



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Statement to Live by 'I know I belong in a community that includes my school.'



Dear parents/carers,

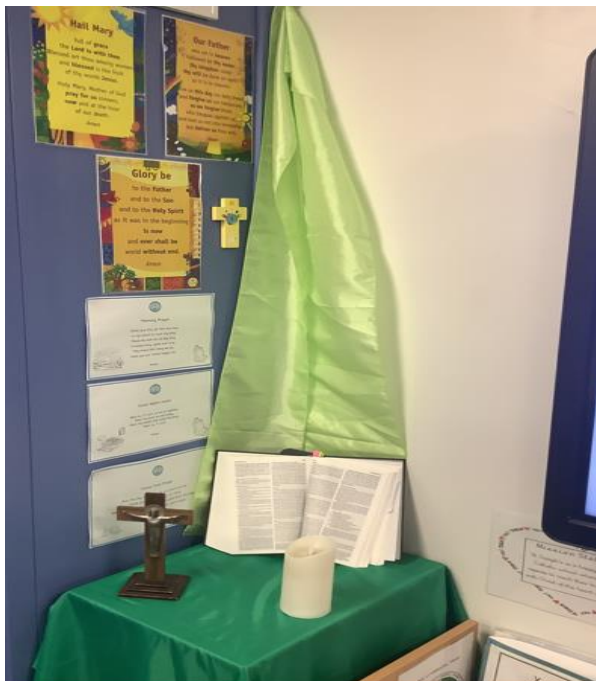
School life continues to be very busy for everyone, but the children are working very hard, especially Year 6 in the lead up to their SAT's.

## Celebration of the Word

In this week's Gospel, John the Baptist understands Jesus' true identity. With the help of the Holy Spirit we too can recognise Jesus as God and be witnesses for Him in the world.

Come, Holy Spirit,  
 Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.  
 Send forth your Spirit, O Lord  
 And they shall be created,  
 And you shall renew the face of the Earth.  
 Amen

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended the Year 5 Celebration of the Word. The theme was 'Mission'. We are sure that all parents left with the message of sharing God's word and being kind and caring to everyone. It was an uplifting experience and the Year 5 children are clearly born to dance!



## Focal Tables

Each class in school has a Focal Table which is used when the children participate in Celebration of the Word in their classrooms.

The Focal Table is prepared with the Holy Bible to represent the Word of God, a candle representing Jesus as the light of the World and a crucifix reminding us of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

This is the Focal Table from Year 5.

### Catholic Life in School:

Year 1 participated in a classroom Celebration of the Word on non-uniform day.

Their chosen charity for non-uniform day was 'Centrepoin't' the young people's homeless charity. The children talked about how they could help people who were homeless, this was by giving them a small donation or providing warm clothes. They added these things to their focal table for Celebration of the Word.

Thank you to everyone who donated to this charity on non-uniform day, we raised £179.60.



### Seminarian Visit

Reception and Year 1 were visited by David Pinder, a Seminarian who is currently working alongside Father Martin in our Parish. David came in to talk to the children about the different roles of people in our Parish. He talked about his role as a trainee priest and how he was called to follow his vocation. The children were all engaged in class discussions and had some brilliant, thought-provoking questions for David, including 'Why does God let some bad things happen?'



## Emmaus Village

Our Year 5 class had their annual residential trip to the Emmaus Village in Consett. Luckily the snow that was forecast held off and the children had a great time. The children participated in group activities, time outdoors, games, prayer and reflection, there was even time for a movie night in the cosy lodge. We are so proud of our Year 5 class as some of the children hadn't spent time away from home before. Mrs Johnson and Mrs Ward said their manners, behaviour, enthusiasm and friendliness towards others shone through. Well done Year 5!



## Staff Shout Out

This week's staff shout out goes to Mrs J Kelly in Year 6. She is working incredibly hard in preparing the children for their SAT's and her commitment is commendable. Thank you Mrs Kelly!

## Walkwise

Our Year 1 class have begun their Walkwise programme in school. This is a child pedestrian training programme which is run in school with Together for Children.

The aim of the course is to give young children crucial road safety skills. The children take part in both classroom learning and go out of school in small groups to learn how to cross the road safely. The course lasts for six weeks.



## Year 5 and Year 6

Year 5 and Year 6 had a visit from the Police Education team to talk about 'Respectful Relationships'. They discussed how to recognise personal emotions, what makes a respectful relationship, the difference between good and bad secrets, and where to get help if something doesn't feel right. The children posed questions and debated about good and bad relationships which we hope will give them the ability to recognise these things in their everyday lives.

