His creations.

Thank you [**Dogs Trust**](#) for such an informative workshop!

#WeAreGodsChildren



13th November

Anti-Bullying

Our wonderful Anti-Bullying Ambassadors launched our 'Choose Respect and Kindness' week by leading a whole school assembly yesterday.

They also planned our Odd Socks Day today, which reminded us how our uniqueness should be respected and celebrated.

We look forward to a week of activities and key messages focused on Anti-Bullying!

#WeAreGodsChildren



13th November

Anti-Bullying Workshop with PCSO

Thank you to Janette from Bishop Auckland Police for delivering a workshop about bullying, racism and general unkindness. She provided us with important insights into the laws and legalities surrounding these issues, as well as the impact they can have on victims. Her session was eye-opening and encouraged discussions about respect, compassion, and accountability. We appreciate Janette's time and expertise in helping to create a safer and more inclusive environment for all! We look forward to our next visit.

#weareGodschildren



14th November

DT – Cooking in Year 3/4

Yesterday, Y3/4 made some delicious feta and red onion puff pastry tarts. This was their final project for DT, they enjoyed researching seasonal ingredients and designing their tarts. They all took part enthusiastically and safely.



18th November

Visit from our Local MP

Thank you [**Sam Rushworth**](#) for visiting our school to kick start [**UK Parliament**](#) Week! The children really enjoyed asking you questions about the country and local area, and hearing about your role.



20th November

Month of Remembrance

During the month of November, we remember those who have been lost during conflicts but also those who we know and love who are no longer with us.

Our children have taken part in different lessons and activities, as well as reflective times of prayer.

In the entrance of school, you will see our Remembrance display along with St. Joseph's Remembrance Book that all have wrote in.

Please feel free to add to this book during November

[#StJosephsFamily](#)



22nd November

World Youth FUNday

Today we took part in World Youth FUNday Friday, which celebrates the feast of Christ the King.

We took part in lots of different activities including a live streamed wake up shake up, a creative prayer where we created our own king crowns, which we then wore for a crown parade, and exploring what the Lord's Prayer means to us as individuals. We finished our afternoon with a celebration consisting of bonkers bingo, karaoke and dancing to give praise to our God for our St Joseph's family.

#WeAreGodsChildren



24th November Parliament Week

On Thursday, we took inspiration from [Sam Rushworth](#), and took part in our own school parliament session. Madame Speaker took control of the debate between our Prime Minister, Jack, and the opposition, Roman. The rest of us were MP's and had the opportunity to voice our opinions before taking part in a whole school vote.

We voted on recycling bins for each classroom, free school meals for all children and a fairy garden for the playground. The children all shared some fantastic ideas and made some wonderfully convincing arguments. What a superb afternoon!

[#WeTakeOpportunities](#)



25th November

Seasonal Changes

As we say goodbye to Autumn, Year 1 and 2 went on a hunt to find the remains of the signs of Autumn. We were delighted to find an assortment of different coloured leaves, conkers, conker husks, acorns and helicopter seeds.



25th November

Starbooks

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Starbooks last week and for the positive feedback! It was wonderful to see so many adults coming into school to read and enjoy a coffee. We are working really hard to promote a love of reading and it's parents and families that can really help, so thank you. [#wetakeopportunities](#)



27th November

Road Safety Week

Thank you to **Bishop Auckland Police** who came to visit us today. They delivered a whole school assembly and then took each class outside to teach us how to be safe when crossing the road and when walking and cycling around the community.

#WeBelongtotheWorld



29th November

Stewards of Creation

This week our stewards have been busy recycling plastic bottles and turning them into bird feeders! At this time of year, our wildlife can struggle to find food with the cold weather, so it is important to help them out. This activity reuses unwanted plastic and helps our God-given creatures

[#webelongtotheworld](#) [#weareGodschildren](#)



4th December

Scarf Dancing

Our Early Years children have enjoyed twirling, swirling and dancing with our new scarves this week. These exercises help to improve hand-eye coordination and physical gross motor skills, making their core, arms and wrists stronger so they are ready to write



10th December

Lights, Camel, Action



10th December

Lights, Camel, Action

Parents Comments:

It was absolutely outstanding. Every member of staff & the children created magic today and told the story brilliantly.

Brilliant!

It was brilliant. Well done.

They all did fantastic! Well done everyone

It was amazing! The hard work and efforts that's gone into this did not go unnoticed! Excellent work well done to all

Absolutely brilliant every child was a superstar I laughed and cried loved every second of it well done all involved

It was beautiful, with a funny jury, congratulations, they were fantastic!

Superb performance. Absolutely 1st class. Well done all the staff but especially the children your all super stars



12th December

Christmas Dinner

Today, we gathered as a school family to enjoy our Christmas Dinner. All of the children and staff enjoyed their meal prepared by our wonderful kitchen staff - a precious time together as we prepare for Christmas!



17th December

Christmas Craft Workshop

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Christmas Craft Workshop tonight! We hope you enjoyed making paper plate Christmas trees, sock snowmen, reindeer dust and decorating ginger bread biscuits. We love having parents and carers in school with us.



17th December

Christmas Craft Workshop

Parents Comments:

Was really great. Eliza enjoyed it xx

It was a great afternoon, kids enjoyed it and it was well attended! Well done to all involved pulling this together

Thank you for putting this on for the kids, it was lovely!

