



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Dear parents/carers,

This half term is flying by. The children are all working hard in school and enjoying being able to play on the school field again at breaktimes.

## **Celebration of the Word**

This week we keep Year 6 in our prayers as they prepare to take their SAT's tests next week.

Dear God,

Thank You for each and every one of our Year 6 children, for their unique gifts, talents, and the journey they have taken so far through St Joseph's.

As they sit their SATs next week, fill their hearts with peace and their minds with clarity. Help them to remember all they have learned, to stay calm under pressure, and to do their very best. Remind them that their worth is not measured by a score, but by the kindness, courage, and joy they bring to the world.

Bless their teachers, families, and friends who support them, and may they feel proud of themselves no matter the outcome.

Amen.

## **Mass and Celebration of the Word**

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended Mass in church to support Year 1. Once again, we received some lovely comments about how well the children behaved at Mass. Well done Year 1.

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our Year 5 Celebration of the Word which had the theme of 'The Transformation'.

Today, Year 2 hosted Celebration of the Word, with the theme of 'The Holy Spirit'. Thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended to support the children. We had some lovely comments, we are very proud of Year 2.

## Year 6

Well done to Year 6 who have been working so hard to prepare for their SATs. We are incredibly proud of every one of them for their hard work, determination and resilience they have shown throughout their preparation. Please keep them in your prayers next week, we know their hard work will pay off and they will be brilliant.

To celebrate the end of SATs they will have a picnic on the field, (weather permitting) with their Reception class buddies.

## Year 4

Year 4 have excelled in their sporting achievements over the last few weeks:



### Tennis

Mr Fowler from Sunderland Tennis centre has been coming into school to coach the children playing tennis.

He chose 4 girls and 4 boys to compete in the Sunderland schools Tennis final. It was apparently a very hard decision to make as the children all worked hard to develop their tennis skills.

Good luck in the finals – Year 4.

### Handball Finals

Congratulations to the Year 4 children who competed in the Sunderland City handball finals which took place at Goals in Sunderland. The children finished fourth, they were very competitive and played extremely well. We are super proud of them all.



## Year 5 – Bikeability

Bikeability for Year 5 will take place week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May. To help parents with transporting bikes to school, the children can bring their bikes to school on Monday and leave them at school until Thursday. The bikes will be locked inside school on a night.

Children should bring a change of clothes to school that week, in case of wet weather or unexpected downpours, which has happened in the past. The children will be cycling outside, no matter the weather. Suncream should also be applied before school. Bikeability is a fantastic opportunity for Year 5 to learn road skills and safety when riding their bikes.

## Football Team



Well done to our Girls football team who played in the Washington Girls finals at Rickleton primary school during the week. We are extremely proud of the commitment and sporting attitude that you all have during training and matches. To see the progress and determination of the girls team develop since September has been fantastic, they should all be very proud of themselves.

Our Year 6 football team are playing in the Columbia Cup finals on Thursday at Rickleton Primary School. They are playing against three other Washington primary schools, we are sure they will be brilliant and their sportsmanship and determination will shine through. Good Luck!

## CEO Visit

The CEO of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust, Lucie Stephenson visited our school last week. She spent a lovely morning in school and was very complimentary about our school, especially the good behaviour and manners of the children as she walked around the school.

## Year 2

Year 2 have been learning about their class charity this week. Keep an eye out for their announcement and everything they have been learning over the coming weeks!

## Parking

You may have seen the local council's parking eye patrolling on a morning and evening. They will be monitoring the parking around school, anyone parked illegally over paths, in the bus stops or on the lines, may incur a parking fixed penalty notice. They are looking at ways to make parking safer around school, to reduce the risk of an accident, so that families with children can cross the roads safely into school.

Please consider where you park, please use the car parks located next to school, do not block driveways, park in bus stops or on the lines outside of school.

## Attendance

Our whole school attendance has dropped slightly over the last couple of weeks to 95.7%. Attendance will continue to be monitored with letters being sent to parents for attendance concerns. As stated in our attendance policy, fixed penalty notices could be issued for unauthorised holidays during term time.

Congratulations to Year 6, their attendance was 99.64% this week, they won Bingo the Bear.

## Staff Shout Out

Our staff shout out this week goes to Mrs Kelly, Mrs Ward and Miss Roberts for the brilliant way they have prepared our wonderful Year 6 children. Thank you so much!

## 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 is subject to change and new dates maybe added:

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

Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Year 2 – Celebration of the Word – School Hall 9am
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Year 6 – SATs Tests
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Year 1 – Celebration of the Word – School Hall 9am
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2026	Year 5 – Bikeability Week
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Year 2 – Attending Mass in Church 10am
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Half Term – School Closed
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Reception Class – Celebration of the Word – School Hall 9am
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Police Education Team – Year 5 and Year 6 – The Internet and Us presentation.
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 1 – Phonics Screening Checks
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 3 – Mass in Church 10am
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Tempest Photography – Reception and Year 6 group photographs, Football Team group photograph and Year 6 individual photographs.
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 2 and Year 3 – Visit to Beamish Museum – Further details to follow
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 6 – Celebration of the Word – School Hall 9am
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 4 – First Holy Communion Day
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Reception Class – Attending Mass in Church 10am
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	INSET Day – School Closed to Children
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026	Year 2 – Attending Mass in Church 10am
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 6 – Emmaus Village Primary Festival – Further details to follow
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 4 – Celebration of the Word – School Hall 9am
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 5 – Mass in Church 10am
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> July, Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July and Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 6 – Transition Days to St. Robert's – Further details will follow
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	School Moving Up Day
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 5 – Celebration of Sport Event
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2026	Year 3 – Celebration of the Word – School Hall 9am
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Year 1 – Attending Mass in Church 10am
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 – End of Year Production – Further details to follow
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Whole School Mass in Church 10am (Year 6 Leavers Mass)