



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Statement to Live By: I co-operate with others in work and play.

Dear parents/carers,

This half term has flown over, everyone in school has worked so hard and will need a well-earned rest when half term arrives!

## **Celebration of the Word**

The Gospel this week describes how Simon Peter, James and John were compelled to follow Jesus after witnessing a miraculous catch of fish. During our Celebration of the Word, we reminded the children that they too are invited to follow Jesus and become part of God's family.

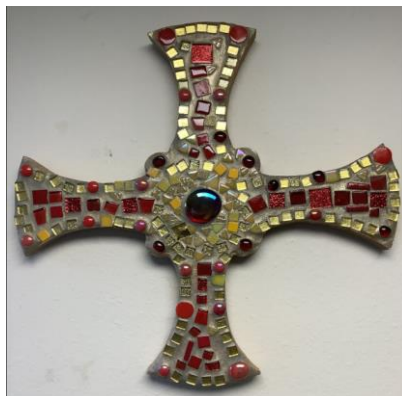
Thank you to all parents and carers who attended Mass recently with Year 3. Our children, as always were wonderful ambassadors for our school.

Well done to Year 5's for their Celebration of the Word. Thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended in school.

Year 1 held their Celebration of the Word last Thursday morning, with the theme of 'Special People'. Thank you to all of the parents and carers who were able to attend to support the children, especially with the last minute change of day.

## **St. Cuthbert's Cross**

In our last newsletter we mentioned how the children had been working with Geri Mole, a local artist to create a mosaic of St. Cuthbert's cross. This is now proudly displayed in our school hall with smaller crosses placed around school. Look out for them when you are next in school! The cross in the hall gives a focal point for our worship, we are so pleased with the result following lots of hard work. A special thankyou to Geri, who is now working on some other exciting projects in our school.



One of the smaller crosses which is hanging in our reception area.

## Parent Survey

Thank you to all of our parents who completed the parent survey, we appreciate you taking the time out to respond.

Firstly, we would like to thank the parents who gave incredibly positive feedback, there were lots of lovely comments, which we will be sharing with staff. It was a pleasure to hear the acknowledgement and recognition from parents about our staff for their hard work and dedication in making school an enjoyable, aspirational and safe environment for our children to grow and develop.

We always welcome feedback as it gives us a valuable insight to how parents feel about St. Joseph's.

The following information gives a little feedback on some of the issues raised:

- **Communication** – All of our main school communication is sent through Arbor. If this is just a message without an attachment this will come through on the Arbor app as an in-app message. If the message we need to send has an attached document, this will come via email to the email address we have saved for parents. If you change your email address, please let us know.

Our website is being developed and we hope to use this to include further class information and class pictures showing what is happening in school. We will let you know when this is fully up and running. Our website address is - [stjosephswashington.bwcet.com](http://stjosephswashington.bwcet.com)

Our Facebook page also continues to be developed to include photographs and information.

Our Early Years team use tapestry to children's progress in school and parents can also upload activities their child does at home as a talking point for teachers in their class.

- **Parking** - parking concerns were raised as an issue, where parents have said 'it is only a matter of time before someone gets hurt.' Please be assured that the safety of our children and families remains paramount. We do not ignore parking concerns and have been relentless in raising our issues with the council. As a result, they have planned to put measures in place to alleviate the situation.

We do not have the staffing capacity to monitor the parking outside of school, nor should our staff face aggression or abuse when attempting to address parking issues.

**NOTE:** Parking is **not** permitted in the bus stops, or on the yellow lines directly outside of school, even for drop off. There are two car parks near school which should be used. We would also ask that when parking, please be courteous to our school neighbours and do not block garages or driveways where residents can be blocked in or cannot gain access to their property. Sunderland council parking enforcement team will be carrying out spot checks around school and fixed penalty notices will be issued.

- **School Walk Way** – we appreciate our walk way into school is busy especially on a morning and evening when children and parents are trying to get in or out of school. Unfortunately, at the moment this is the only entrance we can use for access into school. During COVID we had permission to open the main school gates as a temporary measure, which considered social distancing rules at the time, however, due to health and safety regulations we are unable to continue using the larger main gates for entrance into school. We would ask children not to ride bikes or scooters on the walkway which can cause accidents and give way to push chairs or wheelchair users at the thinnest part of the walkway.

- **House Groups** – All children in school have been assigned to a house group, siblings have been allocated the same house group. Each week house group points are totalled and the house groups who have won wins the cup! At the end of the year the house group with the most points wins a special treat. This year our house groups will also lead celebration of the word for the rest of school at various points in the year.

### **Parental Consents**

Thank you if you have already completed the parental consents on Arbor. The lists of parental consents that we require is below. In Arbor there is the option to accept or decline a consent. We would appreciate if this could be checked and updated.

- Administer first aid
- Contact Dentist
- Contact Doctor
- To take my child out of school for visits in the local vicinity, linked to the curriculum including the parish church
- For school staff to transport my child in their own vehicle in exceptional circumstances, accompanied by another member of staff
- For my contact details to be used for email and SMS
- Photography/video – school premises
- Photography/video – newsletter
- Photography/video – school trust / website
- Photography/video – social media
- Photography/video – press
- Birthday invitations
- E Safety and acceptable use policy

### **Infant Agility**

Well done to year 1 and year 2 who have participated in infant agility events at Sunderland Tennis Centre and Barnwell Academy. The events were Disney themed and the children took part in a range of different sports activities. All of the children had a great time and developed their throwing, catching, balancing, team building and co-ordination skills. Well done everyone.

### **Gardening Gang**

As the weather begins to improve, our gardening gang will once again begin to plant and grow vegetables in our garden. They will also start to plant flowers in our reflection garden. If anyone would like to donate any seeds that could be used in our garden, for example, onions, carrots, peas or even any bags of compost, this would be gratefully received.

### **Valentines Day – Non-Uniform**

Thank you for your contributions to our valentine's day non-uniform day, we raised, £154.50. Our kitchen staff even made heart shaped biscuits for our lunch, they were delicious!

### **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.

### **Inset Day**

A reminder, there is an inset day on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February, school will only be open to staff on this day, children will be off.

### **Staff Shout Out**

This week's staff shout out goes to Mrs Young for always working incredibly hard and showing kindness and understanding to all of the children in her care.

### **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 Year 5 this week their attendance was 98% 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 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Non – Uniform Day £1 voluntary donation
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 4 – Leading Mass in Church 10am
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Inset day – School Closed to Pupils
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term – School Closed
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day – Details to Follow
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Fair – details to follow
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 – Celebration of the Word – School Hall 9am
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 – attending Mass in Church 10am
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole School – attending Mass in Church 10am (St. Joseph's Day Celebration Mass)
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 – Leading Mass in Church 10am
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception Class – Celebration of the Word – School Hall 9am
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Year 1 – attending Mass in Church 10am
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Parents Evening (details to follow)
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Parents Evening (details to follow)
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 3 – Celebration of the Word – school hall 9am
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 6 lead – whole school attending Mass in Church 10am Easter Mass