

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



## January Newsletter 2024

### Welcome back

Happy New Year! I hope 2024 is a good year for you all. Christmas seems like a long time ago, but I hope you all had an enjoyable break, It has been lovely to welcome the children back this week into school life.

### School Masses

**Parents are welcome** to join us at our whole school monthly Masses. These take place on the **first Thursday in every month at 9.30am** at St Joseph's Church.



### Parent Governor

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor which we would like to fill as soon as possible. Parent governors are elected by and from the parents of children currently attending our school. They serve a four-year term of office and bring a very important and valued perspective to the work of the local governing committee. No special qualifications are needed, the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the local governing board's work. Training is available for all governors and is free of charge. If you are interested in applying, please contact the school office.

### Attendance and Punctuality

At St Joseph's we place great importance on good attendance, and punctuality.

We know that a child's attendance has a direct impact on their learning. Those children who are regularly absent from school and regularly late do not achieve their potential and fall behind in class. Please support the school in this by ensuring that your child attends school regularly and arrives ready to learn at 8.45am for an 8.55am start. Being in school on time is extremely important for all children in order that they receive the best possible start to their learning. Prompt arrival enables staff to support children in a range of activities, for example, time to have 'check ins' with their teacher or TA for Emotional Health and Well Being support, individual reading with an adult, opportunity to practise spellings, maths facts or pre-learning for lessons and sharing class news together. All of these activities maximise the opportunity for a settled start to ensure children are ready for their first lesson straight after the register is taken.

### Stay & Pray

This term we are hoping to invite parents/carers to our individual class's celebration of the word. This will be an opportunity to gather together as a class family and pray together through quiet reflection, singing and dancing. Refreshments will be available afterwards.



Dates and times to follow.



We are aware that some parents / carers have had some difficulties with the 'mychildatschool' app and hope these have now been rectified. However, if you continue to have any problems or if you have any questions about the app, please contact the school office.

## Healthy Snacks

As we participate in the School Fruit Scheme, children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are offered a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day at morning break. The fruit and vegetable regularly available include bananas, apples, satsumas, carrots and tomatoes.

Children in KS2 are permitted to bring in **healthy snacks only** such as fruit, vegetable or a cereal bar. *(Please note crisps, chocolate bars, biscuits and sweets are **not** healthy snacks).*

## Jewellery

Polite reminder

For health and safety reasons pupils are **not allowed** to wear earrings or earring retainers or any other type of jewellery except a (non-smart) wristwatch. This is a policy decision of the Governing Body. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Uniform

School uniform is so important; it represents our school community. We are proud of our uniform at St Joseph's and expect the correct uniform to be worn every day in school.

- School sweatshirt with logo (Navy Blue - logo optional) navy cardigan if preferred
- White polo shirt (with or without logo)
- Grey trousers/shorts or skirt/pinafore
- Blue and white checked summer dress for the Summer (optional)
- Black School Shoes or Black Trainers

## PE Kit

On the days that children have PE, they should come to school in their PE kit. This should consist of:

- Black shorts or black jogging bottoms
- White t-shirt.
- Navy school sweatshirt/cardigan.

## Preloved School Uniform

### Do you have any school uniform your child has grown out of?

We are hoping to start a preloved school uniform shop. Our aim is to help parents and carers with the cost of school uniform and stop perfectly usable clothing going into landfill. For a donation, we hope to offer polo-shirts, jumpers, skirts, trousers, book bags and PE kits.

A recent survey has found that 1.4 million school uniforms are thrown away every year and as most items of uniform are made from polyester or acrylic, that equates to approximately 350 tonnes of plastic.

**If you would like to donate any items in a washed, good condition, please bring them into the School Office.**

## We're here to help

If you think your child might be eligible for free school meals, please click on the link below. Durham County Council treats all claims in confidence and St Joseph's Primary School provides the same meals, whether they're paid for or provided free. <https://www.durham.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

If you are struggling financially, independent advice and support about social welfare issues is available for all County Durham residents, covering benefits, debts and employment. Please click on the link: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/benefits>  
<http://www.countydurhamfamilies.info/kb5/durham/fsd/site.page?id=QBLTvLFbcVY>

Challenging circumstances can strike anyone at any time. Durham Foodbank aims to welcome everyone with compassion, kindness and a listening ear. Please click on the link to access the Foodbank website. <https://durham.foodbank.org.uk/>

We are currently living through extremely challenging times, and now perhaps more than ever, looking after our mental health and well-being is of paramount importance to us all. Please click on the link: <https://durham.gov.uk/article/23374/Mental-health-and-emotional-support-for-children-young-people-and-families-in-County-Durham>

## Coffee Morning

Please come and join us for a coffee morning in the hall here at St Joseph's on Tuesday 30th January 8.45am - 10.00am. It will be a great opportunity for you to catch up with new and old friends over a cup of tea and a biscuit. Miss Harrison our school parent advisor and attendance lead will be available to talk too regarding any concerns you may have about your child, Mrs Wilson will also be available to answer any questions you may have regarding the exciting new changes happening in school.



Pope Francis has designated 2024 as a Year of Prayer.



## Spring Term Enrichment Clubs

Monday	Taekwondo	Time: 3:30pm - 4:15pm	Staff: Sports Coach
Tuesday	Fencing	Time: 3:30pm - 4:30pm	Staff: Rob Proud
Wednesday	Football	Time: 3:30pm - 4:30pm	Staff: Sports Coach
Thursday	Y6 Booster	Time: 3:30pm - 4:15pm	Staff: Miss Billingham, Mrs Wilson Miss McGough, Mrs Brown, Miss Herring
Friday	Multi Skills	Time: 3:30pm - 4:30pm	Staff: Sports Coach

## Important Information

Children will need to be collected from clubs by an adult listed on their pick-up list due to the dark nights. Clubs end at different times, so please check the correct time for your child's club.