



St Joseph's Newsletter 06.10.2023

Message from the new Headteacher

Welcome to our new weekly newsletter! As a school we want to ensure we keep you up to date with what is going on in school so that you always feel well informed. As the new Headteacher of the school, I would like to reassure all parents and carers that I operate a fully open-door policy. If you have any questions, issues, concerns or need any support at all, please contact the school office and an appointment can be made. Working together we can really make a difference for all our children.

Attendance

Class	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance	95.1%	100%	97.9%	94.5%	92.7%	97.5%	93.3%

This week our overall attendance was **95.8 %** . Well done for all pupils who improved their attendance this week. Punctuality is also imperative to a child's education, so please ensure your child is at school for 8:50am each day. Well done to Year 1 for achieving **100%** and Year 2 with 97.9 %.

ARBOR PAY BALANCES

Parents are reminded to login to their ARBOR account and clear any negative balances as soon as possible. Please help our school office by not being in arrears and paying daily or weekly.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Reception – 
Samuel
For fantastic letter formation

Year 1 –
Thea
Great effort with her writing

Year 2 -
Annika
For an amazing effort with her independent writing

Year 3 –
Heidi
For always being ready to learn

Year 4 –
Jayden
For being enthusiastic in French

Year 5 –
Reggie
For being an excellent role model to others in class

Year 6 –
Elizabeth
For excellent contributions to class discussions

Autumn term

Planned Trips and Visitors

(Curriculum linked to enhance our pupil's learning)

EYFS – Muddy Monsters

Year 1 - Beamish

Year 2 – Saltwell Park – Art Session

Year 3 -Jesmond Dene

Year 4 – Centre for Life

Year 5 – Beamish
(Broom Hill Farm is for Spring!)

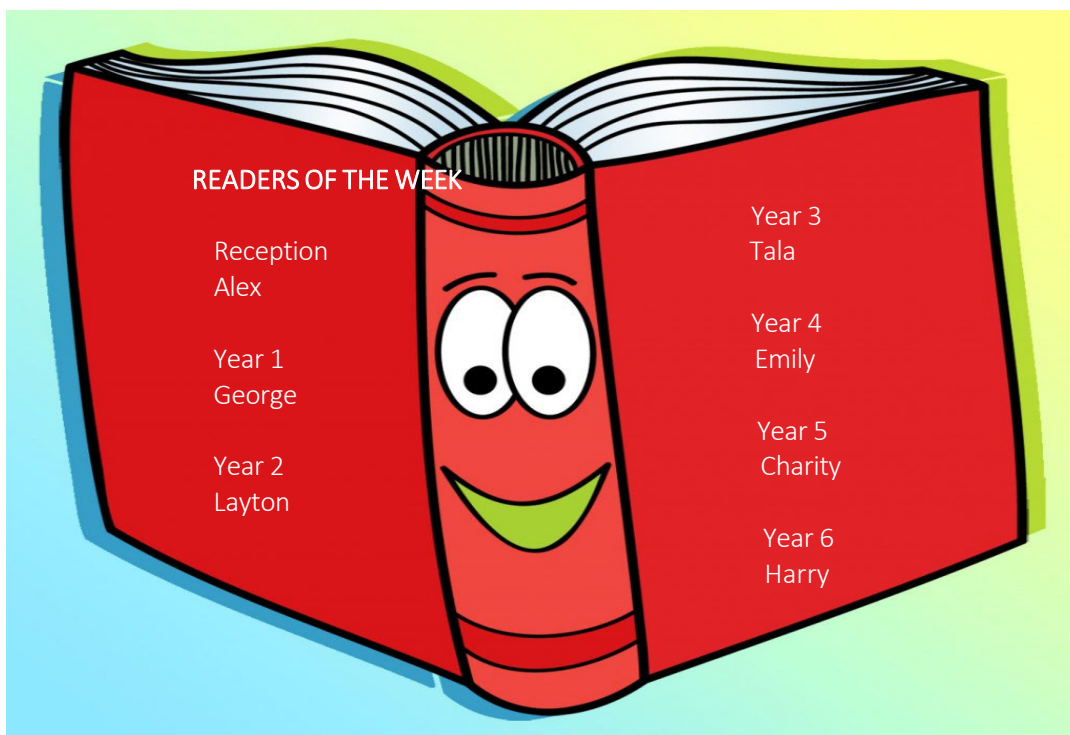
Year 6 – SafetyWorks

House points winner



Well done:
ST. BEDE





INFORMATION

OFSTED Visit

As you will be aware OFSTED were in school on Tuesday and Wednesday last week. A report will be published in the next few weeks and will be shared with parents as soon as it is available. Thank you to all parents for your support over these days and your continuous support to the school.

