



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Statement to Live by 'I try to follow our school and classroom rules.'



Dear parents/carers,
Happy New Year!

Welcome back after our Christmas break. We hope you and your family have enjoyed a peaceful and restful holiday. The children have certainly returned to school with enthusiasm and renewed energy at the start of our Spring term.

Celebration of the Word

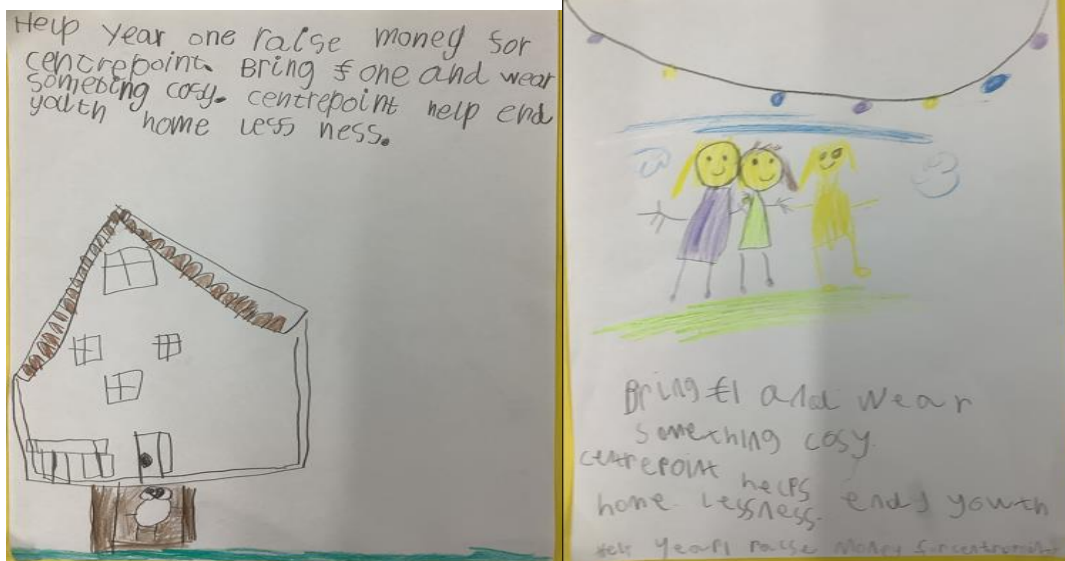
On our return to school this term we gathered as a school family to continue our celebration of the birth of Jesus, the light of the world, God's gift of love to us all.

The name Jesus means 'Saviour'. The light has come to shine on all people throughout the world, to guide them to the new life offered by Jesus.

This week we celebrated the Epiphany, when we shared the story of how some wise men from another part of the world were led by a star and travelled the long journey to Bethlehem, looking for Jesus. They found him in a stable.



Catholic Life in School:



Non-Uniform Day

Each class has chosen a nominated charity which they are supporting throughout the year. Year 1 are fundraising for 'Centrepoint' with a non-uniform day planned for the whole school on Friday 16th January. A £1 donation would be welcome which would go to support 'Centrepoint.' Year 1 led a school assembly this week to tell us all about their chosen charity.

Centrepoint is the UK's leading youth homelessness charity. They support almost 14,000 young people every year who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. They run over 60 accommodation services throughout the UK including the Sunderland area. At this time of year when it is dark and cold, every donation they receive goes towards helping a young person.

Mass and Celebration of the Word Date Changes

It has been necessary to change some dates for mass in Church and Celebration of the Word. There will be no Mass on Tuesday 13th January for Year 1 who were attending, there is also no Mass on Tuesday 27th January in Church for Year 3.

On Tuesday 17th March, the whole school were to attend Mass to Celebrate the feast of St. Joseph, this has been changed to Thursday 19th March at 10am.

Celebration of the Word in the school hall at 9am, for Year 6 has been changed from Friday 6th February to Friday 30th January at 9am in the school hall.

All of these changes have been made on the list of dates at the end of the newsletter.

Attendance

We will continue to monitor attendance this term. We understand that children do become sick, especially at this time of year and may need to be absent from school, but good attendance in primary school helps a child's learning and early social development. We had 58% of our pupils achieving 97% - 100% attendance last term and our whole school attendance is 96.36% which is a great achievement but we always strive to make this better.

Nursery

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new Nursery children and their families. The children have settled in well to their new classroom and are starting to make new friends already! We are looking forward to seeing their development and progress throughout the term.

Welcome

We would also like to warmly welcome Miss Roberts who will be teaching in our Year 6 class. She will be covering for Mrs Kelly who is soon to go on maternity leave. Miss Roberts has a wealth of teaching experience and has settled in really well to our Year 6 class.

Staff Shout Out

This week's staff shout out goes to Mrs Johnson and Mrs Ward, who have accompanied our Year 5 children on a residential retreat to the Emmaus Village. Thank you for taking such good care of our children.

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 – Deputy Headteacher
Mrs J Johnson – Senior Leader
Mrs P Swanston – Business Manager
Mr R Topping Safeguarding Link Governor

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

(Refreshments will be available in the School Hall after our Celebration of the Word)

Monday 5 th January 2026	Return to School
Wednesday 7 th January – Friday 9 th January 2026	Year 5 Emmaus Village Residential Trip
Friday 9 th January 2026	Year 2 - Celebration of the Word – 9am School Hall
Wednesday 14 th January 2026	Reception and Year 6 – Heights and Weight checks – School Nursing Team
Friday 16 th January	Non-Uniform Day – Bring £1 towards Centrepoint
Thursday 22 nd January 2026	Year 5 and Year 6 - Police Education Team in school – Topic - Respectful Relationships
Friday 23 rd January 2026	Year 5 – Celebration of the Word – 9am School Hall
Friday 30 th January 2026	Year 6 – Celebration of the Word – 9am School Hall
Friday 6 th February 2026	Number Day in School – (further details to follow)
Tuesday 10 th February 2026	Mass in Church 10am – Year 2 attending
Tuesday 17 th February 2026	Mass in Church 10am – Year 4
Friday 20 th February 2026	INSET DAY – School closed to pupils
Monday 23 rd February 2026 – Friday 27 th February 2026	HALF TERM – School Closed
Monday 2 nd March 2026	Return to School
Tuesday 3 rd March 2026	Mass in Church 10am – Year 2 attending
Friday 6 th March 2026	Year 1 – Celebration of the Word – 9am School Hall
Tuesday 10 th March 2026	Mass in Church 10am – Year 5
Friday 13 th March 2026	Reception Class – Celebration of the Word – 9am School Hall
Thursday 19 th March 2026	Mass in Church 10am – Whole School (Reception to Year 6 attending) St. Joseph's Day
Friday 20 th March 2026	Year 4 – Celebration of the Word – 9am School Hall
Tuesday 24 th March 2026	Mass in Church 10am – Year 1 attending
Friday 27 th March 2026	Year 3 – Celebration of the Word – 9am School Hall
Thursday 2 nd April 2026	School Breaks up for Easter
Friday 3 rd April 2026 – Friday 17 th April 2026	School Closed for Easter Holiday