



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Statement to Live By: I know we are happier when we are united.

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to our Spring term in school, the week's are flying by and Christmas feels like a distant memory! All of our children have come back to school with renewed energy and are all working really hard in class.

Whole School Celebration of the Word

This week in our Celebration of the Word, we have been exploring scripture from the Gospel according St Mark.

We learned that:

- The first disciples dropped everything to follow Jesus.
- Jesus invites us to leave our old ways behind and follow Him.
- We can follow Jesus through our words and actions

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for sharing the Good News with us.

Help me to listen and believe in your love,

to say sorry when I get things wrong,

and to be quick to follow you.

Amen

Celebration of the Word

Our year 6 children attended Mass in church on Tuesday morning. Thank you to all of the families and friends who supported the children and attended.

We welcomed the families of year 2 to participate in our worship in school, the children read and sang beautifully, well done year 2.



Rockstar Day: It was wonderful to see the children dressed up as rock stars for our rock star day. There were colourful hair styles, arm sleeve tattoos, rock star make up and inflatable instruments. The children had a lovely day and definitely showed their rock star spirit in the hall during assembly.

Continuing our rock star theme, all children in year 2 to year 6, will be competing in their first times tables rock stars battle on Friday 2nd February - the winning class will receive an extra playtime. We ask parents to encourage their children practice ahead of the battle to give the class the best possible chance of winning. All children should have access to times tables rock stars to practice at home.

Walkwise: Year 1 will be participating in our 'Walkwise' programme over the next few weeks. This teaches the children to be more aware when they are crossing the roads. The children have lessons in class and also put this into practice by going outside and being taught about road safety.

Parking outside school

Parking outside of school is becoming a safety concern.

Please can we remind you to be considerate when parking around school, it has recently become very hazardous for children getting across the road. Parking is not permitted in the bus stop, or on the yellow lines directly outside of school, even for drop off. There is parking availability in the Church carpark and at the park. Sunderland Council are aware and will be doing spot checks on cars parked illegally or causing a hazard and may issue penalty notices.



Keeping Children Safe

Every member of staff in school will act to keep children safe. Our designated staff who have a lead role in keeping them safe are:

Mrs E Maher - Headteacher

Mrs F Lawton – Acting Deputy Headteacher

Mrs J Johnson – Senior Leader

Mrs P Swanston – Business Manager

Mrs A Twine – Safeguarding Governor

Year 6: As part of their transition to comprehensive school, year 6 have been taking part in transition lessons at St. Robert's. They have participated in Science and Art lessons. Well done year 6, you continue to make us proud.

School Gate

As part of our safeguarding measures, our school gate will close at 8.50am promptly as class teachers need to begin the day.

Any children arriving after this time will need to come through the office.

After half term, parents will need to sign their children into school using our sign in login in reception, children will receive a late mark when they come through the office.

Reminder:

For safety purposes, children should not wear jewellery in school and are not permitted to wear earrings. Long hair should be tied back and no make up of any form should be worn.

Swimming

Our year 4 class will continue their swimming lessons this term. They are all doing brilliantly, keep up the good work.

Attendance and punctuality

As a school we constantly monitor attendance, as we want our pupils to benefit from the highest quality education to enable them to excel. We know that pupils who attend well have the best chances of success academically and socially. This can only be achieved if pupils attend school regularly and on time.

Our school curriculum sets out exactly what pupils should be taught at every stage of the year and when a child is absent, they risk developing gaps in their learning.

Our new attendance policy can be found on our website. Attendance is being monitored in school and you may receive a letter or telephone call if attendance drops below our Trust target of 97%. We will need to ask for medical evidence of appointments in order to log this appropriately.

We do not want our attendance monitoring to be a negative experience and would really like to work with families to offer support where needed. Attendance will be celebrated as a class and whole school in achievement assembly.

Please can we remind parents to notify us either by telephone, leaving a message with the child's name, class and reason for absence or through Arbor. Could this be done on every day of your child's absence.

Any leave of absence during term time will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, authorised by the Headteacher. Request forms are available in the school office and should be submitted to school in advance along with supporting evidence.

We appreciate that at this time of year there are lots of sickness bugs, coughs and colds, which can't be helped, but as always, we know we can rely on your continued support in improving our overall attendance. Our current whole school attendance is 95.2% which is below the Government's expectation of 96%, we are confident this can be improved with your support.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs E Maher

What's on this Half Term

26 January 2024	Year 2 – Celebration of the Word. 9am School Hall – parents welcome.
30 January 2024	Year 4 Sacrament of reconciliation 11 am Our Lady's Church – parents/carers welcome.
30 January 2024	Year 6 – St. Robert's transition morning – Science lesson.
02 February 2024	Year 1 – Celebration of the Word. 9am School Hall – parents /carers welcome.
06 February 2024	Year 3 – Mass at 10am Our Lady's Church – Parents/carers welcome.
09 February 2024	Inset Day – School Closed to Children.
20 February 2024	Year 4 and Year 1 – Mass at 10am Our Lady's Church – parents/carers welcome.
27 February 2024	Year 5 and Reception Class – Mass at 10am Our Lady's Church – Parents/carers welcome.
08 March 2024	Reception – Celebration of the Word. 9am School Hall – parents /carers welcome.
19 March 2024	Parents Evening. School hall.
20 March 2024	Parents Evening. School hall.
28 March 2024	Break up for Easter Holidays

School Meals = Please note the price of a school meal is increasing from 1st September to £2.65. Payments should be made through Arbor