October 2026 Newsletter

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 2nd November 2026- Children return to school

Thursday 26th November 2026- Parents' evening to discuss progress

Wednesday 2nd December 2026- Year 1 to Year 6 visit to the pantomime (Rapunzel)

Thursday 3rd December 2026- Advent Mass (all welcome) at 2.15pm

Friday 4th December 2026- Christmas coffee afternoon with stalls and games (2-3.15pm)

Thursday 10th December 2026- Save The Children's Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 10th December 2026- Christmas Dinner Day

Thursday 10th December 2026- Nursery (3-year-olds) and reception visit to the Hullabaloo (9am-12pm)

Tuesday 15th December 2026- Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity (2-3pm) all welcome

Wednesday 16th December 2026- Disco from 3.15pm-5.00pm

Thursday 17th December 2026- 2 and 3yr old nursery Nativity songs (11.30am and 3pm) all welcome

Friday 18th December 2026- Christmas carols around the tree (2.45-3.15pm) all welcome

Friday 18th December 2026- Children break up for Christmas holiday

Monday 4th January 2027- Children return to school



Happy Birthday

to pupils celebrating their birthday during October

Isla A Ben Lexi Grayson Olivia L

Muku Debbie Phoenix Amelia P Harrison



October Highlights

Celebrating Black History Month
Across the month, we learnt about the achievements of influential individuals who have made a positive impact on the world. Our fantastic Reading Ambassadors led whole-school assemblies, sharing the inspiring stories of Katherine Johnson, the pioneering mathematician whose work helped send astronauts into space, Marcus Rashford, the footballer and campaigner who has worked tirelessly to support children and families, and Wangari Maathai, the environmental activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner who championed sustainability and change. Our School Council also led Picture News sessions with the whole school, encouraging thoughtful discussions about diversity, equality and the importance of making a positive difference in our communities.

Sculpture Comes To Life
Year 5 and 6 had a fantastic time visiting the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle and exploring the sculptures of Henry Moore. The children discussed the materials used, studied the position and direction of the human figure, and confidently used artistic vocabulary including proportion and abstract. In groups, the children transformed themselves into sculptures of footballs, bridges and chairs before working in pairs to sketch one another in different poses. They then used their drawings to create their own clay figures, applying a range of sculpting techniques.

Celebrating Space Week with Kielder Observatory
We were delighted to welcome Kielder Observatory to school as part of our Space Week celebrations! Every class had the exciting opportunity to step inside the inflatable planetarium, where they journeyed through space, learning all about the planets in our solar system and spotting different constellations in the night sky. Pupils also took part in fascinating workshops, exploring either the science of light or discovering more about space rocks and meteorites. The sessions were packed with hands-on learning, curiosity and wonder, inspiring our young scientists and astronomers of the future!

Firework Safety with the Fire Service
As we approach Bonfire Night, we were delighted to welcome the Fire Service into school to deliver an important firework safety assembly for all of our pupils. The children learned how to stay safe around fireworks, what to do in an emergency, and how to enjoy Bonfire Night responsibly with their families. The session was both informative and engaging, helping our pupils understand the importance of following safety rules and making sensible choices.







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 £1 for their class piggy bank and a ticket in our termly raffle. The class with the highest percentage will also receive £20 for their class piggy bank.

Below are the percentages of attendance for each class for October.

Joseph (Nursery) – 86.72%

Mary (Reception) - 92.28%

Matthew (Year 1) – 94.29%

Mark (Year 2) – 96.88%

Luke (Year 3/4) – 95.26%

John (Year 5/6) – 93.1%

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

Our whole school attendance for October was 93.1%.

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

2.95% of our pupils had unauthorised absences in October.

Attendance Matters

...every school day counts!

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 contact you to see if you can bring some in. If this is not possible, we will provide your child with uniform to wear whilst at school.

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.

Homework

Homework reinforces and helps your child to retain information taught in the classroom. It also develops study habits and independent learning.

For Year 1 to Year 6, we kindly ask that your child is listened to reading daily and their reading record is signed. Your child will receive a dojo for each signature in their record.

For Year 1 to Year 6, your child will also receive maths and spelling homework each Friday to be handed back in by the following Thursday.

Times tables are extremely important for children in Year 3 to Year 6. In Year 4, children take a times tables test. Every child has log in details for Times Tables Rockstars - https://ttrockstars.com/ We would greatly appreciate it if your child could regularly practise their times tables at home.



PE

On PE day (Monday), children are to come to school dressed in their PE kit.



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.

Jewellery and Hairstyles

Wrist watches are permitted but not smart watches.

Piercings (including earrings) are not permitted.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. PE.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

brightly coloured, dyed hair, headwear with bold patterns or colours, excessive hair accessories.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

100% ATTENDANCE RAFFLE!

BE IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY
TO BE IN WITH A CHANCE TO WIN!

1. 100% EACH WEEK
Be in school every day, every week.

2. GET A TICKET
If you have 100% attendance for the week, a raffle ticket goes into the draw.

3. WIN BIG!
One ticket is drawn at the end of the term!

THIS TERM'S PRIZES:

RESTAURANT & CINEMA VOUCHER

CINEMA TICKET

OR

ROF 59 VOUCHER

TURN UP. EVERY DAY. BE IN TO WIN!

YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE