



NEWSLETTER

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Jarrow



Newsletter no. 2

19th September 2025

I am delighted to welcome you to our second bi-weekly newsletter of the academic year. This edition of the newsletter will share some highlights from the past few weeks as well as sharing some key dates for your diaries and events coming up later in the school year.

What a fantastic start it has been. I have enjoyed getting to know many of our wonderful pupils and I continue to be impressed with their positive attitudes and enthusiasm towards school. As I walk through school and visit classrooms, I see on a daily basis the determination and hard work taking place (that goes for staff and pupils!). It is clear we are embracing the challenges and opportunities of the new term.



Please take time to read through the newsletter and save it somewhere safe for future reference.

I look forward to getting to know you all better in the coming weeks and months. Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Kennedy

RE Ambassadors

We now have three fantastic new RE ambassadors from our Year 6 Class.

Our RE ambassadors support Mr Kennedy and Mrs Bertram each week with Celebration of the Word. They also act as role models helping to share our faith and values.

This week, the RE ambassadors from our Jarrow cluster schools attended Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle. They were officially commissioned as RE ambassadors during the Mass. There was then time to enjoy lunch together and discuss plans to work on future projects and events with our cluster schools of St Bede's, St Matthew's and St Mary's



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Friends of St Joseph's...

Many of you will know that we have a wonderful 'Friends of St Joseph's' group. The main objective of the group is to raise much needed funds to support our school and pupils in their everyday school life. They do this by holding fun events and providing memorable experiences, in and out of school that we can all enjoy.

In recent years, the group has organised successful Christmas and Summer Fayres, put on Discos, supported Sports days and our end of year Colour run and have even funded our Y6 leavers hoodies.

They're a small, dedicated team making a big difference—and they'd love more helping hands! The group are extending an Invitation to all parents, grandparents and carers to join us this new school year. You can be involved as much or as little as you like, many hands make light work and all types of input is greatly appreciated. Whether you can spare an hour or have ideas to share, your support is always welcome. If you feel you could contribute to the group, please let the school office know and we can make sure your details are shared.

Donations are also very much welcomed for events such as our Christmas Fayre, later this term.

Some of you may be aware that fundraising for a minibus had been a big project over previous years. As we now have our minibus, there is still money to be invested back into school. Initial ideas are to improve the outdoor areas for both learning and play. We would also welcome your thoughts on this as part of our parent/carers survey in the coming weeks.



Friends of St Joseph's RC Primary School



Roving bookshop...

Thank you for your support with our Roving bookshop visit, this week.

The annual visit proved very popular once again. School earns commission on the books sold and with this we were able to purchase a wide range of books to enhance our school library and support our curriculum delivery.

Your support as always is very much appreciated



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SAFEGUARDING, SEND AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mr Kennedy, Mrs Bertram and Mrs A Gibson (Governor)

Our SEND Leads are:

Mrs Bertram and Miss E Shaughnessy (Governor)

Our Health & Safety Leads are:

Mr Kennedy and Mr D Laws (Governor)



Attendance Matters



"Every day counts! Regular attendance helps children build friendships, develop skills, and achieve success. Let's work together to ensure every child gets the best start in their education."

Our Current overall attendance is 96%

Food Hygiene Rating...

Our kitchen team had an unannounced visit from the Food Standards Agency this week and it came as no surprise that we retained our 5* hygiene rating. Well done and thank you to Mrs Morton and our wonderful kitchen team.



Parent/Carer Survey...

We will be conducting a parent view survey in coming weeks. Please do take the time to share your views. By sharing your thoughts, you can help shape the future of our school. The parent survey is a chance to celebrate what's working and improve where needed.



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EMBRACE YOUR SKILLS – TAKE BACK YOUR IDENTITY

Join our Good2Graft sessions and regain your sense of self. With multiple options available to support you in making the most of your free time

Some of our options include:

- Focused Skill Development
- Boosted Motivation & Engagement
- Volunteering opportunities
- Support in regaining employment
- FREE Training
- Peer network of like-minded people



Contact Us



0191 456 6903



nikita.campbell@ac-ts.org.uk



South Tyneside Council



Funded by
UK Government

NE North East
Combined
Authority

ACTS
age concern
Tyneside South

This week, Mr Kennedy met with a representative from Age Concern. Age concern can support any adult 18+ in a variety of ways, including: Free support with benefits and application forms, quitting smoking, volunteer opportunities and support in getting back to work. For more information about the 'Good2Graft' sessions please see contacts above. We hope to have some community drop in sessions, here at St Joseph's in the near future.



