



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Statement to Live By: I try to love others as I love myself.

Dear parents/carers,

Happy new year to you all. I hope that you all had a peaceful and holy Christmas and have had a wonderful start to 2025.

Celebration of the Word

This year is a Jubilee Year, where Pope Francis has invited us to renew our sense of hope by naming this year, Pilgrims of Hope. He has called on us all "to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind."

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

The autumn term in school ended on a high note, with lots of festive cheer!

Our Early Years children re-enacted the Nativity story beautifully. Well done children! Thank you to all of the parents, carers and friends who attended our performances, I am sure you will all agree the children were superb and gave us a great reminder of the importance of the Christmas story.

Year 1 and Year 2 performed 'Born in a Barn', the singing performances from the children was very uplifting and certainly got us in the Christmas spirit! Well done children! Thank you to all our parents and carers who came to support.

Key Stage 2 held their amazing annual carol service in church. Thank you to all our parents and carers who attended – it was standing room only! The lovely comments in support of our carol service were much appreciated and were passed onto the children. Well done children!

Thank you to Mrs Hampson and the school choir who took their beautiful singing voices to the Whiteladies Care Home to sing carols for the residents. The choir practice on a weekly basis and this was a lovely opportunity for them to show off their hard work and bring Christmas happiness to the community.

Pantomime in School

In school, we thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime Snow White, which was funded by money raised from our 'Friends of St. Joseph's committee.' Shouts of 'Oh no you didn't' and 'He's behind you,' rang out around school! All the children, from Nursery to Year 6, joined in with the songs and audience participation, it was a wonderful performance!

A special 'Thank you' for the continued fundraising efforts from the 'Friends of St Joseph's,' which allowed us to give our children the chance to experience this magical opportunity with their school friends.

Snowtubing

Year 1 finished off the term snowtubing at Silksworth ski slope. Everyone was very brave and had several turns going down the slope. We enjoyed hot chocolate to warm up afterwards and Santa even paid a visit! A lovely end to the term and the beginning of the Christmas holidays.

Nursery

A huge welcome to our new children and their families starting our Nursery in January. We know this transition can be a big step for children and parents, please be assured that our nursery staff on are on hand to support in any way they can.

If you know someone who is thinking of applying for a place in our wonderful nursery provision, please let them know that applications can be made from their child turning 2 years of age. Application packs can be picked up from our school reception.

Admissions – September 2025

The admissions application process for a place in our Reception Class for September 2025, closes on 15th January 2025. If eligible, please complete all of the necessary forms on the Sunderland City Council admissions portal before this date.

First Holy Communion



As our First Holy Communion fast approach, the Trust are holding a pre-loved open day for First Holy Communion outfits on Saturday 8th February from 10am to 4pm.

There is no cost to borrow outfits, just to return them in good condition.

If anyone would like to donate any First Holy Communion outfits for boys or girls these would also be gratefully accepted.

Walkwise

Our children in Year 1 will start their Walkwise – Child Pedestrian Training Programme in school this week. This is a 6-week course which helps children to make safe decisions when crossing the road. A road safety Child Pedestrian Trainer from Sunderland City Council delivers the course and the children will take part in practical and classroom-based sessions.

Emmaus Village Residential

Our Year 5 children have attended the Emmaus Village in Consett this week for a two-night residential. It is the first time many of the children have stayed away from home, so it will be an exciting experience and we are certain that the cold weather won't have stopped the fun! We can't wait to hear their stories when they return!

After School Clubs

After school clubs will begin on Monday 13th January. Please look out for a letter regarding the after school clubs.

Free School meal

On Thursday 16th January all children can receive a free school lunch. If your child currently has packed lunch and would like the free school lunch, please let the school office know so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Staff Shout Out

All of our staff in school work really hard, but we like to give a staff shout out to an individual member of staff on every newsletter. This week's staff shout out goes to the new addition to our team – Mrs Laws! She will be teaching Y3 on a Thursday and Friday and we are thrilled to have her onboard!

Curriculum Letters

Please look out for this term's Curriculum letters for each Year group, these will be sent out next week.

Staff Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant, if you, or someone you know is interested, please call into the school office for further details. The hours are 11.30 to 1 pm each day.



Parking – IMPORTANT

Could we ask parents to be mindful of where you park when picking up and dropping off children to school.

We have been informed that traffic wardens and parking patrols will be intermittently monitoring parking outside of school.

Please be considerate when parking around school, it is often 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 will be doing spot checks on cars parked illegally or causing a hazard and may issue penalty notices.

Attendance

As part of our attendance monitoring and in line with the attendance policy, letters of attendance will be sent out to parents every half term, detailing your child's attendance percentage.

We will be continuing our attendance monitoring this term. If attendance has dropped below our Trust target of 97% an attendance letter may be sent out.

Well done to Nursery and Reception this week their attendance was 100% so they get to look after Bingo the Bear, our school mascot.

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

Lunch Money

School lunch is £2.85 per day. Payments for school lunches must be made on the Monday for the week ahead. We cannot operate a system which allows arrears to build up for meals taken in previous weeks.

What's on this Term – this may change and new dates maybe added

Wednesday 8 th January – 10 th January	Year 5 – Emmaus Village Residential
Friday 17 th January	Year 2 – Celebration of the Word – School Hall 9am
Monday 20 th January	Year 6 – St. Robert's visit – Science Lesson (am)
Friday 24 th January	Year 6 – St. Robert's visit – Language Lesson (am)
Tuesday 28 th January	Year 3 – Leading Mass in Church 10am
Friday 31 st January	Year 5 – Celebration of the Word – School Hall 9am
Tuesday 4 th February	Year 6 – St. Robert's visit – Language Lesson (am)
Tuesday 4 th February	Year 2 – attending Mass in church 10am
Friday 7 th February	Year 1 – Celebration of the Word – School Hall 9am
Tuesday 18 th February	Year 4 – Leading Mass in Church 10am
Friday 21 st February	Inset day – School Closed to Pupils
Monday 24 th February to Friday 28 th February	Half Term – School Closed
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day – Details to Follow
Friday 7 th March	Year 6 – Celebration of the Word – School Hall 9am
Tuesday 11 th March	Year 2 – attending Mass in Church 10am
Tuesday 18 th March	Whole School – attending Mass in Church 10am (St. Joseph's Day Celebration Mass)
Tuesday 25 th March	Year 5 – Leading Mass in Church 10am
Friday 28 th March	Reception Class – Celebration of the Word – School Hall 9am
Tuesday 1 st April	Year 1 – attending Mass in Church 10am
Wednesday 2 nd April	Parents Evening (details to follow)
Thursday 3 rd April	Parents Evening (details to follow)
Friday 4 th April	Year 3 – Celebration of the Word – school hall 9am
Tuesday 8 th April	Year 6 lead – whole school attending Mass in Church 10am Easter Mass