It was a really lovey

Was a really great afternoon. Thank you. Kids really enjoyed it xx

It was really lovely. Thank you



17th December

Bambinelli Blessings

The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is also called Bambinelli Sunday. Traditionally, children and adults in Rome bring figures of the baby Jesus from their family's nativity scene to St Peter's Square to be blessed by the Pope.

The children have been busy making their own Bambinelli in school, which have been blessed by Father Tony. Thank you to Father Tony for spending the afternoon with us and blessing our very own Bambinelli.

#WeAreGodsChildren



19th December

Santa Comes to St. Joseph's



20th December

Christmas Party



21st December

Pantomime



21st December

Christmas Tableaux

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Christmas Tableaux in church this week. It provided us with a reflective time to listen to the scripture of Jesus' birth as our children sang carols and created a tableaux on the altar.

We'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families and everyone within our special community a happy and holy Christmas. Thank you for all of your support this term - it has been an absolute joy to see our school family come together and become stronger. We feel extremely grateful to work and care for such wonderful, compassionate children on a daily basis. We look forward to our next term together as we go from strength to strength. God bless you all.



15th January

Year 5 Mini Police

Our Year 5s have been enjoying their Mini Police sessions. In Session 1, they had an introduction to police roles and responsibilities and learnt about the Police and Crime Commissioner's Challenge Award they will achieve throughout the programme. Session 2 taught them about anti-social behaviour.

#WeBelongToTheWorld



16th January

EYFS Outdoor Fun

The snow and ice has disappeared which means we can make full use of our outdoor provision! Here are some pictures of Class 1 enjoying their time in the mud kitchen, exploring with water and building obstacles!



19th January

Maths Cafes with Durham Learn Y1/2

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Maths Cafe. Lots of fun was had by all and we learnt practical tips to use maths with our children when at home.

#WeTakeOpportunities

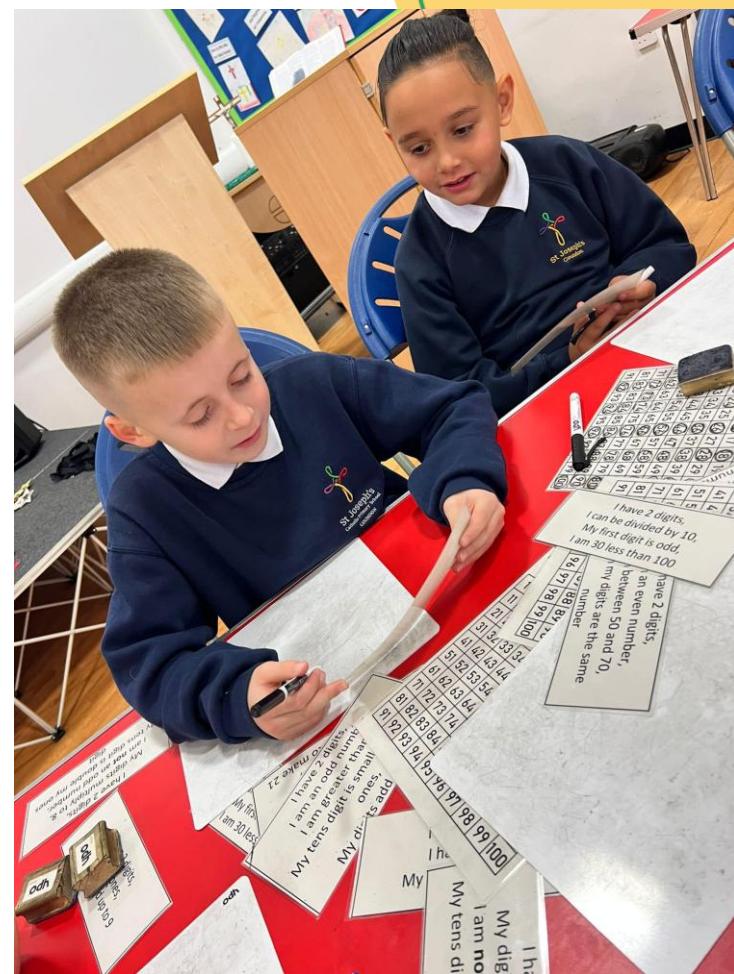


19th January

Maths Cafes with Durham Learn Y3/4

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Maths Cafe. Lots of fun was had by all and we learnt practical tips to use maths with our children when at home.

#WeTakeOpportunities



20th January

Jack's Turing Trip to Billund

Our BHCET students had an unforgettable adventure on the recent Turing Scheme trip to Billund, Denmark! The students explored the inspiring Pedagogy of Play—diving into creative learning, teamwork, and innovative educational practices.

From hands-on learning to exploring new cultures, the experience was nothing short of inspiring. Watch as they embrace the magic of learning through play in the birthplace of LEGO!



4TH February

EYFS Stay & Pray

Thank you to everyone who came to join EYFS for their Stay and Pray. They shared a special liturgy about the presentation of the Lord in the Temple and the start of the Jubilee year. They then tried to build their own temples, made some love hearts about hopes and dreams for the Jubilee year and coloured some pictures of the presentation of the lord



5th February EYFS Visit to Church

In RE, we have been learning about people who help up in church, so Father Augustine spent the morning with us and gave us a special tour of our church! Thank you to Father for giving up your time to spend with our youngest children!

