



St Joseph's Newsletter 17.11.2023

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	97.9%	93.1%	95.2%	90%	97.3%	97.1%	95%

Excellent achievement in attendance in Reception with **97.9%**. This week our overall attendance was **95%** which is better than last week and just at the government's set targets for attendance. Let's see if next week we can get back to the higher 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 –
Amy

For being a kind and helpful member of our class.

Year 1-
Olaedo

Being a helpful member of the class.

Year 2 –
Joshua

For brilliant written work.

Year 3 –
Jake

For being a valuable participant in lessons.

Year 4-
Freya

For always trying her best.

Year 5 –
Evie

For being a wonderful representative of school at a sporting event.

Year 6 –
Bradley

For showing enthusiasm on our Safetyworks trip.

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 – Seven Stories (more details to follow)

Year 4 – Centre for Life

Year 5 – Beamish

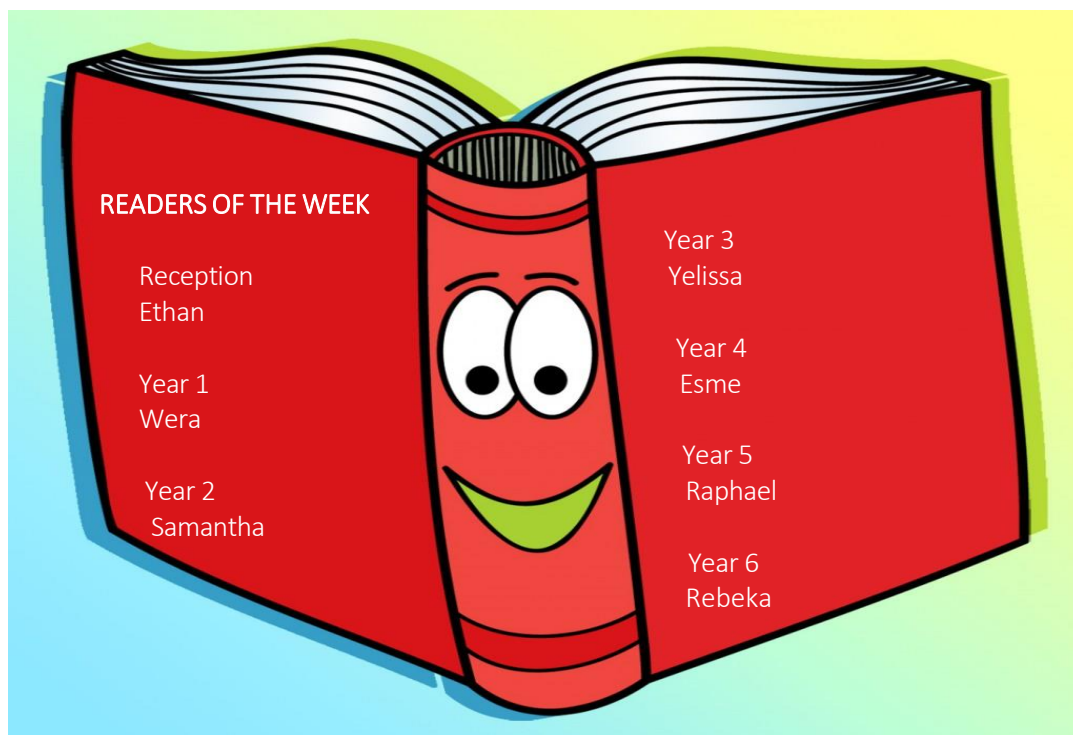
Year 6 – SafetyWorks

House points winner



Well done:
ST. BEDE





INFORMATION

Fabulous Year 3!

On Wednesday 15th November, our amazing Year 3 pupils were all film stars. As OFSTED recognised, at St. Joseph's we have in place a very ambitious curriculum in KS2. Due to the strength of this curriculum, one of our teachers, Mrs Curran, was filmed teaching it to the Year 3 pupils. This was then live streamed to the trust HQ so all the other Headteachers, senior leaders and trust leaders could watch it. Over 100 people were in awe and amazed at how incredibly hardworking, well behaved and clever our year 3 class were and how talented Mrs Curran is. I am an exceptionally proud Headteacher. Well done Year 3 and Mrs Curran. You are amazing!

School Fair donations

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to our school fair. We are asking for donations of any bottles, sweets and raffle donations. All money raised will be used by the PTFA to enable us to offer more exciting opportunities for all our children.

School Council

We are currently in the process of asking pupils from Year 2 to Year 6 to vote for their chosen candidate for school council. We hope to have our final council in place by the end of next week. The school council and Mrs Fraser will have regular meetings so that we can make St. Joseph's the best school it can be.

Reading Plus

The school has purchased Reading Plus. Reading plus is an online reading programme that's packed full of engaging texts for pupils to explore and enjoy. It teaches silent reading fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary with software that meets each pupil's individual reading level. This is an online programme and over the coming weeks pupils will be given a username and password so they can access this at home.

A huge Thank you!

I'd like to thank all parents/carers for the generous donations for our school fair on the 1st December 2023 at 3.30pm. We want to make this a festive community event which we can all enjoy and thanks to your support we can make this happen.

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 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.

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 . 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 – 1st December 2023 at 3.30pm (straight after school)

Dates for your diaries. The schools PTA will be hosting a School Fair on the 1st 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. 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.

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 3rd 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! Parents should enter school through the main school entrance and sign in between 2.45 and 3pm. Parents arriving after this time will not be allowed in.

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

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. Parent's were invited to a meeting in school on Thursday the 9th November and given a consent form. If you would like your child to attend the residential please complete and return to the office as soon as possible with your deposit. If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please get in touch with the office and we will do all we can to help. No child will miss out on a trip due to financial reasons.

Whole school pantomime trip – Peter Pan at The Tyne Theatre on 20th 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. 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 31st 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 \(gateshead.gov.uk\)](#). If you are struggling accessing the website please contact the school office for support.

Parental discussions with teachers

We really value close communication with our parents as it is key to ensuring we achieve the best for all of our pupils. To ensure our staff can give you the full attention for any concerns and issues that you may have, we ask that if you need to speak to the class teacher about anything that will take more than a few minutes that you make an appointment with them. This can be done through the school office. This is to make sure classes aren't left unattended and that staff can really give you the time you deserve so we can fully support the children.

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 both of the PTA meetings.

We are going to hold a Christmas Fair at 3.30pm on the 1st 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
Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October 2023 Whole school - Half Term. School Closed		
Friday 17 th November 2023	Year 6	Celebration of the Word, in school. 3.00pm
Monday 20 th November 2023	Year 6	Tag Rugby Final
Friday 24 th November 2023	Year 5	Celebration of the Word, in school. 3.00pm
Friday 1 st December 2023	Year 4	Celebration of the Word, in school. 3.00pm
Friday 8 th December 2023	Year 3	Celebration of the Word, in school. 3.00pm
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	Celebration of the Word, in school. 3.00pm
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.
Wednesday 20 th December 2023	Years 3,4,5,6	Mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. All welcome
Wednesday 20 th December 2023	Whole School	Peter Pan – Tyne Theatre . 1.30pm to 4pm. <i>Back in school around 4.30pm</i>
Thursday 21 st December 2023	Whole School	Santa's Grotto.
Friday 22 nd December 2023	Year 2	Celebration of the Word, in school. 3.00pm
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>		





Gateshead Council

School menu

HOW TO CONTACT US:
 Telephone: 0191 433 5522
 Email: schoolcatering@gateshead.gov.uk
 Website: 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

