



# St Joseph's Newsletter 13.10.2023

## Message from the Executive Headteacher

Welcome to our 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	98.61%	94.62%	86.51%	93.1%	94.0%	91.43%	91.3%

Excellent achievement in attendance in Reception with **98.61%**. This week our overall attendance was **92.8%** which is well below the government's set targets for attendance. Let's see if next week we can get back to the good standard of attendance we have seen this year. Punctuality is also imperative to a child's education, so please ensure your child is at school for 8:50am each day.

## 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 –  
Leo

Fantastic input and enthusiasm in carpet time

Year 1-  
Abigail

Excellent effort in Read Write Inc.

Year 2 –  
Riley

For his super teamwork in DT and being a good friend to all.

Year 3 –  
Ariella

For making an effort to join in with class discussions.

Year 4-  
Oscar

For fantastic listening in all lessons.

Year 5 –  
Andrew

For trying really hard in violin lessons.

Year 6 –  
Lenny

For good work in English.

## 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 (postponed due to weather – more details to follow)

Year 4 – Centre for Life

Year 5 – Beamish

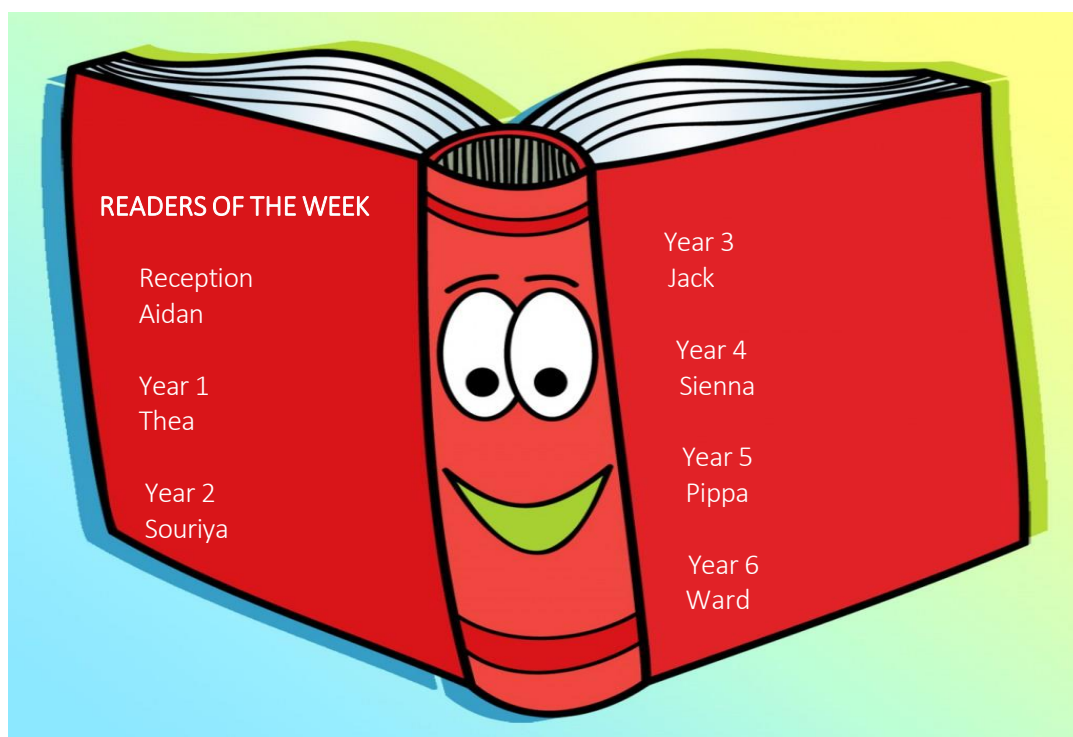
Year 6 – SafetyWorks

## House points winner



Well done:  
ST. OSWALD





## INFORMATION

### OFSTED Visit

As you will be aware OFSTED were in school a few weeks ago. A report will be published in the coming 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. Please look out for an invite. 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*

We are very excited to let you know about our after school clubs that we are offering to pupils from the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023. These clubs will run all term with the last sessions running w/c 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

## New Website

I am very pleased to tell you that our new website is now up and running. I think you will find it is much easier to navigate. All school newsletters, letters and news events will regularly be updated on the site. The url for the website is: [www.stjosephsgateshead.bwcet.com](http://www.stjosephsgateshead.bwcet.com) . The old website will still lead you to the new one, however, this will be taken down in the next few weeks.