#WeAreGodsChildren



9th February Number Day

What a wonderful day we had on Friday! Our day started with a rock themed dance party, and then we took part in a range of maths activities and games throughout the day. All of our children and staff looked amazing in their rockstar outfits and number themed clothing. Well done to our best dressed who won prizes! We will now be keeping a very close eye on Times Table Rockstars, checking who is playing at home and improving their scores!

[**#wecanachieve**](#)



14th February

EYFS Visit to Church

Love has been in the air in Early Years today! We've been building love hearts in the construction area, creating love potions, making valentines cards for our families and finding the word 'love' in books!

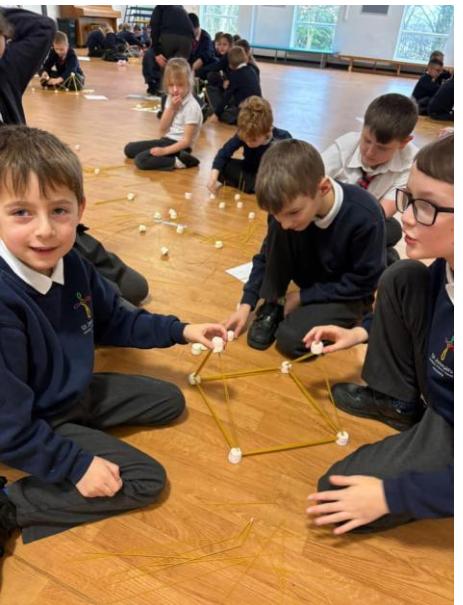


16th February

STEM Day

Last week, we celebrated STEM Day. Mr Hayler set us the task of building the tallest, free-standing structure using spaghetti and marshmallows. Our older children were partnered up with our younger pupils, and together they designed, built and evaluated their designs. We definitely have some engineers in the making!

#WeCanAchieve

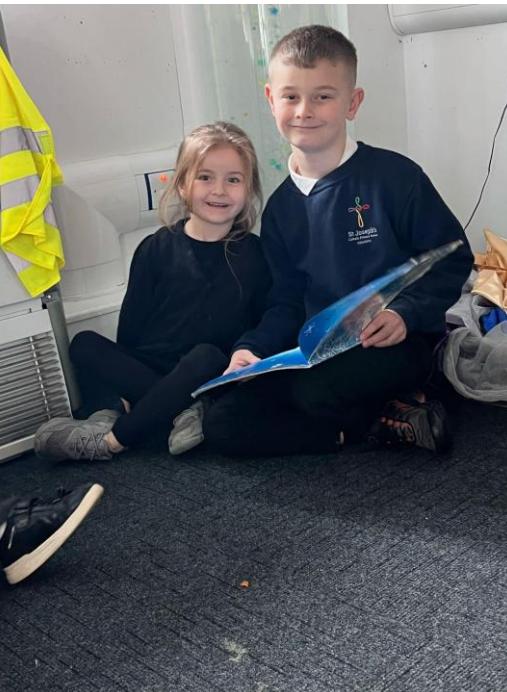


16th February

Storytelling Week

We celebrated Storytelling Week. Throughout the week, our younger classes partnered up with our older classes and spent time sharing stories together. Classes also took part in a range of activities, including puppet making, role play and story writing. Another great week raising the profile of reading!

#WeCanAchieve



17th February

Class 2 Puppets

Look at all of the amazing puppets our Year 1 and 2 have created during their DT lessons this half term! They started by designing their puppet and quickly got to work developing their sewing skills. They added some final touches and paraded them through school. Well done Class 2 for showing such resilience and determination as we know sewing can be tricky.

#wecanachieve



19th February

Year 1/2 Stay & Pray

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Class 2's Stay and Pray. The children enjoyed leading us in prayer and helping us to think about the ways we can follow Jesus.

[#weareGodschildren](#)



20th February

The Gift of Hair

This is Evelyn and she has decided to cut off her very long hair and donate it to the Little Princess Trust. Her hair will be made into a wig and gifted to someone who is poorly. We think this is one of most selfless things someone could do for another person. Evelyn is showing such compassion and we think she is fantastic.

