



St Joseph's Blackhall January 2025

A huge welcome back to you all, we hope that you enjoyed a very happy Christmas break together with your families and are looking forward to all the exciting opportunities that lie ahead in 2025.



"With all your help and guidance, let us always show respect, friendship, excellence and care in all we do and say. We will love each other as you have loved us."

Jubilee Year 2025

On 24 December the Holy Father conducted The Rite of Opening of the Holy Door which marked the beginning of the Jubilee Year 2025.

This is a special party year celebrating God's love. Pope Francis has called this Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope," and invites us to be people of hope. Hope comes from knowing that God loves each one of us. Hope knows that all ends well because all ends in God. Therefore, we are confident that God's love will see us all through all the difficulties in life. That is true hope.

On the 24th January we will be launching the Jubilee Year in school by decorating a 'Holy Door' and taking part in a range of activities linked to Hope. Further information will follow.



Learn with your child- Phonics and Maths Workshops

Parents are invited to come into school, where we will be running phonics (EYFS & KS1) and maths (KS2) workshops that will explore how we teach the subjects in school. The sessions will share ideas on ways to best support your child's learning at home. We will share information and resources we use to support understanding. Please drop your children at normal school time and enter via the main entrance at 9.00am, these sessions will last around 30 minutes.

Reception Phonics Workshop - Tuesday 14th January 2025

Year 1 & Year 2 Phonics Workshop - Wednesday 15th January 2025

Class 3 Multiplication Workshop - Tuesday 21st January 2025

Class 4 Calculation and Operation Workshop - Wednesday 22nd January 2025

We look forward to seeing you there.



Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week takes place this year from 3rd-9th February, the focus is 'Know Yourself , Grow Yourself!' In school children will be working on a variety of activities to really understand what it means to 'look after our mental health and wellbeing'.

The aim of Children's Mental Health Week is that all children and young people, are equipped and empowered to embrace self-awareness and explore what this means to them.



Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day takes place in February of each year to raise awareness of a safer and better internet for all, and especially for children and young people.

Safer Internet Day this year will take place on 11th February 2025 with celebrations and learning based around the theme "Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online."

Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety. Each year we cover an online issue of theme that speaks about the things young people are seeing and experiencing online. Created in consultation with young people across the UK, this year Safer Internet Day will be focusing on the issue of scams online and for young people, how to protect themselves and others as well as what support is available to them.



Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening appointments will take place on **Tuesday 4th March and Monday 10th March**. A link will be sent out to parents for you to choose your preference of date and time. Please note that whilst we will try as much as possible to accommodate your preferences, this may not be possible in all cases.



Ash Wednesday and Lent

Ash Wednesday this year will be on 5th March and sees the beginning of the Season of Lent.

Lent is an important time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's Death and Resurrection at Easter. Lasting for forty days, from Ash Wednesday to the evening of Holy Thursday, the season draws us towards the light of Christ. During this special time in the

Church's liturgical year, we will journey towards Easter with an open heart and with a focus preparing ourselves to be the best that we can be.



Sc.Out.Ed and Swimming Lessons

Class 2 and Class 3 pupils will be taking part in Sc.Out.Ed lessons on a Friday afternoon during the Spring Term. These are outdoor learning lessons essential for healthy child development. Children are asked to come to school in their school uniform, but bring a suitable warm, waterproof clothing and shoes for an outdoor lesson to change into.

Class 4 pupils will attend swimming lessons at Shotton Primary School every Tuesday during the Spring Term. Pupils are to continue to wear their school uniform on a Tuesday and not PE kit.

Swimming kit required is as follows:

- All children must wear a one-piece costume or lycra trunks. No bikinis or swimming shorts.
- Goggles are allowed, but not required.
- Large towel, comb/brush.
- Swimming cap.

A coach will collect the Year 5 and 6's from school at 9:00am prompt and they will return in time for lunch.

Jewellery / Nail Varnish

We have noticed an increase in children coming into school wearing earrings and jewellery. Please can we remind you, that for health and safety reasons, pupils must not wear jewellery for school. If pupils wish they can wear a wrist watch for school, however this must not be a watch that has access to messaging, camera etc.

We have also seen a significant rise in children coming to school wearing nail varnish, please can you ensure that nail varnish is removed before children come to school.

Thank you for your support.



Upcoming Dates

- 24th January -Launch of Jubilee Year in school
- 29th January -Chinese New Year
- 3rd-9th February -Children's Mental Health Week
- 11th February -Safer Internet Day
- 24th February - 28th February - Half Term
- 4th March -Parents' Evening
- 4th March -Shrove Tuesday
- 5th March -Ash Wednesday
- 6th March -World Book Day
- 10th March -Parents' Evening
- 19th March -St Joseph's Feast Day
- 11th April -Break up for Easter at 1pm
- 28th April -Return to school after Easter



Contact Us

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. As always, we seek to make communication between home and school as effective as possible. If you have any queries, or would like to contact school, please see the information below.

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Visit us on the web at www.stjosephsblackhall.net