## New staff

We currently have two new members of staff in school at present. Mrs Simpson is covering in Reception as Mrs Robinson is not in school at the moment. Mr White is covering across the school in all classes to ensure consistency when other staff have their planning and preparation times or staff are on courses. I have included photos so that you will be able to put a name to the face and make them welcome if you see them around the school site.



Mrs Simpson



Mr White

## School Christmas Fair – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 at 3.30pm (straight after school)

Dates for your diaries. The schools PTA will be hosting a School Fair on the 1<sup>st</sup> December in our school hall at 3.30pm. For this to be a success we really need your help! We are looking for donations for the raffle, for our bottle stall and donations of sweets and chocolates. To help with the sweets and chocolates we will be holding a non-uniform day on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and instead of a financial donation we ask that children can bring sweets / chocolates into school so we can use these for our fair. Any other donations that you can give for our raffle or bottle stall would be greatly appreciated. If you work for an employer who can offer donations we would be greatly appreciative of anything they could give us and we would be certain to ensure they were recognised within our newsletters for any kind gifts. Any donations that you do have can be left with the office staff and they will ensure that they get to the PTA.

There is still time to join the PTA and I will be holding another meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm in the school hall for those who couldn't attend the meeting held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of November at 9am. Any help that you can give no matter how small would ensure we really can offer our children the best experiences and opportunities at school.

## Non-Uniform Day – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

The 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 is non-uniform in school. Instead of a financial donation we ask that children can bring in sweets or chocolate so that we can use this in our Christmas fair.

## Changes to liturgy times (now known as Celebration of the word)

To enable the school to maximise the learning opportunities for our children, we are changing the times we run the liturgy /celebration assembly on a Friday. Instead of Friday morning, it will now be held at 3pm on a Friday afternoon. This will begin the first Friday (Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November). Due to recent changes implemented through the Bishops Conference, liturgies will now be referred to as Celebration of the Word. Just to avoid any confusion!

## School trips this term

As discussed in the curriculum evenings in school, school trips started this term. Year 1 and Year 5 were first to go on their trip. Year 1 learned all about the past and what it was like to go to school in Victorian times. Year 5 learned about World War 2 and what it was like to live and work during these times. **Due to our recent weather conditions, Year 3's trip to Jesmond Dene had to be postponed. As the weather does not appear to be getting better any time soon, we are looking to book Seven Stories. There will be no charge. More details to follow.**

### **Residential Trips – Year 5 and Year 6 - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

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 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 5pm. For any parents who can't attend further information will be sent out.

### **Whole school pantomime trip – Peter Pan at The Tyne Theatre on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 from 1pm to 4.30pm**

We are very excited to let you know that we will be going on a whole school trip to the theatre to see the pantomime of Peter Pan. This trip will be fully paid for by school and is a reward for all of the children's hard work and behaviour this term. Parental consent to attend will be asked for closer to the time.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **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.

## Primary Applications for September 2024

Primary applications to join our reception class in 2024 are now open. If you have a child (or know anyone with a Child who is 4 years old on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 then they are eligible to apply for a place in our Reception Class of 2024. Applications can be found on Gatesheads website or by following this link [Parent Portal: Home \(gateshead.gov.uk\)](https://www.gateshead.gov.uk). If you are struggling accessing the website please contact the school office for support.

### 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 and to help on school trips. We have sent out the volunteer application pack and as soon as we receive these back in school we can then start the required DBS applications. I'd like to thank you all very much again for your support. It is very much appreciated.

### PTA – We need your help!

Thank you very much to all the volunteers who joined us at the PTA meeting today at 9am.



For anyone who could not make the meeting I will be holding another one on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of November in school at 5pm.

We are going to hold a Christmas Fair at 3.30pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2023 in the school hall and with your help it can be a great community event.

If you can't attend the meetings but you would still be able to help us, then please do get in touch. Any help, no matter how small, is really appreciated!

As mentioned above, any donations for our raffle, sweet tombola, bottle stall or any thing else that you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

### Mother and toddler group

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. If you have any donations please bring them to the school office. We hope to have this up and running for January 2024.

The school is also looking to set up a second hand uniform, fancy dress and a 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. If you have any donations of clean uniform, fancy dress costumes or christmas jumpers, please bring them to the school office. We will then hold regular events where parents can come and choose items that they may need. This will not only save you money but is also very important for our environment.

