



### Dates For Your Diary

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025**- Children return to school

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>-Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025**- Yr5/6 residential at Derwent Hill

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025**- Children break up for half term holiday

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025**- School closed for PD Day

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**- Children return to school

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025**- Children break up for easter holiday

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025**- Children return to school

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025**- School closed for bank holiday

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025**- Year 6 SATs week

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025**- Children break up for half term holiday

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025**- Children return to school

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025**- Year 4 multiplication check

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025**- Year 1 phonics screening check

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025**- Children break up for summer holiday

## Happy Birthday

to pupils celebrating their birthday during December



Abdulbaset   Aurora   Mayowa   Nadia  
Georgia   Harley KJ   Borys   Jeremiah  
Kirsty   Cruz



## **December Highlights**

### **Big Sing-**

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December, Year 5 and 6 attended Durham Music Service's 'Big Sing' event at Ushaw College. The children sang lots of Christmas songs with a live band.

### **Dogs Trust-**

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, we had a special visitor from the Dogs Trust. They led a workshop for every class. We now know how to read the body language of dogs and know when they may need some space. We were able to ask a range of questions to develop our understanding.

### **Pantomime-**

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, Reception – Year 6 went to Darlington Hippodrome to watch Sleeping Beauty. Nursery (3-year-olds) went to Darlington Hullabaloo to watch Cloud Man. We had a great time and even had our own celebrity as Heidi (Year 5) was invited up on stage to perform alongside one of the actors. Well done Heidi- you were amazing!

### **Nativity-**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, nursery and reception performed their nativities. The children all sang beautifully and spoke clearly. They were all super brave to stand up in front of an audience. Well done everyone!

### **Christmas Tree Decorations-**

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, some of Year 3,4,5 and 6 visited Lindisfarne Care Home to make Christmas tree decorations alongside the residents. The children had a great time and particularly enjoyed using the glitter!

### **Carol Singing-**

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, some of Year 3,4,5 and 6 visited Rose Lodge Care Home to sing Christmas carols for the residents. The children sang beautifully and the residents enjoyed singing along.



## 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. The class with the highest percentage will also receive 10 dojos per child.

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

Matthew (Nursery/Reception) –88%

Mark (Year 1/2) – 93%

Luke (Year 3/4) – 95%

John (Year 5/6) – 92%

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

Our whole school attendance for December was 92%.

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

0.8% of our pupils arrived late in December.

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

1.7% of our pupils had unauthorised absences in December.



## 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.**

## 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.

## **READING EVERY DAY...**

...**CREATES** lifelong readers.

...**TEACHES** children to find adventure, ideas, and answers through books.

...**STRENGTHENS** relationships and creates memories as a family activity.

...**OPENS DOORS** through which children can learn about themselves.

...**BUILDS** a diverse vocabulary and strengthens fluency in reading.

...**ALLOWS** a child's imagination and creativity to blossom.

...**GIVES** children the tools needed to become successful students.

...**TAKES** the "scary" out of reading in the classroom.

...**HELPS** children make connections to new places, people, and concepts.

...**AWAKENS** children to the world around them.



## PE

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

Mark (Year 1/2)- Monday

Luke (Year 3/4)- Monday

John (Year 5/6)- Monday

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 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!**