



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Statement to Live By: I know that it is ok for me to make mistakes.

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back after half term, we hope you all had a restful and relaxing week. The children have certainly come back into school with renewed energy.

## Celebration of the Word

March marks the beginning of Lent, a time in the Church that focuses on prayer, fasting and almsgiving (charitable giving). The season of Lent brings an exciting opportunity to slow down, put the most important things first and experience the joy that God offers each one of us.



*Please use this Prayer for Peace in your family prayer time to invite God to help you love others, even when it is difficult.*

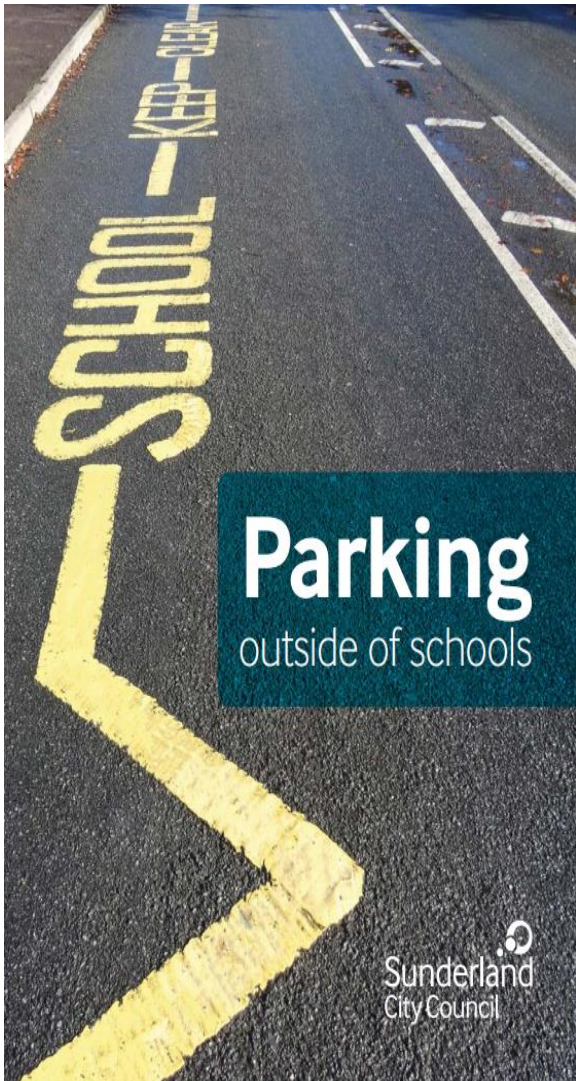
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
Amen

## Ash Wednesday

This week in school we held a special service on Ash Wednesday. The children were reverent and thoughtful and received the blessed ashes on their foreheads. We talked about how this is a sign of God's love for us and it reminds us that one day we will be with him forever in heaven.

Thank you to all of our Year 6 parents who attended celebration of the word to support the children. The message of lent was spiritually and prayerfully conveyed.

## Parking outside of school



## Parking outside of schools

### Nobody should be forced into the road

Parking on a pavement can obstruct and inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs, those with visual impairments, and people with prams and pushchairs. Cars parked on pavements can force our children into the road to face oncoming traffic.

### How can you help improve road safety outside of schools?

Never stop or park on keep clear markings. They are there to make sure that children can cross the road in and out of their school safely. The markings not only highlight the school entrance to other road users, but also mean that the area must be kept clear of stationary vehicles.

School keep clear markings have a 'No Stopping' Traffic Regulation Order on them. The sign indicates the times the restriction is in place. There may be additional waiting and loading restrictions in order to regulate parking.

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Sunderland  
City Council

## Easter Egg Raffle

We will be holding our annual Easter Egg raffle on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April. Staff will once again kindly donate the easter eggs for the raffle prizes. Raffle tickets will go on sale on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March, they will be £1 per ticket with a maximum amount of £2. Good luck!

## Football Team

Well done to our Year 6 football team. Their hard work in training has paid off as they were victorious in 3 matches this week! Keep up the hard work 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.

## World Book Day

World Book Day is always a very exciting day in school. The children came into school dressed as their favourite book character or wearing comfy clothes or pyjamas which they enjoy reading in.

During the day the children read their favourite books and were given the opportunity to share this with their friends and say why they enjoyed this book. Classes came together and the older children were able to read stories to the younger children.

We also held our 'decorate a potato' competition. Everyone showed great creativity, we didn't know so many book characters could be made out of a potato! Well done to our potato competition winners.



## Book Fair

Our annual scholastic book fair will take place in the school hall this week and next. For every book purchased, school receive rewards to be able to purchase new books for school. Children can use their world book day tokens to receive £1 off any book. The book fair will be open for parents and children on Friday morning 8.40am - 9.00am, after school on Friday from 3.20pm, Monday 8.40am - 9.00am and Monday from 3.20pm. It will be cash only.

## Staff Shout Out

This week's staff shout out goes to Mrs Lawton for all of her continued hard work, both in class and as Acting Deputy Head. Thank you Mrs Lawton!



**St John XXIII Parish Washington & Penshaw Alpha Course 2025:**

Maybe you've wondered about one or more of these questions

Are Christians different from other people?

How do they live their lives?

What do they believe?

What does the church teach?

- Even if you've been a Catholic all your life
- Or you're not a Catholic or Christian but curious about faith and church
- Maybe you want to know more because your child attends a Catholic school

If any of the above apply to you, then maybe our Alpha course is for you, it is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open, and informal environment.

It is a 10-week course commencing Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church Hall Washington 6.30-8.30.

If you are interested, please use link below the group number is limited and we will be in touch with more details .

<https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/aXJMIJPyPI>

Closing date is March 14<sup>th</sup>

**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 Year 3 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**

**Please note:** There has been a change to Mass on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, this will no longer be in church, the priest will come into school to celebrate Mass with the children.

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 – Mass in school 10am for all children (St. Joseph's Day Celebration Mass)
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	St. Joseph's Day
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
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Raffle Tickets on sale for Easter Raffle
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	CAFOD Big Lent Relay in school
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)
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Year 6 – Safetyworks Visit – 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
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Egg Raffle
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Break up for Easter – Return to school on Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April