#weareGodschildren

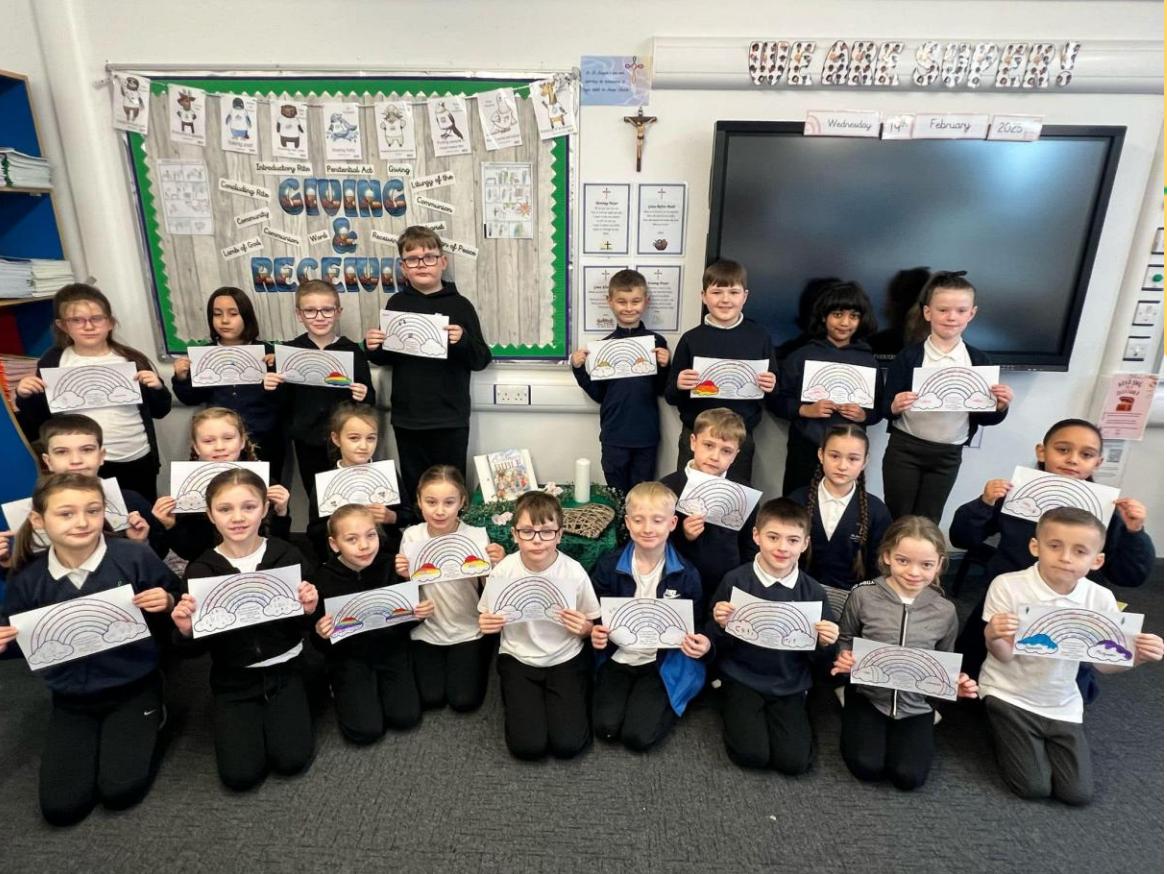


20^h February

Year 3/4 Stay & Pray

Thank you again to those of you who joined Class 3 for their Stay and Pray yesterday. They enjoyed sharing messages of hope during our Pilgrims of Hope year and creating their hope rainbows alongside their adults.

#WeAreGodsChildren



21st February

Fencing

This week, Pirate Rob delivered a fencing lesson to each class. Children learnt the key fundamentals and rules for this sport and had opportunity to put their new skills into practice.

In addition to our PE curriculum, each half term, our children will be exposed to a sport they may not usually experience, just like fencing!

#wetakeopportunities



22nd February

Treasure Hunting with Pirate Rob

Our Early Years children had a special task on Wednesday. They were given a treasure map and had to work together to find the clues around the school grounds. Once all clues were collected, they could find the hidden treasure!

Well done Early Years for working together so well and finding the chest!

#wetakeopportunities



24th February

Breaktime Enrichment

Did you know we now offer enrichment clubs during break time? We offer dance, meditation, darts and lego club, which is in addition to our afterschool enrichment offer! All have proven very popular and there has certainly been a buzz in the air.

We will listen to our children and change our clubs accordingly to what they want.

#WeTakeOpportunities



ST JOSEPH'S JOURNEY BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

BREAK TIME ENRICHMENT

Day	Activity	Location
Mon	No Clubs	
Tue	Dancing Party with Miss Dove	School Hall
Wed	Meditation with Mrs Watson	School Hall
Thu	Darts with Mr Hayler	School Hall
Fri	Lego with Mrs Gibson-Crone	Nutre Room

 I TAKE OPPORTUNITIES

 10.30 - 10.45

25th February Year 5/6 Dance Festival

Last week, Class 4 attended the [Education Enterprise](#) Dance Festival. They have been working on their class routine during their PE lessons this half term, and finally performed their routine to other schools.

Well done Year 5 and 6 for showing confidence and resilience as we know performing in front of others can be daunting.

[#WeTakeOpportunities](#)



6th March World Book Day

Another wonderful day here at St. Joseph's! Today started with an assembly where we showed off our outfits and listened to each of our teachers read their favourite poems. The rest of the day was filled with hot chocolate, books and poetry!

#WeTakeOpportunities



6TH March World Book Day in Reception

Reception have had a fun-filled day of rhyming, word and book hunting in the forest area and exploring the text “Stickman”. They made their own characters out of sticks and took them on an adventure!

#WeTakeOpportunities



6TH March World Book Day in Nursery

The theme in Nursery for yesterday was The Gruffalo! Our children make owl ice cream play dough and used noodles, eggs and milk to make scrambled snake! To finish their sessions, they went for an adventure in the forest area to find the hidden characters. Another wonderful day with memories made!

#WeTakeOpportunities



14th March

Dance From Around the World

A huge thank you to [Urban Kaos](#) for coming to see us last week. Not only did we develop our contemporary dancing skills, but we learnt all about dances from around the world and from different cultures. A fantastic day was had by all!

#WeBelongToGodsWorld



14th March Community Tree Planting

A huge well done to our Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 pupils who made a positive impact on God's planet and our local community yesterday. They spent the afternoon at a location in Eldon, working together to plant trees. Altogether, they planted 71 trees, which will now grow and be there for years to come.

This amazing effort will support the environment and create a greener future for all.