Booster Morning Invites

Over the last few weeks staff have been identifying children in school who we believe that with a little extra support can be even more amazing than they already are in reading. Invites have been sent out for some children to come into school on a Tuesday, at 8.20am to work with their class teacher in a small group. Thank you to those parents who have already returned their consent forms. If you haven't returned your form please confirm attendance by Monday. This is an invaluable opportunity to build on any learning and intervention in school to ensure all children are supported to achieve their best.

After School – Extra Curricular clubs – *AVAILABLE TO BOOK NOW ON ARBOR (some undersubscribed!)*

We are very excited to let you know about our after school clubs that we are offering to pupils from the 2nd October 2023. These clubs will run all term with the last sessions running w/c 11th December 2023 from 3.30pm to 4.15pm. To enable us to provide resources and run these clubs effectively there will be a charge of £2 per session. No child will be prevented from attending due to financial hardship. **Unfortunately, due to low numbers of 2 and 3 pupils, Irish Dancing and Playground Games could not go ahead. Bookings have now closed for these clubs, however, if your child would like to attend please contact the school office.**

Year 1 and Year 2 – Lego Club – Monday.

Year 1 and Year 2 – Drawing Club – Tuesday.

Year 3 and Year 4 – Jewellery Craft Club – Thursday.

KS2 – Film Club – Tuesday.

KS2 – Choir – Thursday.

School trips will be starting this term

As discussed in the curriculum evenings in school, school trips we be starting this term. Year 1 and Year 5 are first to go on their trip. Due to increased costs, school can't fully fund these trips and will be asking for a contribution from parents. All trips are still more than 50% subsidised by the school. As ever, no child will be stopped from going on trips due to financial difficulties. If you are struggling to make a contribution to a trip, please let the school office know and we can support you with this.

Residential Trips – Year 5 and Year 6

The school has booked for the current Year 6 children to attend Kingswood Activity centre for 3 days (2 nights) in June 2024. This would normally have taken place in September 2023 but a decision was made not to send the children this year due to higher costs. I fully believe in the importance of the life skills and experiences that these trips offer children, so I have reinstated this. The current Year 5 children will have the opportunity to attend this trip in September 2024 when they are in Year 6. To help us provide both year groups parents with more information there is a meeting in school on Thursday 9th November 2023 at 5pm. For any parents who can't attend further information will be sent out.

INSET Day

We have an INSET day on Friday 20th October 2023. School will be closed to children and it will be open as normal from Monday 30th October.

Packed Lunches

St Joseph's is a healthy school. If your child brings in a packed lunch, we ask parents to provide a healthy packed lunch containing:

- sandwich
- fruit
- a biscuit
- drink

Please do not send fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate (including chocolate covered biscuits and cakes). Takeaway food items are not permitted.

Paying for school meals in Year 3,4,5 and 6

As you may be aware, school meals are universally free to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. From Year 3 onwards, if you would like your child to have a school meal there is a cost of £2.75. Some families in these year groups are still entitled to free means tested school meals by filling in an application form if in receipt of certain benefits. If you think this may be you and your child is not receiving school meals for free, please contact the school office.

Arbor and Weduc

I am aware from speaking to a few parents on the Curriculum Evening that there has been some confusion around the apps that the school uses. Arbor is currently used in school for payments, booking breakfast club/after school clubs and meals. Weduc is currently used for letters we send home. In the near future, the school will be moving across to Arbor for everything to try and simplify this for parents. More details will follow when this is going to occur. If you want to contact the school via email the school email address is : info@stjg.bwcet.com. If this information is for particular teaching or support staff we will ensure the information is passed on. Just let us know in the email who this information is for.

School Meals

We have attached the school meal menu for this academic year to this newsletter. We encourage all parents to pre book their child's meals via Arbor and pay (where applicable). Pre booking meals allows more time in the morning to be spent on learning and teaching.

Breakfast Club

Please pre-book and pay for your places for breakfast club on Arbor. The capacity for the club is 30. Once this number is reached the school can't accept drop-ins. If you have booked but no longer want the place please contact the school office so that the place can be cancelled.