## Nursery Parents Invite

Nursery parents are invited into school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 8.40am for a health promotion presentation regarding early years toileting. This will be presented by Tammy who is our early years nursing practitioner. The session aims to give help and advice regarding early years toileting for children in Nursery.

## House Groups

The children met in their house groups this week to explore 'Stereotypes'. All of the children were asked to draw people at work such as a 'firefighters, hairdressers, nurses etc'. This activity was carried out to prompt discussion around their perceptions, e.g. Did many of the children draw men or women as firefighters?

The children were then encouraged to talk about challenging stereotypes to show that everyone is capable of doing these jobs, indeed, we should all aspire to be whatever we want to be and follow our hopes and dreams.

## Parish Job Vacancy

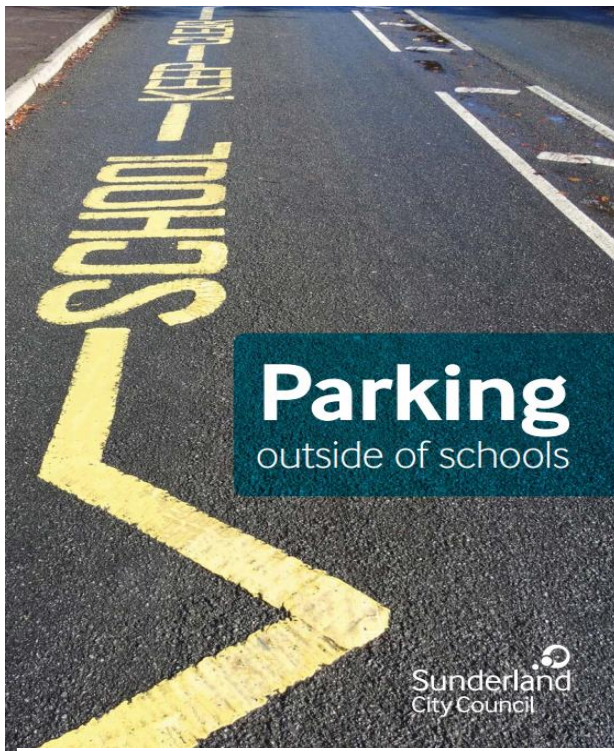
Parish Secretary Vacancy:

To support the parish of St. John 23rd, Washington, and the parish priest with general administration. P/T - 15hours per week., based at the office at our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington village. Complete the application form and supporting statement at the links below. Contact by telephone Bernadette Aquino, 0191 - 2433301. Closing date for applications 4th February, 2026.

[Diocese website link: https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/parish-secretary-17/](https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/parish-secretary-17/)

[Indeed link: https://uk.indeed.com/job/parish-secretary-398c0d50cd1eccec](https://uk.indeed.com/job/parish-secretary-398c0d50cd1eccec)

# SHOW YOU CARE – PARK ELSEWHERE!



## 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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Parking is still very much a concern outside of school, both on a morning and afternoon. There are two car parks next to school, the Church car park always has spaces left on an afternoon that are not utilized.

Please do not block garages and driveways next to houses or park in the bus stops, on the paths or the grass verges.

Families should be able to cross the roads safely around school and unfortunately, they cannot do so due to the amount of cars parked on the road outside of school. Please be mindful that some families do need to cross the road to reach school and crossing between parked cars on a busy road is not safe.

Sunderland Council are aware and can issue fixed penalty parking notices for anyone parked illegally outside of school.

### 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
- Mrs 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)

Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2026	Year 5 – Celebration of the Word – 9am School Hall
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Year 6 – Celebration of the Word – 9am School Hall
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2026	Nursery – Early Years Toileting Talk Parents are invited at 8.40am
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Number Day in School – (further details to follow)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Mass in Church 10am – Year 2 attending
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 2- Rickleton Primary School, Infantasia singing event
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Mass in Church 10am – Year 4
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	INSET DAY – School closed to pupils
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026 – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	HALF TERM – School Closed
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026	Return to School
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	Mass in Church 10am – Year 2 attending
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 1 – Celebration of the Word – 9am School Hall
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Mass in Church 10am – Year 5
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Reception Class – Celebration of the Word – 9am School Hall
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Mass in Church 10am – Whole School (Reception to Year 6 attending) St. Joseph's Day
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 4 – Celebration of the Word – 9am School Hall
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Mass in Church 10am – Year 1 attending
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 3 – Celebration of the Word – 9am School Hall
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026	School Breaks up for Easter
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2026 – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	School Closed for Easter Holiday