



**St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School**  
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Newsletter no. 2

22nd September 2023

### Upcoming events

#### **Monday 25th September**

Pupils going to Youth Ministry retreat Mon-Wed  
CAFOD Club in lunchtime  
Year 6 swimming pm  
Lego Club 3.15-4.15pm  
Initial meeting for first Holy Communion parents 3.20pm

#### **Tuesday 26th September**

Y1 Open Morning 9.00am  
School Council in lunchtime  
Little Movers 3.15-4.15pm

#### **Wednesday 27th September**

Y2 Open Morning 9.00am  
Y4 Mass in church 10.00am  
Guitar club in lunchtime  
Maths Family Learning 1.00pm in Church Hall  
Art Club 3.15-4.15pm  
New to Reception Open Evening 5.00pm

#### **Thursday 28th September**

Football Club in lunchtime  
Craft/Mindfulness Club 3.15-4.15pm  
KS2 Drama Club 3.15-4.15pm

#### **Friday 29th September**

National Teaching Assistants Day  
MacMillan Coffee Morning in school hall 8.45am  
Girls' Football 3.15-4.15pm

#### **Monday 2nd October**

Y5 Bikeability all week  
Y4 pupils at Our Lady of Fatima Service St Matthew's Church 10.00am (Pupils only)  
CAFOD Club in lunchtime  
Year 6 swimming pm  
Lego Club 3.15-4.15pm

#### **Tuesday 3rd October**

School Council in lunchtime  
Little Movers 3.15-4.15pm  
Football team Gidney League at Hebburn Comp 3.30pm

#### **Wednesday 4th October**

Y6 Open Morning 9.00am

### Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to another edition of our newsletter! I hope this message finds you well and in high spirits as we end another exciting week of teaching and learning. A lot of information and news to share, so here we go!

### First Holy Communion

Just a reminder that we are holding our initial First Holy Communion meeting on Monday in the school hall. This will begin at 3.20pm, or as soon as the pupils are dismissed. Pupils (including siblings) can come to the meeting, though we know that some of the pupils will be at the Youth Village.

### New to Reception Open Evening

We are holding our 'New to reception' Open Evening this Wednesday from 5.00pm. This is for parents of pupils who hope to join us in September 2024, either in Reception or Nursery. If you have a child that can join us in January 2024, again you are welcome to join us. Please spread the word to other families you may know!

### Future Dates (and parent involvement)

You will receive an updated date list today. To make it easier for you to plan, as well as 'colour coding' the events, we have also indicated which events are open for our parents and families to attend. Put them in your diary!

### Attendance and Term Holidays

We have had a number of queries from parents regarding school holidays, and how our term dates don't match with the local authorities. The decision to align the school holidays for Catholic schools across the region was raised by the diocese education department and agreed with the catholic trusts in the region. The intention was to provide consistency of school holidays across all the catholic schools for our pupils, parents, and staff, as the schools work across a large number of local authority areas with varying term dates. Unfortunately, this means that some of the dates for the 2023/24 school holidays aren't aligned with local authority term dates. Given that this information has already been published, it is not possible for the trust to amend the dates at this stage without disrupting parents and staff who have already made arrangements. The trust has stated that they will work with the Diocese and other Trusts to ensure future holidays are aligned as closely as possible to local authority holidays. Apologies for the problems this has caused many of our families.

### Friends of St Joseph's

The Friends of St Joseph's held a meeting on Wednesday to plan a number of events for this term. These are identified on the dates list sent out today. They will be sharing information regarding the events soon, but need as much help and support as possible. If you have spare time to support the events, or would like further information on how you can become a central member of the team, please let us know and we will pass your information onto the Friends. They have also set up a Facebook page which is available [here](#)

### MacMillan Coffee Morning

We are holding a MacMillan Coffee Morning this Friday from 8.45-9.45am in the school hall. There will be cakes and biscuits, as well as refreshments, available. If you would like to donate a cake or biscuits for the cause, please can you bring them to the school office on the morning of the event.

### DSL & Safeguarding Policy

Our new [Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy](#) is available on our school website. We also have the [child friendly policy](#) available to read with your child. A reminder that our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are Mr Craig, Mrs Bertram & Mrs Gibson

**Y3 Mass in church 10.00am**  
 Guitar club in lunchtime  
**Maths Family Learning 1.00pm in Church Hall**  
 Art Club 3.15-4.15pm  
**New to Reception Open Evening 5.00pm**  
**Thursday 5th October**  
 National Poetry Day  
 Y3 Open Morning 9.00am  
 Football Club in lunchtime  
 Craft/Mindfulness Club 3.15-4.15pm  
 KS2 Drama Club 3.15-4.15pm  
**Friday 6th October**  
 CAFOD Day  
 Girls' Football 3.15-4.15pm

**Sponsors**

We are looking for any company who would be willing to sponsor some caps or hi-viz vests for our pupils. Both the Wellbeing Warriors and School Council play an important role in supporting their peers, and need to be visible in the school playground. We would like to give the Well being Warriors their own hi-viz vest, with the Wellbeing Warriors logo and name on. As well as this, the School Councillors would like caps to wear with their logo and name on. If you know of a company who would be willing to sponsor these, please let us know. We would of course have the name of the company on the garments (free publicity!)

**'Brighten up our world' for CAFOD Day**

On Friday 29th September is 'Brighten up our world for CAFOD' Day. We invite all of our pupils to wear bright clothes in support of CAFOD. All we ask is for a £1 donation through Parent Pay. Alternatively, children can bring £1 in a named envelope.

**We have fish!**

Some of our children who attend our 'Learning Library' asked for some fish, so of course we provided! Say hello to our seven fish, who have all been named!

**Facebook & Google Classroom**

Apologies for the lack of posts recently on Facebook. There has been a technical issue which has intermittently stopped us from adding photographs. Hopefully, this problem has now been resolved.

Also, we have had issues around communication through Google Classroom. Again, we hope to solve this issue which has been out of our hands. Apologies for this.

**Lunchtime and After School Clubs**

Most of our clubs have now started, with a significant number of pupils in school benefiting from these. Thank you to the staff who kindly give up their own time to lead these clubs. Clubs that we currently provide are below. We also have a couple more ready to share soon!

Day	Time	Club	Pupils	Staff
Monday	12.00-12.30pm	CAFOD Club	Y3-6	Mrs Jordan
	12.00-12.30pm	Drama Club	Y2-3	Mrs Vedhara
	3.15-4.15pm	Lego Club	All year groups	Mrs Bertram/ Mrs Burns
	3.15-4.15pm	Relaxation Club	Y3-6	Outside coach
Tuesday	12.00-12.30pm	School Council	Y3-6	Mr Craig
	12.00-12.30pm	Eco Club	Y4-6	Miss Hunt
	12.00-12.30pm	Relax and Read	Y2-6	Mrs Lipscombe
	3.15-4.15pm	Little Movers	R-Y2	Outside coach
Wednesday	12.00-12.30pm	Board Games Club	Y2-4	Mrs McMillin
	3.15-4.15pm	Art Club	ALL	Mr Charlton
Thursday	12.00-12.30pm	Choir	Y3-6	Miss McCrimmon
	12.00-12.30pm	Football Team	Y5-6	Mrs Ray & Mrs Armour
	3.15-4.15pm	Drama Club	Y4-6	Miss Dixon
Friday	3.15-4.15pm	Girls' Football	Y4-6	Mrs Ray & Mrs Armour

Take care,  
Mr P Craig  
Headteacher