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A Message of Respect and Reverence

Since returning from the summer holidays, we've been made aware of concerns raised by several parishioners of St Joseph's—among them, our Chair of Governors—regarding the behaviour of some children around the statues of Our Lady. It has been observed that children are running and playing unsupervised in this sacred area while their parents are engaged in conversation nearby.

We kindly remind all families that the statues and surrounding spaces are places of prayer and reflection. Treating these areas with reverence is not only a sign of respect for Our Lady, but also an important reflection of our Catholic values and teachings.

We ask parents to please supervise their children closely and encourage them to behave appropriately in these shared spaces. Let us work together to ensure our school community continues to uphold the spirit of respect and faith that defines us.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



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School clubs...

We have been organising our extra-curricular club offer, we will continue to share any updates or additional clubs as they become available. The following clubs are now available to book and will begin next week.

Please note, places are limited.

Day	Club	Time	Year Groups	How to book
Monday	Lego Club	3.15pm - 4.15pm	R, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	Arbor
Tuesday	Little Movers	3.15pm - 4.15pm	R, Y1, Y2	Parent Pay (£)
Wednesday	Guitar	Lunchtime	Y4, Y5, Y6	Parent Pay (£)
Wednesday	Midfulness Club	3.15pm - 4.15pm	Y1, Y2, Y3	Arbor
Thursday	Boys' Football	3.15pm - 4.15pm	Y5, Y6	Arbor
Thursday	Girl's Football	Lunchtime	Y5, Y6	Arbor

Girls Football update...

Girls football will now be on a Thursday lunchtime for years 5 & 6. Places should be booked via Arbor to ensure we have an accurate record of numbers and that the sessions can be best planned.

Boys Football...

We have had our first boys football training session. A big thank you to Mr Robson who has volunteered his time to support with coaching the sessions and assisting Mrs Crooks. Mr Robson has lots of experience in youth football coaching and will be a great help! A reminder that suitable footwear should be worn as well as shinpads.



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Key dates for this term...

It seems like the summer holidays are only just over and we are already thinking about Christmas. We are aware that school is a very busy place in the lead up to Christmas and we are conscious there are many events you may wish to attend.

Here are the key dates for this term - we will send out further information regarding individual events nearer the time but for now you can make a note in your diaries!



Event	Date	Day	Time	
Reception and Year 6 'Buddy' Assembly	7.10.25	Tuesday	9am - 9.30am	Reception and Year 6 Parents only
Autumn Disco	23.10.25	Thursday	Reception / KS1 - 3.30 - 4.30 KS2 - 4.45- 5.45	Tickets purchased through Parent Pay (further info to follow)
Parent Meetings	11.11.25 13.11.25	Tuesday/Thursday	2.30pm - 5.30pm	Appointments booked via Arbor
Santa Swap Shop	4.12.25	Thursday	All day in school	Pupils to bring in toy to swap
Christmas Fair / Non-uniform	5.12.25	Friday	Afternoon - Time TBC	Whole school
EYFS Christmas Liturgy	9.12.25	Tuesday	TBC	In Church
KS1 Nativity	11.12.25	Thursday	Performance 1 - 9.30am Performance 2 - 4.00pm	Booking via Arbor



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Key dates continued...

Event	Date	Day	Time	
Y5/6 Christmas party afternoon	12.12.25	Friday	PM	
Y3/4 Party afternoon	15.12.25	Monday	PM	
KS1 Party afternoon	16.12.25	Tuesday	PM	
EYFS Christmas party day	17.12.25	Wednesday		
Carols By Candlelight	17.12.25	Wednesday	5.00pm	In Church All welcome
School closes for Christmas holidays	19.12.25	Friday	1.00pm	Whole school

Introducing Piper..

As communicated in a recent parent email, we are proposing that Mrs Bertram's dog, Piper is adopted as our new school dog. This would mean Piper would spend time in school each week. We are currently consulting with parents and ensuring that we have all risk assessments complete before starting a trial period. Initially Piper would spend 2 days a week with Year 6.

Please contact the school office if you would like further information about this and our plans for Piper, in school.



Welcome Mass...

We will celebrate a whole school mass at St Joseph's Church on **Wednesday 24th September at 10am**. This will be a lovely way to mark the beginning of the school year and welcome you all to join us.



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