



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Statement to Live By: I know I belong in a community that includes my school

Dear parents/carers,

It is a very busy term in school and lovely to see all of our children working hard with great energy and enthusiasm.

Celebration of the Word

In this week's Celebration of the Word, we learned of Jesus' first public miracle at a family wedding. When the wine ran out, Mary's faith-filled response helped others to believe in Jesus. We know we can always take any problems to Jesus, follow His instructions and believe in Him.

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended Mass with Year 1. The children were excellent in church and received lots of praise from the parishioners at Mass.

The theme for Year 2's Celebration of the Word was 'Books'. Thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended in school. There were some lovely comments in our parents book which were shared with the children.

In our last newsletter, we mentioned about the Jubilee year where Pope Francis has invited us to renew our sense of hope by naming this year, Pilgrims of Hope. The children participated in a special Celebration of the Word in school today for the launch of the Jubilee. They will be given the opportunity to write down their 'hope' for the year which will be displayed in school.

St. Cuthbert's Cross

Every child in school has had the chance to work with an artist in school called Geri Mole on developing a new cross for our hall. The cross is based on the St. Cuthbert's Cross and will be displayed in our hall as a focal point for children and visitors when participating in celebration of the word. The children were assisted by Geri in designing and developing the cross using mosaic tiles. Our KS1 and EYFS children developed smaller crosses with similar designs which will be displayed in various places around school. The children are very proud of their work and we hope to have this installed in the hall very soon. Please look out for it next time you attend a celebration of the word.

Fundraising / Non Uniform day

We have plans to develop some of the areas in school which have become a little tired and outdated. This will enhance our school learning environment for children, staff and visitors. We intend to allow the children to help with the development of some areas in school, through art and design. Artist, Geri Mole will once again work with the children on areas in school to enhance the space. Our initial development will be the windows leading out to our reflection garden. A glass painted mural will be created for the windows. We will then focus on our library to create a more welcoming space for the children to read and learn.

As with all developments, there are costs involved. We will be holding some fundraising events throughout the year, which as always, parents and carers of St. Joseph's always support and are very generous.

Our first will be a non-uniform day on Valentines' Day. Children can come to school in any non-uniform, or they may like to wear red or something with hearts on. We would ask for a voluntary donation of £1, towards our non-uniform day.

Look out for further fundraising events during the year. Thank you for your continued generosity, it is much appreciated.

Number Day

We are going to take part in Number Day on Friday 7th February, where we will be enjoying a funfilled day of number activities. Children can come dressed to school in anything with a number or shape on. A voluntary donation is not necessary for our Number Day.

Parent Survey

We always appreciate and value feedback from parents in order to work together to improve our school. We would like to collect the views of parents through a survey which will be open from 3.00pm on Friday 24th January until 7.00pm on 31st January. To complete the survey, please scan the following QR code to open the survey page, it should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete. Thank you so much for taking the time to share your views.



Reading Books

It is important that children bring their reading books back into school on a weekly basis. The books we use are part of a reading set and when books are kept at home they can't be given to other children who may be ready for the next book in a set.

Book Fair

We will be holding our annual book fair in March to coincide with World Book Day – further details to follow.

School Nursing Team

Our school nursing team come into school at various times throughout the year to deliver presentations to the children on various health related topics. Our Reception and Year 1 class had a presentation this week about dental health and looking after our teeth. Our Year 4 and Year 5 class have taken part in an emotional health and wellbeing presentation and discussion. We are sure the children will be able to share what they have learnt with you.

Art Club

As part of our after-school club provision we are looking at providing an art club for children in the second half of spring term, this would run from w/c 3rd March until w/c 7 April. The sessions would be £5 per child per session. So, £30 per child for a six week block. The club will be led by an artist already known to the children from recent projects carried out in school. Each week children will explore new art techniques in painting, drawing, collage and sculpture. There will be guided activities but also room to allow children to explore their own creative direction. All materials will be provided. If you could email the office or send a message on Arbor whether your child would be interested in attending.

Dogs

Dogs should not be brought onto the school premises, this also includes the school car park. We respectfully ask parents not to stand on the school car park waiting for their children with their dogs.

Walkway and Grass Verge

We are mindful that our walkway into school can become very busy during drop off and pick up times, we also love to see how excited some children are coming into school, however, could parents please encourage children to walk along the walkway to avoid any accidents.

We know the grass verge in front of school is very appealing to children to run across when they are leaving school, please encourage children to walk on the path in front of the wall.

Staff Shout Out

This week's staff shout out goes to Mrs Jacklin who has made a fantastic start on the transformation of our Music Room! Thank you Mrs Jacklin!

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 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

Mr R Topping Safeguarding Link Governor

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

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
Friday 7 th February	Number Day – wear clothing with numbers or shapes
Friday 14 th February	Non – Uniform Day £1 voluntary donation
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
Thursday 6 th March	Book Fair – 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