Names in Clothes

Please remember to put your children's names in their clothing. We appreciate how costly it can be to buy uniform, especially if you have more than one child, and we really want to support the children in looking after their own things. Without names, things can get lost and we don't want you to have replace lost items.

Play equipment

May I remind parent's that children are not allowed on the play equipment before and after school. This is a Health and Safety directive as it must be supervised by trained staff. All equipment is being reopened for the children so they will be getting lots of opportunities to play on it throughout the school day.

Parents Evening

Parents afternoon/evening will be taking place on October 11th. Appointments are now available to book on Arbor.

First Holy Communion

For any parents who have children in Years 4, 5 and 6 who are baptized Catholics, who wish their child to make their First Holy Communion, please see Cannon Brown after 10am Mass on Sunday at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. The first preparation class will take place on Wednesday 11th October at 5pm at St Joseph's Church.

UNIFORM

We would like to remind all parents and carers of the expected uniform in school. Children can wear grey trousers, grey smart uniform shorts, grey skirt, royal blue sweatshirt, yellow polo shirt, blue gingham school dresses. All uniform can be with or **without** the school logo. If children currently have black trousers or skirts they can still be worn. We ask that when new uniform is purchased that all skirts, shorts and trousers are grey. Children should not be wearing sports leggings/sports shorts, joggers, hair extensions ,earrings, trainers or false nails for school. No extreme hair styles including tram lines.

HELP WANTED!

Thank you very much to the parents who have rang the school offering to help with our football team. More information will follow on this exciting development.

We are also needed volunteers who would be willing to support us as an extra pair of hands on our school trips. If you'd be happy to put your name forward and undertake a DBS application (school can support with this and will pay any associated fees) we would be very happy to hear from you. We want to give all the children as many experiences and with your support we can do it! If interested please contact the school office!

COMING SOON! – Watch this space!

A new development that is coming to St Joseph's will be a mother and toddler group. If you have any good quality toys or books that you are willing to donate to the school so we can use ready for our launch next term they would be greatly appreciated. More details to follow.

The school is also looking to set up a second hand uniform, fancy dress and Christmas jumper bank. This is something that is not only important due to the cost of living crisis but also for environmental reasons for our planet. More information to follow soon!

EVENT REMINDERS – *NEWLY ADDED EVENTS IN RED*

Date	Class	Event
Wednesday 11 th October 2023	Whole School	Parent's afternoon/evening. More details to follow. 1pm to 6pm.
Friday 13 th October 2023	Year 2	Liturgical prayer, in school. 9am. All welcome.
Wednesday 18th October 2023	Year 5 and Year 1	Educational Trip - Beamish
Friday 20 th October 2023	Whole School	School Closed – INSET DAY
Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October 2023 Whole school - Half Term. School Closed		
Friday 3 rd November 2023	Year 1	Liturgical prayer, in school. 9am
Wednesday 8 th November 2023	Year 5 and Year 6	Residential Information evening for parents 5pm in School.
Friday 10 th November 2023	Reception	Liturgical prayer, in school. 9am
Friday 17 th November 2023	Year 6	Liturgical prayer, in school. 9am
Friday 24 th November 2023	Year 5	Liturgical prayer, in school 9am
Friday 1 st December 2023	Year 4	Liturgical prayer, in school 9am
Friday 8 th December 2023	Year 3	Liturgical prayer, in school 9am
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	EYFS, 1 and 2	Nativity Play. 9.30am. Ticketed event. More details to follow.
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6	Nativity Play. 2.00pm. Ticketed event. More details to follow.
Wednesday 13 th December 2023	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6	Nativity Play. 9.30am. Ticketed event. More details to follow.
Wednesday 13 th December 2023	EYFS, 1 and 2	Nativity Play. 2.00pm. Ticketed event. More details to follow.
Thursday 14 th December 2023	Whole School	Christmas Lunch. More details to follow.
Friday 15 th December 2023	Year 1	Liturgical prayer, in school 9am
Monday 18 th December 2023	EYFS, 1 and 2	Christmas Party day. 1pm. More details to follow.
Tuesday 19 th December 2023	Years 3,4,5,and 6	Christmas Party day. 1pm. More details to follow.
Thursday 21 st December 2023	Whole School	Santa's Grotto.
Friday 22 nd December 2023	Year 2	Liturgical prayer, in school 9am
Friday 22rd December to Friday 5^h January 2023 Whole school – End of term. <i>Monday 8th January – INSET Day</i> <i>All children return on Tuesday 9th January 2024</i>		