#WeAreGodsChildren
#WeBelongToTheWorld



15th March

Bear Hunting in Nursery

Our book focus in Nursery this week has been We're Going on a Bear Hunt! Today, we concluded our week by experiencing a sensory walk to reach the bear and then an exploration of the outdoor woodland. During our time exploring, with the help of our binoculars, we found a bear!

#StJosephsFamily



15th March

EYFS Lenten Rocks for the Community

Our Early Years pupils have also given to the community this week. They decorated rocks with positive messages and then hid them around our area around school and around church.

If you see one of our children's rocks, please take a picture and send it to us or post below.

We hope the rocks bring you a smile this Lent.

#weareGodschildren

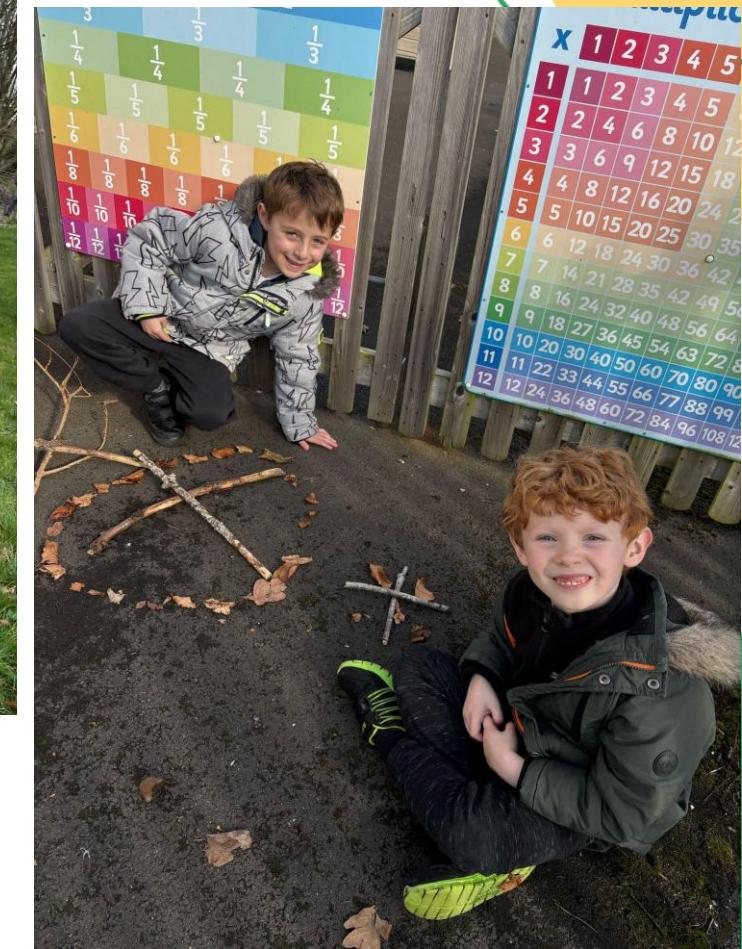
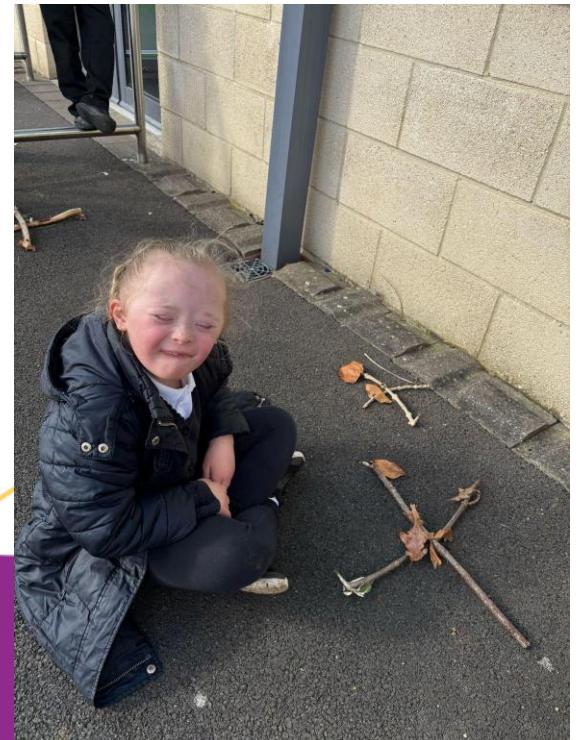
#webelongtotheworld



16th March Outdoor Creative Prayer

This week, Year 1/2 took their Creative Prayer session outside. After listening to scripture, they went into the woodland area to create their own crosses using materials from nature, giving thanks to the natural gifts we have been given.

#WeAreGodsChildren



18th March EYFS Starbooks

A huge thank you to everyone who attended Early Year Starbooks last Wednesday. It was a great turnout and the children loved sharing books with their adults.



20th March St Joseph's Day

What an incredible day here to celebrate the feast day of our patron saint. Our day started gathering as a parish family at mass, where children shared their handmade flowers with the community. We moved onto creative RE lessons and then a carousel of team building activities that developed the virtues of St Joseph.

Our day concluded with the most wonderful event - St Joseph's Has Got Talent! We had singing, dancing, acrobatics, magic, harmonica playing and even a routine from our fantastic teachers. A huge well done to all of our finalists and everyone who auditioned earlier in the week. We have been blown away by your confidence and resilience.

Keep an eye out for our video!

