



# St Joseph's Newsletter 22.03.2024

## Message from the Executive Headteacher

Welcome to our weekly newsletter. As the 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	98.3%	93.8%	96.2%	98.1%	95.3%	95.3%	95.9%

Excellent achievement in attendance in Reception with **98.3%**. This week our overall attendance was **96.3%** which is below our trusts targets for attendance of **97%**. 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 –  
Mark  
For excellent subitising.

Year 1 –  
Rosie  
Excellent questions at the zoo.

Year 2 –  
Luna  
Brilliant writing in RE

Year 3  
Ava  
For always having a happy attitude

Year 4 –  
Emily  
For excellent listening skills in lessons

Year 5 –  
James  
For being a kind and helpful member of class

Year 6 –  
Ward  
For an excellent performance in 'Play in a Day!'.

## Autumn term

### Planned Trips and Visitors

(Curriculum linked to enhance our pupil's learning)

EYFS – Hall Hill Farm

Year 1 – Northumbria Zoo

Year 2 – Beamish

Year 3 – Centre for life

Year 4 – White House Farm

Year 5 – White House Farm

Year 6 – Alnwick Gardens

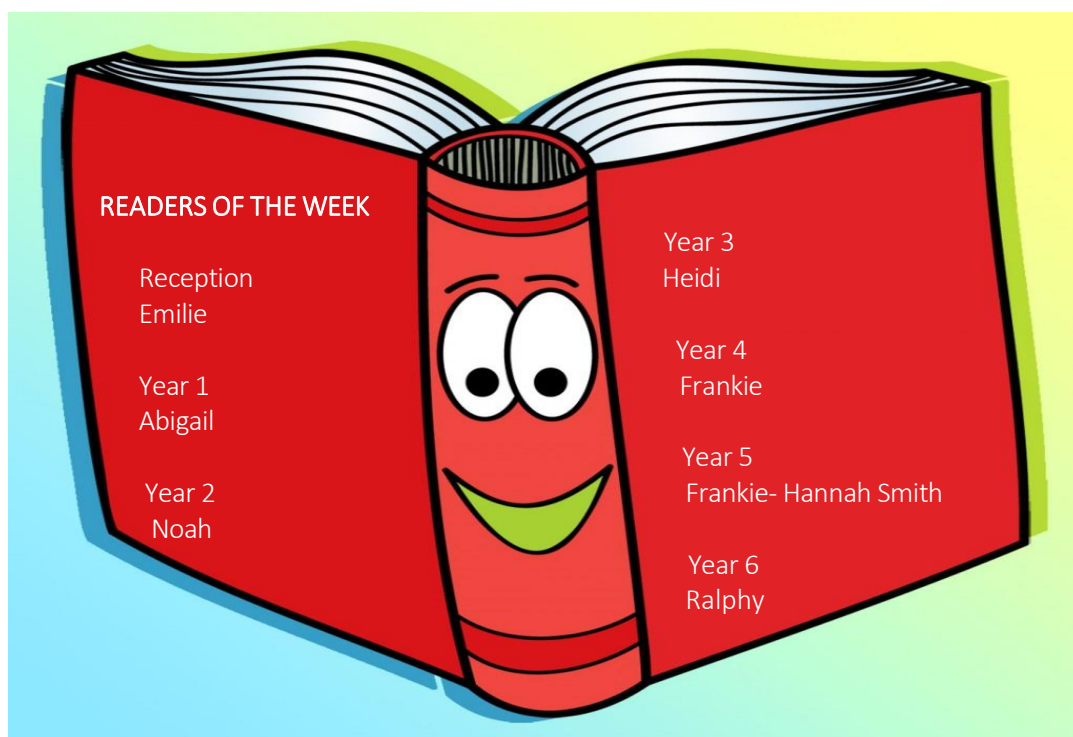
*More info to follow in the next few weeks!*

## House points winner



Well done:  
**ST. CUTHBERTS**





## INFORMATION

### Peripatetic Music Lessons

Thank you for your responses to the peripatetic music lesson forms. We were inundated with children wanting to take up instruments. We will be providing violin, guitar and keyboard lessons next year. We will initially offer these lessons to pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 as demand was so high. We will hold waiting lists of pupils in Year 3 and 4 if we can't offer a place straight away. The cost to parents will be £5 a week and is subsidised by the school. A sign up letter will be sent out in the first few weeks back and places will be offered on a first come first served basis. If any child wants to learn an instrument but would struggle financially to pay please contact the office for a confidential chat.

### Holy Week

Please note that during Holy Week we have celebration of the word everyday in school to which all parents are welcome to attend. All liturgies will start at 2.30pm.

