

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

# **Autumn 2 Newsletter**



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



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

What a wonderful first half term we have had here at St. Joseph's. The children have settled back into school life brilliantly and it has been an absolute joy getting to know everyone within our school community.

We have had visits from Homes by Esh, NSPCC and the Fire Service; we have attended mass and gathered regularly as a school family to strengthen our relationship with God. We have held the World's Biggest Coffee Morning and partied at the best Spooky Party in the North East, and raised money for school in the process!

There have been many moments of achievement this half term, with many drastically improving their handwriting, classes improving their attendance and pupils making a conscious effort to improve their presentation through their uniform. Seeing the children engaged in their learning and displaying improved behaviour has been a pleasure, and I am incredibly proud of all they have achieved this half term.

We look forward to welcoming you all back to school for our second half term of Autumn as we quickly approach the Christmas period. I hope you find this newsletter helpful as it includes key messages, reminders and dates for the diary for the next half term.

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,

Mrs Gibson-Crone





## Our First Half Term!

Here are some pictures of our first week at school!

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*

November	
<b>Mon 4<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Welcome Back!
<b>Wed 6<sup>th</sup> November</b>	SEN Support Plan Meetings
<b>Fri 8<sup>th</sup> November</b>	STEM Day Year 5/6 start swimming
<b>Mon 11<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Remembrance Day Dogs Trust Workshops
<b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Anti-Bullying Week Launch Odd Sock Day!
<b>Wed 13<sup>th</sup> November</b>	World Kindness Day
<b>Mon 18<sup>th</sup> November</b>	EYFS Starbooks in the School Hall 8.40 – 9.05 am Parliament Week
<b>Tues 19<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Year 1/2 Starbooks in the School Hall 8.40 – 9.05 am Parents Evening Afterschool
<b>Wed 20<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Year 3/4 Starbooks in the School Hall 8.40 – 9.05 am Parents Evening After School
<b>Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> November</b>	Year 5/6 Starbooks in the School Hall 8.40 – 9.05 am Whole School Mass – School Hall at 10.30
<b>Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	Youth Friday
<b>Mon 25<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Year 3/4 Gymnastics Festival at Bishop Barrington Road Safety Week
December	
<b>Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Mass for Year 1 to Year 6
<b>Tues 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Early Years Nativity in the School Hall (Times To Be Confirmed)
<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	KS1 and KS2 Nativity in the School Hall (Times To Be Confirmed)
<b>Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Lunch Day Glee Club Showcase in the School Hall – 4.00pm
<b>Tues 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Craft Workshops
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Whole School Christmas Tableau in Church
<b>Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Shhhh! Santa Visits St. Joseph's! Christmas Party (After School)
<b>Fri 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	School Closes for Christmas

Please note – more information will be sent regarding Christmas dates



## Starbooks



An area of focus of us this year is raising the profile of reading. Last half term, we launched our Reading is a Treasure initiative and this half term we are launching **Starbooks!**

This is an opportunity for you to come into school, grab a coffee and read with your child/listen to them read to you!

Starbooks will run from 8.40am until 9.05am in the School Hall.

## 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!





### 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.

We are launching a new initiative called **St. Joseph's Journey to 100%**. As part of this initiative, the class with the highest attendance will earn money to add to their class piggy bank which they can spend on rewards from our attendance menu. There will also be prizes for the fewest late marks and the most improved attendance. We will also be introducing individual rewards for children with 100% attendance.

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

### Late Marks

Our gates open at 8:40 am, and from this time, children begin important learning activities and interventions. Arriving after 9:00 am means your child may miss the start of their lessons and valuable early learning time. Gates close promptly at 9.00am, children who arrive after this time and enter through the office will be marked late.

Thank you for helping ensure a smooth start to the school day.

### **Nursery Drop Off and Pick Up**

We are trailing some slight changes to Nursery Drop Off and Pick Up routines. From **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November (week 2)**, we will no longer be using the buzzer/intercom to enter the school grounds and to nursery.

**8.30am** and **12.30pm** – Children will enter through the main gate where nursery staff will be waiting to greet them.

**11.30am** and **3.30pm** – Children will be brought to the main gate where they will be handed over to their adult. You will still be able to collect your child at 3.15pm along with siblings.