#WeTakeOpportunities

#StJosephsFamily



20th March

St Joseph's Day

St Joseph's Family Team Building – Commando Joe



20th March

St Joseph's Day

St Joseph's Has Got Talent



25th March Starbooks

A huge thank you to everyone who attended Class 2's Starbooks last Wednesday. It was another great turnout and the children loved sharing books with their adults.

#WeTakeOpportunities



28th March Careers Week - Sports

This week, we've been learning about the exciting careers we can achieve through hard work and big dreams!

A big thank you to Ste, a strength and conditioning coach, for coming in to share his journey and give us a glimpse into the many career opportunities in the world of sport!

#wecanachieve



28th March

Careers Week - Healthcare

This week, we were lucky to learn from Vicky, a Nursing Director, who gave us an inside look at her important role in healthcare. She taught us the journey we could take to if we wanted to pursue a career in healthcare. She showed us different equipment and explained how it's used in patient care.

Thank you, Vicky, for inspiring us and showing us the many opportunities in the nursing field!

#wecanachieve



29TH March Year 3/4 Tennis Festival

Our Year 3/4 children enjoyed taking part in the Tennis Festival at Bishop Auckland College. They developed their tennis skills and enjoyed working together as a team. As always, their behaviour was fantastic and they did a great job at representing St Joseph's. Well done all!

#WeTakeOpportunities



1st April

Playground Enrichment

Our children have enjoyed playing with their new playground toys in the sunshine today. Thank you to our Sports Leaders, Vienna, Layla, Ollie and Kailah, for organising our new equipment!

#WeTakeOpportunities



5th April Durham Cricket Club

On Monday each class took part in a cricket enrichment day. The children had a fantastic time learning about the sports and developing new skills.

Thank you to [Durham Cricket](#) for your time and enthusiasm. We looked forward to more cricket fun in the future!

#WeTakeOpportunities



8th April Pilgrims of Hope

We were blessed to receive the Pilgrims of Hope Cross, which is making its way through all 35 schools in our Trust. The cross is carrying the symbols of our Trust's faith, and the geography and unique identities of each school. Thank you to our very own Layla and Lincoln who contributed to making the cross. As Pilgrims of Hope, we journey forward with faith and resilience



9th April Whole School PE

What a wonderful afternoon we had yesterday! Each teacher led a sporting activity and each class made their way around the sporting carousel, which included rugby, netball and cricket. The children really enjoyed experiencing different sports with different teachers as they developed their team work, communication skills and resilience.



9th April Prayer and Reflection Room

We are over the moon with our wonderful new prayer room. See the article below to learn about our new room and how it will support our pupils.

This peaceful space is for reflection, stillness, and hope. The new room will support children's emotional and spiritual wellbeing every day



10th April

A True Act of Compassion

Meet this wonderful Year 6 pupil, Destiny, who is the reason every child received an Easter egg today.

Destiny dedicates so much of her time to helping others, always putting people before herself.

Alongside her family, she organises pageants and community events to raise money for charities and those in need. This Lent, rather than spending her money on herself, Destiny chose to use it to buy an Easter egg for every child in our school—simply to make others smile.

Destiny, your selflessness and generosity are truly inspiring. You've reminded us all of the power of kindness and the difference one person can make. We are incredibly proud of you—thank you for spreading so much joy this Easter.

#WeAreGodsChildren

#StJosephsFamily

hearts be troubled.
Trust in God.
John 14:1



11th April

Easter Egg Competition



14th April

Prayer Stations at St John's

Last week, our Year 4 pupils spent the day at St John's where they took part in a variety of activities, including prayer stations and art.

Thank you to [St John's Catholic School & Sixth Form College](#) for a lovely day and giving our pupils a glimpse of secondary school life!

#wetakeopportunities

#WeAreChildrenOfGod



15th April Lent in Early Years

Here are some snapshots of the wonderful activities happening in Early Years as we prepared for Easter. The children took part in Easter egg hunts and cake making, but most importantly, they spent time learning about and retelling the story of Jesus' death and resurrection — the true meaning of Easter. It was a special opportunity for them to reflect on the significance of this story and what it means for us today.

[**#weareGodschildren**](#)



15th April Stations of the Cross

Throughout Lent, each class has spent time in the church, journeying through the 'Way of the Cross'.

At every station, the story and a reflection were read aloud as we paused to consider the struggles Jesus endured along His path. It offered us all a moment to reflect on our own lives—and how we can draw on strength and courage during times of hardship.

#WeAreGodsChildren



16th April

A Visit From Father Tony

Last week, we were delighted to welcome Father Tony Cornforth.

He shared his journey to becoming a priest, explaining how he felt a calling from the age of six. He taught us about the full role of a priest, including his time as a teacher and the many ways he serves the community.

He also spoke about his visits to Africa and the incredible journeys he's taken as a messenger of God. He ended with a beautiful sung blessing in the Namibian language. We're so grateful for the time he spent with us.

#weareGodschildren



27th April

Pilgrims of Hope Creative Afternoon

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Pilgrims of Hope Creative Afternoon. It was a joy to see the school filled with parents and carers working alongside the children to create their class holy doors. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. Because of its success, we will be planning more of these events!

#WeAreChildrenOfGod

#StJosephsFamily

Parent Comment: It's nice to be able to join in with the children had a lovely afternoon

Parent Comment: It's nice to be able to join in with the children had a lovely afternoon



6th May

Balance Bike Fun – Physical Development in EYFS

Today our nursery children had their very first go on our brand new balance bikes — and they absolutely loved it! Not only are balance bikes lots of fun, but they also help build confidence, improve coordination, and develop essential motor skills, all while preparing them for pedal bikes later on.

