



### Dates For Your Diary

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024-** Bank Holiday (school closed)

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024-** Mass for Mrs Allen's retirement (2pm- all welcome)

**Monday 13 May to Thursday 16 May 2024-** Year 6 will sit Key Stage SATs

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024-** Children break up from school for half term holiday

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024-** Children return to school

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024-** Father's Day Afternoon Tea (2.30pm- more info to follow)

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024-** Key Stage 2 to see Awful Auntie at Darlington Hippodrome

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024-** Key Stage 2 production (2pm-more info to follow)

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024-** Disco 3.15pm -5pm

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024-** Leavers' assembly - 9.10am (more info to follow)

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024-** Colour Run- 2.15pm (more info to follow)

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024-** Children break up from school for summer holiday

## Happy Birthday

to pupils celebrating their birthday during April



Arthur-Luke

Archie F

Randa

Esther

Yohan

Sophia



## April Highlights

### Youth Village Residential-

From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, some of our Year 3 and 4 children went on a residential trip to the Youth Village in Allensford. The theme of the trip was 'Lost and Found'. The children learnt about the story of the lost sheep, linking the story and beliefs to their pep talk which they presented to the other schools.

### Year 4 Retreat Day-

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, Year 4 went to St. John's Secondary School. During the day, the children thought about their talents and who they are thankful for in their lives. They planted seeds and are looking forward to watching their sunflowers grow.



## Staffing Update

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April, we bid a fond farewell to Mrs Allen as she retired. She has worked at St. Joseph's for over 35 years. We would like to thank her for her dedication and contribution to the school. We will miss her greatly and wish her all the best for her retirement.

To commemorate Mrs Allen's retirement and to thank her for her commitment to the school, we will be celebrating mass on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm. We would love you to join us for this. We will also be celebrating with a cup of tea and cake with Mrs Allen afterwards. We hope you can join us.



*May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

## Attendance

Children are required to be at school by 9am as our core subject lessons (English and Maths) begin immediately after registration.

Appointments should be made out of school time where possible please.

Holidays should be taken outside of term time.

**The Department for Education deems that if a child's attendance drops below 90%, they become known as a Persistent Absentee. All absences are monitored thoroughly.**

To celebrate great attendance, children with 100% in a week receive 10 dojos on a Friday.

Below are the percentages of attendance for each class for April:

Matthew (Nursery/Reception) –91%

Mark (Year 1/2) – 90%

Luke (Year 3/4) – 95%

John (Year 5/6) – 93%

**The government's target for attendance for primary school pupils is at least 95%.**

Our whole school attendance for April was 92.4%.

Our whole school attendance since the beginning of September is 91.5%.

A child is classed as late if they arrive at school after 9.20am.

0.6% of our pupils arrived late in April.

A child is classed as unauthorised absence is they arrive at school after 9.30am.

2.1% of our pupils had unauthorised absences in April.



## Uniform

School uniform promotes a sense of pride in the school and makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance.

**If your child is not in correct school uniform, we will ask for correct uniform to be brought in for your child to change into.**

Our uniform is:

- Red sweatshirt or sweat cardigan



- White polo shirt



- Grey trousers or skirt/pinafore dress



- Sensible, plain black leather shoes/ trainers



**Jeans and leggings are not permitted. Skirts and trousers should be grey not black.**

## PE

On PE days, children are to come to school dressed in their PE kit.

**Mark (Year 1/2)- Thursday**

**Luke (Year 3/4)- Friday**

**John (Year 5/6)- Thursday**

Our PE uniform is:

- Plain white T-shirt with no branding or logos from professional sports teams
- Plain black shorts or tracksuit bottoms with no branding or logos from professional

sports teams

- Red sweatshirt or sweat cardigan or hoodie
- Suitable black trainers

**If your child comes to school in PE kit on a day which is not their PE day, we will ask for uniform to be brought in for your child to change into.**

## Eco Warriors Update



Woodlands Trust Green School Award-

We have achieved gold award. We did this by planting new trees in the school grounds, visiting Hamsterley Forest, writing poems about the importance of forests and creating pieces of artwork to show the beauty of forests.

We are now working towards achieving the platinum award.



## Mini Vinnies Update

We have a sharing shelf for uniform and food in the main reception area. We would greatly appreciate donations. Please feel free to take items from the shelves.



# St. Joseph's Community Café

You are warmly invited for

**coffee, cake and conversation**

every last Friday of the month

from 2:30pm until 3.15pm

in the school hall.



**Love Is Brewing!**