Please ensure your children are dropped off and collected promptly at the times listed above as after these times, the gates will be locked.

We understand there may possibly be some teething problems with this new routine which is natural with any changes made, but we thank you for your continued support.

### **Cars**

Please do not drive onto the school grounds at any time during the school day unless you hold a blue badge that has been registered with the school office. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school environment safe for everyone.

## 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 still 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

The days for PE during Autumn term 2 are as follows:

**EYFS** - Monday & Friday

**Year 1 & 2** – Monday & Thursday

**Year 3 & 4** – Monday & Thursday

**Year 5 & 6** – Friday (Swimming & PE)

**Hair, Earrings 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.

We have lots of uniform in school. If you need any items of clothing, please see Miss Harrison. Alternatively, if you have any uniform to donate, which is in good condition, please bring it to the school office. Thank you!



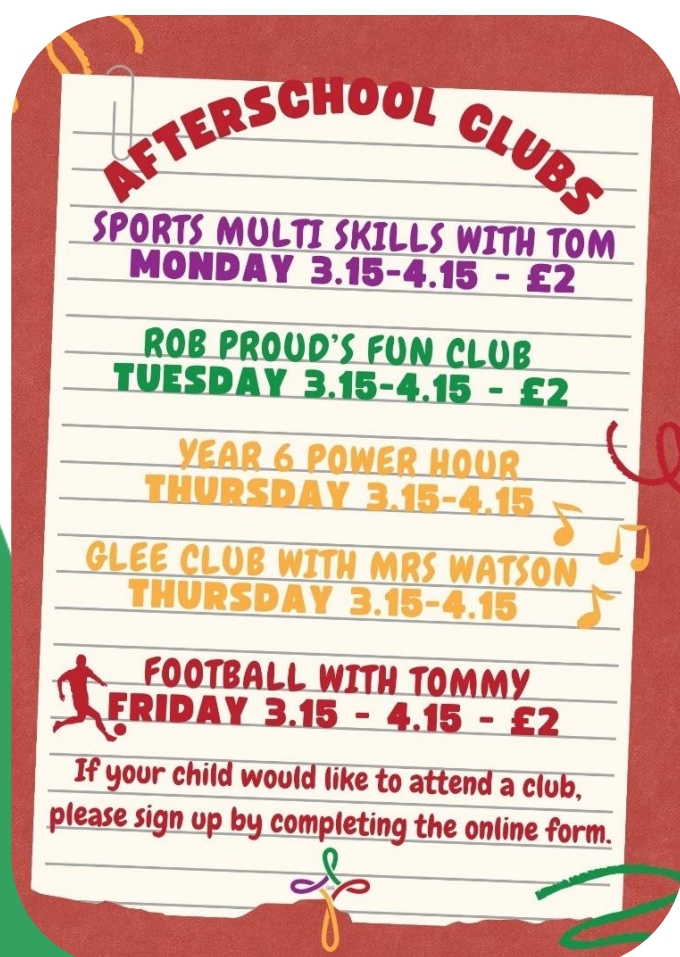
## St. Joseph's Journey Beyond the Classroom

### Our Enrichment Offer

We are not only focused on the curriculum here at St. Joseph's, we are committed to providing our children with experiences beyond the classroom. One strand of our enrichment offer are afterschool clubs, which provide opportunities to explore new interests, develop skills, and build confidence in a fun, supportive environment. Our clubs encourage teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving—skills that benefit children in and out of the classroom. Regular attendance helps them make friends, build resilience, and establish a positive routine.

**Cost of Clubs:** We are fortunate to have sought-after external coaches who provide fun, skill-building sessions. However, due to rising costs and to sustain these valuable partnerships, we need to slightly increase the session fee to £2.

**If this adjustment might prevent your child from attending, please come and speak to us. Thank you for your understanding.**



**Signing Up:** If you want your child to attend a club, they will be signed up for the whole half term and therefore you do not need to sign up each week.

The office becomes very busy, so to avoid waiting times, you can sign your child up for clubs using this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/fBVg1THMd7>

Please note, Mrs Dawes is unable to check with children if they are staying at clubs week on week and then call you back to inform you of their decision.

## 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

## 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