Thank you to [Bikeability](#) for our wonderful bikes and helmets.

[#WeCanAchieve](#)



9th May

British Sign Language Week

This is Heidi, and she has her own superpower

This week she has decided to teach others in her class some basic sign language. Her kindness and initiative are helping to build an even more inclusive and understanding environment in our school! We're so proud of her for leading by example.

[**#WeAreGodsChildren**](#)
[**#StJosephsFamily**](#)



20th May VE Day Celebrations

What an incredible day we had last Friday, celebrating VE Day! Our day began with learning all about the significance of VE Day and why it's such an important part of our history. At lunchtime, we enjoyed a traditional British picnic in the hall with our friends—complete with bunting, music, and lots of smiles!

In the afternoon, we were honoured to welcome veterans and members of [SSAFA Durham](#). They spoke to the children about what it's like to serve in the military and helped us understand what life might have been like during wartime.

We were then joined by parents, carers, and special guests for our very own Proms in the Park! One of the highlights had to be being led outside by the sound of the bagpipes, followed by a traditional Town Crier—what a moment to remember!

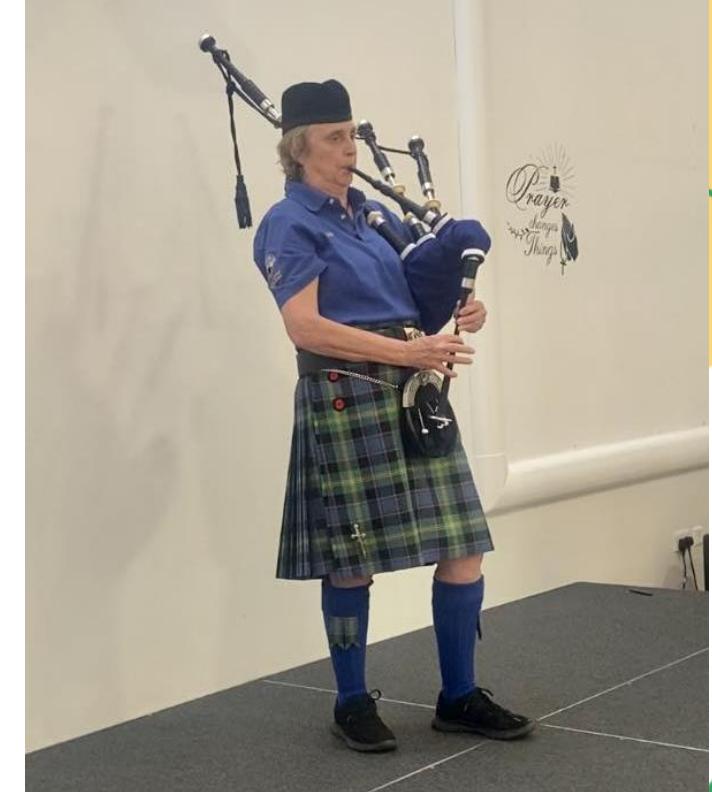
It was a wonderful way to reflect, celebrate, and come together as a community.

#StJosephsFamily



20th May

VE Day Celebrations



20th May VE Day Celebrations

Parent Comments:

It was a brilliant afternoon. Thank you to the 2 school governors for their hard work getting the veterans and town cryer to enhance the experience

An afternoon to remember always.

It was a lovely afternoon... hard work truly pays off

I'm pleased it went well, I know my 2 girls thoroughly enjoyed the added extras and learnt a lot from them

It was a wonderful afternoon. The children did amazing as always



22nd May

Year 6 OAA Residential

Well our Year 6 residential is fully underway. We may have only been here since lunchtime, but we have already faced our fears by getting in harnesses, as well as learning how to light a fire using a flint. We have taken part in team-building games and have had a delicious tea.

We are currently taking part in our last activity, and will be getting ready for bed. The adults are hoping for an early night

#WeTakeOpportunities

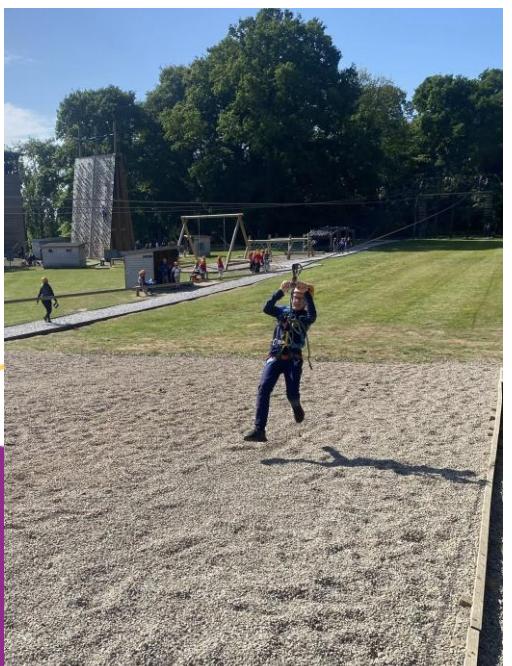


23rd May Year 6 OAA Residential

Our residential concluded yesterday, with fun on the zip line and then archery.

