



# NEWSLETTER

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Jarrow



Newsletter no. 3

3rd October 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and our wider St Joseph's community,

As we step into October and deeper into Autumn, the changing weather brings with it a fresh energy, and we have lots to look forward to, in the remainder of this first half term.

Highlights include our YMT residential trip, a wonderful opportunity for students to grow, connect, and reflect on their faith. We're also hosting our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions, which are a great opportunity to connect with your child's teacher and learn more about the year ahead.

In recognition of World Mental Health Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, we'll be holding a Coffee Morning to promote wellbeing and community support and as we look towards the end of half term we have our Autumn Fancy Dress Discos, supported by the Friends of St Joseph's group. We also have our Reception and Year 6 Buddy assembly.

October also marks Black history month where we will celebrate diversity, promote inclusion, and educate children about the achievements and contributions of Black individuals throughout history and today.

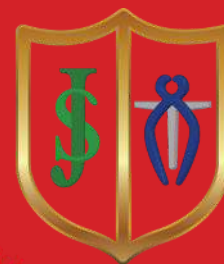
In this edition of our bi-weekly newsletter, we will share some of the great work which has taken place over the past few weeks as well as highlighting some upcoming events and dates for your diaries.

There is also a link and QR code to access the 2025 parent questionnaire. We really would appreciate your time in completing the questionnaire which will give us vital feedback and insight into your views of school and ways in which we can continue to grow and develop the school to ensure the best possible care and education for our pupils as well as supporting families within our school community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mr Kennedy



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## Welcome Mass...



We celebrated a special Mass, with Fr Andrew, in Church. The theme of the mass was New Beginnings and acted as a reminder of the fresh opportunities each day brings. Our children, family members and parishioners joined in prayer and reflection. As we step into the new chapter of the academic year, we carry with us hope, gratitude, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Thank you to all pupils who read beautifully and helped share the message of our mass.



**CAFOD** Catholic Agency for Overseas Development  
**FAMILY FAST DAY**

## CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY...

Thank you for supporting CAFOD family fast day. All money raised through the just giving page goes directly to supporting CAFOD and ensuring our neighbours countries facing some of the most challenging circumstances will have access to clean and safe water. You can donate here: [CAFOD donate](https://www.cafod.org.uk/donate)



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## SFEGUARDING, 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%**

### Football Team Update

The new football team of 2025 were put to the test this week when they played their first of the Gidney League matches. Our opponents were the reigning champions and although we were disappointed with the result, the whole team displayed a high level of sportsmanship on and off the field. During the match there were some amazing saves any keeper would be proud of, and sights of potential from all that I am sure will bring better results in our up-and-coming games.

Massive thank you to Mr Robson, who's coaching experience and enthusiasm is inspiring the team at every training session.  
Mrs Crooks



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## Parent/Carer Survey - We Value Your Voice!

Please take a few minutes to complete our parent / carer survey for 2025.

We kindly ask all parents and carers to take a few minutes to complete our Parent survey. Your feedback is incredibly important and helps us continue to improve and provide the best possible experience for our children and families at St Joseph's.

You can click the [link](#) or scan the QR code.

Thank you for your support!



## Parent/Carer Survey - Feedback so far....

Thank you to all parents/carers who have taken the time to respond to the survey already - particularly those who have shared additional feedback in the comments section.

Already one of the key themes that is emerging is that we could improve communication around what your child will be learning this year.

Hopfully you will all now have access to this term's curriculum booklets and dates for the 'meet the teacher' sessions. I appreciate that this could have happened sooner and we will take that on board going forward. As the new Headteacher, I wanted to share a little context. September has been a very busy and important time for settling into my new role, getting to know the children, staff, and routines, and wider community - ensuring a smooth start to the year for everyone. I hope that you will still find the sessions valuable and given the few extra weeks before these sessions, our teachers have had more time to get to know your children and understand how they're settling in. We are also looking at various (non social media) ways of sharing your children's learning experiences with you.

Your patience is appreciated and all feedback is being thoroughly analysed. Aside from the questionnaire I would always welcome constructive feedback throughout the year.