EVENT REMINDERS – *NEWLY ADDED EVENTS IN RED*

Date	Class	Event
<b>Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October 2023 Whole school - Half Term. School Closed</b>		
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Tag Rugby Final	Blaydon Rugby Club
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Year 5 and Year 6	Residential Information evening for parents 5pm in School.
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Reception	Celebration of the Word, in school. 3.00pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Year 6	Celebration of the Word, in school. 3.00pm
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Year 5	Celebration of the Word, in school. 3.00pm
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	Year 4	Celebration of the Word, in school. 3.00pm
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Year 3	Celebration of the Word, in school. 3.00pm
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	EYFS, 1 and 2	Nativity Play. 9.30am. Ticketed event. More details to follow.
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6	Nativity Play. 2.00pm. Ticketed event. More details to follow.
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6	Nativity Play. 9.30am. Ticketed event. More details to follow.
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	EYFS, 1 and 2	Nativity Play. 2.00pm. Ticketed event. More details to follow.
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Whole School	Christmas Lunch. More details to follow.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Year 1	Celebration of the Word, in school. 3.00pm
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	EYFS, 1 and 2	Christmas Party day. 1pm. More details to follow.
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Years 3,4,5,and 6	Christmas Party day. 1pm. More details to follow.
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Years 3,4,5,6	Mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. All welcome
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Whole School	Peter Pan – Tyne Theatre . 1.30pm to 4pm. <i>Back in school around 4.30pm</i>
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	Whole School	Santa's Grotto.
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023	Year 2	Celebration of the Word, in school. 3.00pm
<b>Friday 22<sup>rd</sup> December to Friday 5<sup>h</sup> January 2023 Whole school – End of term. <i>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January – INSET Day</i> <i>All children return on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024</i></b>		





Gateshead Council

# School menu



**HOW TO CONTACT US:**  
 Telephone: 0191 433 5522  
 Email: [schoolcatering@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:schoolcatering@gateshead.gov.uk)  
 Website: [www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk)

**WEEK 1** MEAT FREE MONDAY FISH FRIDAY

	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
1ST CHOICE	Cheese & tomato round pizza, pasta, baked beans, or mixed salad	Sausages, mashed potato, mixed veg & gravy	Pork meatballs, handmade potato wedges, schools' choice tomato sauce or gravy	Roast chicken, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, broccoli, carrots & gravy	Fish portion, chips & peas
2ND CHOICE		Homemade cheese pastry, mashed potato, mixed veg & gravy	Vegetable enchilada, potato wedges, sweetcorn or mixed salad	Cooks' choice pasta, garlic bread & mixed salad	Veggie bake, chips & peas
JACKET POTATO	Tuna mayo, cheese, beans				
DESSERT	School cake & custard	Jelly & fruit	Pancake with bananas and toffee sauce	Fruit smoothie & fruit	Cooks' choice homemade biscuit

**WEEK 2** MEAT FREE MONDAY FISH FRIDAY

	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
1ST CHOICE	Folded pizza, pasta, baked beans, or mixed salad	Mince pork pie, mashed potato, mixed veg & gravy	Chicken curry, naan bread & pea/sweetcorn mix	Gammon slice, roast potatoes, cauliflower, carrots & gravy	Fish finger, potato wedges & peas
2ND CHOICE		Veggie meatballs in gravy, mashed potato, mixed veg	Vegetable chow mein with pea/sweetcorn mix	Cooks' choice pasta, garlic bread & mixed salad	Veggie fingers, potato wedges & peas
JACKET POTATO	Tuna mayo, cheese, beans				
DESSERT	Waffle & fruit	Ice cream roll with fruit	Cooks' choice homemade biscuit	School cake & custard	Muffin

**WEEK 3** MEAT FREE MONDAY FISH FRIDAY

	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
1ST CHOICE	Flat bread pizza slice, pasta, baked beans or mixed salad	Beef burger in a bun, potato wedges, sweetcorn or mixed salad	Chicken wrap with salad, savoury rice & garlic mayo	Savoury mince with cooks' choice topping, mashed potato, green beans, carrots & gravy	Fish star, seasoned twisters & peas
2ND CHOICE		Cheese omelette, potato wedges, sweetcorn or mixed salad	Veggie curry, rice, naan bread & vegetable sticks	Cooks' choice pasta, garlic bread & mixed salad	Veggie shapes, seasoned twisters & peas
JACKET POTATO	Tuna mayo, cheese, beans				
DESSERT	Chocolate crispy cake with orange wedge	School cake & custard	Cooks' choice homemade biscuit	Fruit & ice cream	Muffin