It was a busy but amazing three days, with all showing resilience, bravery and compassion for one another. They behaved impeccably throughout our stay, and we are so proud of them.

Well done Year 6 - it was an absolute pleasure to spend three days with you



11th June

EYFS at the Beach

To conclude their “Exploring the Seaside” topic, our Reception children visited Seaton Carew. They hunted for shells and rocks, dripped their toes in the sea, and played in the park. They finished their day with a delicious ice cream - a must for a trip to the beach!

All had a wonderful time, as can be seen by their smiling faces in the pictures below!

#WeTakeOpportunities

#WeBelongToGodsWorld



16th June Year 3/4 Cricket Festival

Our Year 3/4 children enjoyed a trip to Bishop Auckland Cricket Club last week. They spent the morning developing their cricket skills, including throwing, catching and bowling and hitting the ball correctly. A great morning of active learning!

Thank you Bishop Auckland Cricket Club for a great morning.

#WeCanAchieve

#WeTakeOpportunities



19th June

Bubble Festival with Pirate Rob

We had a fantastic day at Pirate Rob's Bubble Festival on Tuesday. The day started with a whole school dance workshop and then each class had chance to take part in a range of sporting activities...including a water fight. We had lots of smiling faces, wet children and soaked staff! **#WeTakeOpportunities**



22nd June

Grab A Grown Up

Thank you to everyone who attended our EYFS & KS1 Grab A Grown Up session on Wednesday. It was great to see our children and families participating in a range of sports activities.

#StJosephsFamily



23rd June Golf Festival

Our KS2 children enjoyed the Golf Festival last week. They spent the morning learning the rules of golf, including how to correctly swing and how to chip the ball.

Thank you [Education Enterprise](#) for another great sporting session!



24th June Sports Day



25th June

First Holy Communion

Saturday was a truly special day for our school community as we celebrated the First Holy Communion. Surrounded by love and prayer, our children received Jesus in the Eucharist for the very first time — a huge milestone on their journey of faith. The celebrations continued back at school, where they were joined by family and friends to mark the occasion.

On Monday, the joy carried on as the children came to school in their special outfits, proudly sharing memories of their big day with different classes. They were celebrated during a whole-school Celebration of the Word, and were professionally photographed to create lasting memories of this sacred sacrament.

We are so proud of each of them for their dedication and commitment throughout their preparation this past year. We continue to keep them in our prayers as they grow ever closer to God.

Thank you to Father Augustine for supporting our children and thank you to each family for your generous contributions for the celebrations.

#WeAreGodsChildren



4TH July Summer Fair

Wow! What a successful Summer Fair! Thank you to everyone who came along; we were blown away by the turn out and by our wonderful stall holders. Not only were we lucky enough to have our own school stalls but a variety of small, local businesses which we love to support, as well as Durham Constabulary and County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service!

We have made an incredible £900 so far but money continues to come in for the raffle - this will be drawn by next Friday.

Thank you to Amy and Kelly, our two governors/parents, for dedicating your own time for the weeks leading up to it, and thank you to our wonderful staff for working as a fantastic team



9th July Year 1/2 Trip to See Frozen

Our Year 1/2 loved their trip to St John's to see their drama department perform Frozen. They had a wonderful time!

#WeTakeOpportunities



11th July Year 3/4 History Trip

What an amazing day our Year 3/4 had at The Bishop Auckland Project! They explored the museum, became budding archaeologists digging for artefacts, and even got creative making their own Stone Age jewellery.

A brilliant hands-on workshop bringing history to life – Stone Age style!

#WeTakeOpportunities



14th July Year 1/2 History Trip

Year 1/2 had a fantastic time visiting Auckland Castle where they explored the rich history of knights and bishops right here in Bishop Auckland! From grand halls to secret staircases, we stepped back in time to discover how people lived, dined, and ruled in centuries past.

A definite highlight was the ornate dining room – the children were fascinated by the impressive table settings and stories of feasts from long ago!

#WeTakeOpportunities



15th July

Year 4/5 OAA Day at Hamsterley Forest

Our Year 4 and 5 children had an incredible adventure at Hamsterley Forest. They took part in a range of outdoor activities designed to build teamwork and survival skills. The children learned how to identify safe and unsafe things to forage in the wild, tried their hand at hanging and balancing in hammocks (which proved to be quite a challenge!), and finished the morning by working together to build dens. A fantastic day of learning, laughter, and outdoor fun!

#WeTakeOpportunities



16th July End of Year Treat



16th July

St Joseph's Fest

Wow! What an incredible afternoon we had yesterday. After our visit from the ice cream van, we glittered up, put on our entry wristbands, and headed down to Early Years for our festival. We sang, danced and played together as a whole school family and had such a wonderful afternoon! It was great to celebrate such a successful year together as one community

[**#StJosephsFamily**](#)



20TH July Year 6 Leavers

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for our Leavers Mass and Assembly – it was a truly special way to celebrate our wonderful Year 6s.

To our Year 6 leavers: we are so proud of everything you've achieved and the kind, confident young people you've become. As you begin this exciting new chapter, remember that you are cherished children of God. Walk with Christ, dream big, work hard, and always stay true to the values you've learned at St Joseph's.

Carry with you the friendships, faith, and memories that have shaped your time here. As Mr Hayler said during the assembly, "Once a St Joseph's pupil, always a St Joseph's pupil."

You'll be deeply missed – go forward with courage, and let your light shine brightly in the world.

#StJosephsFamily