Mr Kennedy



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## Meet the Teacher dates

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October --- Year 1, Year 2 & Year 4

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October --- Year 3, Year 5

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October --- Year 6

Reception and Nursery Stay and Play dates (More info to follow from class teachers)

Reception - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November - 9.15am - 10.30am

Nursery - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November - Morning and Afternoon Session

## Christmas Card Project



The children's drawings were posted to the organiser this week. As soon as we receive the order form and templates, we will send them home with children. You will then need to place your orders online. Details will be on the order form. The deadline to do this is Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October. All orders will be delivered to school on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

Mrs Lloyd



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## ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY JARROW WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY



**FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**  
**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US FOR A COFFEE/TEA  
AND A CHAT. IT WOULD BE LOVELY TO SEE YOU.**  
**9-10AM**



**BINGO - REFRESHMENTS - POSITIVE-TEA!**

*Just being you  
is enough.  
You are a gift.*  
~~~~~



**MRS S ARTHUR - CHILD AND WELLBEING LEAD**

JOIN US FOR  
FREE PRIZE BINGO! - TEA/COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS -  
HEALTHY MINDS - SWEET TREATS & BISCUITS - FRIENDLY  
CHAT - MINDFULNESS - LEAFLETS AND ADVICE - AGE  
CONCERN SERVICES FOR OVER 18'S



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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<br>KS2 - 4.45- 5.45 | Tickets purchased through Parent Pay (further info to follow) |
| Parent Meetings                       | 11.11.25<br>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<br>Performance 2 - 4.00pm  | Booking via Arbor                                             |



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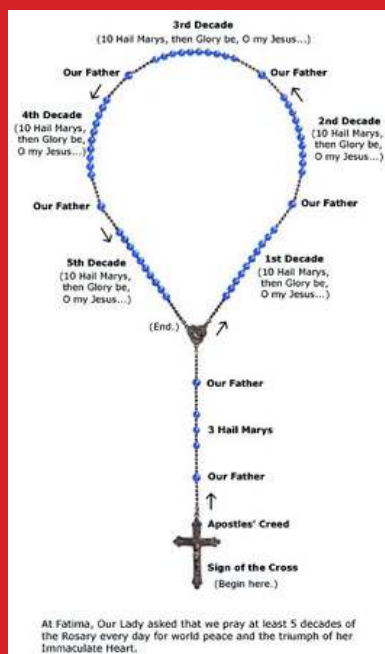
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## Key dates continued...

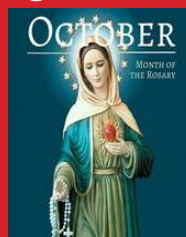
| Event                                | Date     | Day       | Time   |                          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|--------------------------|
| Y5/6 Christmas party afternoon       | 12.12.25 | Friday    | PM     |                          |
| 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<br>All welcome |
| School closes for Christmas holidays | 19.12.25 | Friday    | 1.00pm | Whole school             |



## October – The Month of Mary

As we enter October, we remember that this is a special month dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. It's also a time when we reflect on the prayer of the Rosary. We encourage families to try saying a decade of the Rosary together at home – a peaceful way to pray and spend time together.

An online guide can be found [here](#)



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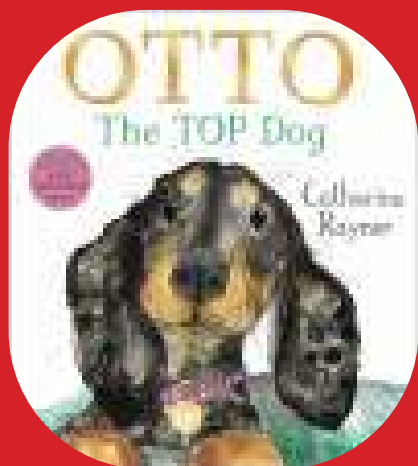
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## Year 6

### Reducing Accidents at Play (RAP) Event

Our Y6 pupils attended the Reducing accidents at Play (RAP) Event. They were joined by all of the emergency services who helped educate them about the dangers in the community as they grow more independent from their adults. It was really informative and the children really enjoyed themselves and took a lot away from the session. The behaviour of our pupils was also praised for their manners and the way in which they conducted themselves. Y6 showing they are excellent role models and ambassadors for St Joseph's, well done!



### Year 2 Visit to Theatre Royal - 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Our Year 2 pupils will be visiting the Theatre Royal in Newcastle for a performance of 'OTTO - The Top dog' This exciting opportunity will be a fantastic experience but also links to the Y2 English curriculum and their class text, Dogger.



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**RECEPTION PLACES 2026 OPEN EVENING  
4.30 - 5.30 PM THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 2025**



**St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Jarrow**

@ enquiries@stjosephsjarrow.co.uk

0191 536 4311

www.stjosephsjarrow.co.uk

@StJosephsjarrow



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Please share with friends and family - Our open evening for Reception intake September 2026. This will include information from our SLT and Early years team as well as a chance to visit the reception classroom and learning environment. Tea/Coffee and refreshments will be available.

*We also currently have spaces in other year groups - please contact the school office for more information.*



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What Parents & Educators Need to know about

## EA SPORTS FC 26



### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

#### VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

#### IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

#### SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins - something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

#### POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

### LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

### MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

### BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites - doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>

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