- Monday – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
- Tuesday – Year 3 and Year 4
- Wednesday – Year 5 and Year 6
- Thursday – Whole school

### PE Kit

At the end of this term all PE kits will be sent home. From the start of next term, when we return from the Easter holidays, children will come to school wearing their PE kit rather than getting changed in school. This will ensure that the children can be ready immediately to start their PE lesson and that they don't need to get changed in school. For September 2024 a consultation will go out in regard to PE kit and how we can adapt the current policy to make it cheaper and easier for parents.

### Wrap around Care

Our wraparound service will be going ahead from September 2024. The provision will start at 7.30am cost for breakfast club will be £6. This includes the childcare, activities and food. The after school provision will run until 6pm and will be £9 a session. This will also include childcare, activities and food. At the start of the summer term parents will be invited to

sign up for the service and the terms and conditions will be sent out. Free places at any of the clubs will only be offered at the school's discretion as the service needs to be able to pay for itself.

### Current Breakfast Club

Please be aware that you MUST book a session in Breakfast Club. This is for Health and safety and legal ratio purposes. If you haven't booked a session I am afraid you can't send your child to the club. It is also very important that you drop your child at the door to be marked in. Pupils can't just be dropped in the yard and left. If a child is just left to attend Breakfast club alone without being registered parents will be contacted to collect their child and will no longer be able to use the service. Not handing your child over to a member of staff is a safeguarding issue as until this is undertaken parents are still fully responsible for the safety and welfare of their child. Can we also ask parents to cancel any places they do not want to take the day before. Failure to cancel sessions means other children can't attend and we will have to prevent further bookings.

### Mother and toddler group

Our Mother and Toddler group is held in the school hall every Wednesday from **9am to 11.15am**. **We would love to see you there.** Please enter through the main office entrance so that we can sign you in. There is no cost to attend and we would love to see lots of our little ones there. Refreshments will be available.

### Attendance Stars

The school are starting a new system to improve attendance across school. This is called attendance stars. For every full day your child is in school they will receive a star. These stars can then be used at the end of the term to buy prizes in our attendance star shop. There will be prizes and certificates also for children with the most improved attendance as well as excellent attendance. Whole class special prizes will also be awarded for the best class each term.

### After School Clubs

Spring Term After school clubs have now finished. There will be **NO** After school clubs on next week except for the Karate Grading being on Wednesday at 3.30pm.

### Inspire afternoons

Working with our families to best support the children in our school is very important to us. To help us with this we have planned some inspire afternoons for each class. Parent's, grandparents or carers are invited into school so that they can learn a little more about what we do in school and to then undertake a fun activity with their child. Dates are below. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

Reception Class – *Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 2pm to 3.30pm- date changed to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March*

Year 1 Class – *Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 2pm to 3.30pm -date changed to Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup> 2024*

Year 2 Class Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 2pm to 3.30pm

Year 3 Class Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 2pm to 3.30pm

Year 4 Class Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 2pm to 3.30pm

Year 5 Class Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 2pm to 3.30pm

### 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.

### 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.

### **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.

#### Spring 2024 Diary Dates

EVENT REMINDERS – **NEWLY ADDED EVENTS IN RED**

Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 Half Term		
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2	Palm Sunday Celebration of the Word. 2.30pm
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Year 3 and Year 4	Last Supper. Celebration of the word. 2.30pm
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Spring Sing – More details to follow</b>
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Year 5 and Year 6	Stations of the Cross. Celebration of the word. 2.30pm
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Whole School	Lent and Easter. Celebration of the word. 2.30pm
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	KS1	Multi-Sports
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Whole School	CLOSED – GOOD FRIDAY
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b> <b>Whole school – End of term.</b> <b>All children return on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>		





# 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 pasty, 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

04/09/2023  
25/09/2023  
16/10/2023  
06/11/2023  
27/11/2023  
18/12/2023  
08/01/2024  
29/01/2024  
19/02/2024  
11/03/2024  
01/04/2024  
22/04/2024  
13/05/2024  
10/06/2024  
01/07/2024

## 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

11/09/2023  
02/10/2023  
23/10/2023  
13/11/2023  
04/12/2023  
25/12/2023  
15/01/2024  
05/02/2024  
26/02/2024  
18/03/2024  
08/04/2024  
29/04/2024  
20/05/2024  
17/06/2024  
08/07/2024

## 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

18/09/2023  
09/10/2023  
30/10/2023  
20/11/2023  
11/12/2023  
01/01/2024  
22/01/2024  
12/02/2024  
04/03/2024  
25/03/2024  
15/04/2024  
06/05/2024  
27/05/2024  
03/06/2024  
24/06/2024  
15/07/2024



