



Friday 23rd September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Breakfast Club:

We are pleased to announce that **breakfast club will commence from Monday 3rd October until Wednesday 21st December as a trial.**

A full breakfast club booking procedure will follow early next week, and we hope to welcome as many children as possible! If breakfast club is not used, then we may lose it...so please - try it out. To briefly summarise our plans:

- It will start at 7:45am on both sites.
- Costs are £3 a session, representing great value for money.
- Bookings and payments will need to be finalised by parents and carers, by Friday lunchtimes (12pm) of the week before.
- We recognise that many parents work shifts, and do not need to book breakfast club every day. We will accommodate this by charging on a sessional basis.
- Breakfast club is a non-statutory part of the schools' provision and it will be regularly evaluated by the local governing committee.



Harvest Festival:

We are fast approaching Harvest Festival time. This year, our efforts are required more than ever and we have received requests from a number of charities who have asked us donate to their causes. **We will celebrate Harvest Festival on Friday 30th September.**



**St Vincent
de Paul Society**
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Our staff have collectively decided that the 'The Saint Vincent de Paul Centre' at Ouseburn, will receive the schools' Harvest collection, whose mission is to support homeless and disadvantaged people in the Newcastle area. The centre houses the SVP café, which offers drop-in food for those in need.

Please drop-off all donations at St. Joseph's Church, which will be open on Thursday 29th September from 3:00pm until 3:30pm and on the morning of Friday 30th September at 8:30am – 9:00am. Some suggestions:

Tinned Curry	Tinned Burgers	Long life Milk
Tinned Chillli	Tinned Potatoes	Jars of Italian, Indian, Chinese cooking sauces
Tinned Meatballs	Tinned Pies	Bottles/Cans of drink
Tinned Bolognese	Cereal	

We know how incredibly generous our school communities have been in the past and hope you will help us to support and donate to this cause.

Secondly, we are hoping that children will donate the price of a small snack (e.g. 50p) to **CAFOD's Family Fast Day** and place the donation inside of the blue envelope attached to this letter. The idea behind CAFOD's Family Fast Day is for children to 'fast from their snack' and donate the money that they would have spent on a snack, to a worthwhile global cause.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and hope to see you at our school Mass, in **St. Joseph's Church, on Friday 30th September, at 10:45am**





Road Safety:



There are some local traffic issues which are proving to be problematic. The impact of the A1 roadworks at Coalhouse is significant and we recognise that traffic is now being diverted through Birtley to accommodate the closure of the Coalhouse route. **Please drive cautiously and safely at all times.** We realise that commuting times between the schools has increased and we ask you to plan this into your morning routine. The parish kindly support parents who park in St. Joseph's Catholic Club and we request you to use the pelican crossings to ensure everyone's safety.

Safeguarding:

We received a letter from the local Youth Club at Birtley Community Centre, which stated that there had been an incident in Percy's Park, yesterday evening, where a man followed a child from the park to home, on foot and then continued to follow him in a white van. Please ensure you remain alert, know of your children's whereabouts at all times and report any suspicious behaviours to the police or 101. Thank you.



Reminder: Please ensure that pupils bring in their reading book bags each day – this is so the teacher can add comments into the diary as and when required.

Dates for the Diary (Please note that dates are subject to change):

Wednesday 21st September – Toddlers to recommence in St. Joseph's Infants – 09:00am – 10:30am

Monday 26th September – European Day of Languages across both schools – relaunch of Modern Foreign Languages Curriculum (French)

Friday 30th September – Harvest Festival – 10:45am

Tuesday 1st October – 4:30pm Year 6 Parents' Meeting for Residential to Robinwood Alston

Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October – School closed for half-term

Monday 31st October – Closing Day for Secondary School Admissions

Tuesday 1st November – Parents' Evenings at both schools – 3:30pm – 6:00pm (not Year 1)

Thursday 3rd November – Parents' Evenings at both schools – 3:30pm – 6:00pm

Monday 14th November – Parents' Evening (Year 1 additional session)

Friday 11th November – Remembrance Day

Tuesday 13th December – Reception Performance

Thursday 15th December – KSI Performances

Tuesday 20th December – KS2 Carol Service – 5pm at St. Joseph's RC Church, Birtley

Sunday 15th January 2023 – Admission portal closes for Reception and Year 3 admissions – parents need to apply for places for infant pupils transferring to junior school

Please note that St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Saturday Night Vigil Mass commences at 5:00pm on Saturday evenings – you would be most welcome to attend.

Weekday Masses occur on most Tuesdays (7pm), Thursdays (12 noon) and Fridays (10am).

Visit: [St Joseph's Birtley Bulletins \(stjosephsbirtley.co.uk\)](http://StJosephsBirtleyBulletins(stjosephsbirtley.co.uk)) for more information

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