



Thursday 9th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! The children have had an excellent first week and have settled into their new year groups, brilliantly. Our joint INSET was very successful, and we have some exciting changes afoot to further enhance the quality of teaching and learning across the schools. Here are some brief updates - we have worked hard to make things a little bit easier for everyone!

Swimming:

We have tried our hardest to make travelling to and from swimming easier for all concerned and to reduce the impact on pupils finishing late.

After many conversations, we have now managed to swap the Junior and Infant swimming sessions round, meaning that the Infant school will now swim on a Tuesday, which is the earlier time – 1:45pm – 2:30pm, and the Junior school, will now swim on a Wednesday, with a lesson time of 2:30pm – 3:15pm. The infants will get a coach to and from the swimming baths, ensuring that parents are not inconvenienced. We hope this alleviates any travel difficulties and we thank you all for your patience! Please ensure that pupils have their swimming kit from next week (including swimming caps for the girls and goggles).

A revised PE timetable is highlighted below. We are still in discussions with other sporting providers but as per our Facebook message, PE will go ahead for Year 1 on Tuesdays, and Reception on Wednesdays.

PE Timetable	09:00 – 10:30	10:45 – 12:00pm	1:00pm – 2:15pm approx.	2:30pm – 3:15 or 3:30pm approx.	After-school
Monday			Year 3 PE	Year 5 PE	Kensho Karate Juniors
Tuesday	Bikeability Year 5 (from 13 th September)	Bikeability Year 5 (from 13 th September)	Year 1 Jump and Jig	Year 2 Swimming (from second week back - wear uniform as normal)	Kensho Karate Infants Gateshead Football Coaching Juniors
Wednesday	Toddlers in hall (from 21.9.22)		Reception PE	Year 4 Swimming 1:45 – 2:45pm (from second week back - wear uniform as normal)	
Thursday	Year 5 Grassroots	Year 4 Grassroots	Year 3 Grassroots	Year 6 Grassroots	Grassroots Club at Juniors
	Year 1 NUFC (Ratio 1:15)	Year 1 NUFC (Ratio 1:15)	Year 2 NUFC (Ratio 1:15)	Year 2 NUFC (Ratio 1:15)	NUFC Club at Infants
Friday				Year 6 PE	

Reading and Homework Diaries:

If you follow our Facebook page, you will have seen glimpses of our new reading diaries. They are being sent out this week, alongside children's reading books (Reception pupils will have books by the end of their second full week).

Please read with your child on a daily basis and record it on the night in which they read. (Please note that Saturday and Sunday can be recorded on Friday's entry. Examples of some comments which you may choose to make are highlighted below.



10 NOVEMBER 2019

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 20:27-38

God of the living!

Lots of us wonder what will happen when we die. The people in the Gospel also want to know what heaven is like. They ask Jesus some tricky questions about life after death. Jesus says the important thing is to remember that God is always with us. God's love helps us to live life to full. We don't need to worry about what will happen when we die. Although we might have glimpses of the happiness of heaven, eternal life with God is different from anything we can experience on earth. What we do know is that we can look forward to life with God forever and have an exciting, happy life with God now!

Talk to JESUS

Thank you, Jesus, for promising me life in heaven. Help me to live well every day, knowing you are always with me. Amen.

DID YOU KNOW? This week Sikhs are celebrating the birthday of Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikh religion. Nanak became known as a "guru", a "teacher", because he spent his life helping people to understand God's message that everyone is equal. During this festival Sikh temples, called gurdwaras, are decorated and the Sikh holy book, called the Guru Granth Sahib, is read from beginning to end.

ACTION Go for a little walk. Be really aware of everything you see, hear and feel.

I'm alive!

God is with us always.
God is with us when we enjoy life.

Simon enjoys life when he j ---- (s m u p)

Beatrice feels most alive when she s ---- (g n s i)

Miriam enjoys life when she is with f ---- (r e d s n i)

NOVEMBER 2019

LITERACY TARGET NUMERACY TARGET

Monday 11 lundi (French), Montag (German), lunes (Spanish), Dydd Llun (Welsh)

The Big Bad Bug – Read to pg. 4 – blended 'bad'.

The Big Bad Bug – Read to pg. 8 – found 'into' tricky.

Wednesday 13 mercredi (French), Mittwoch (German), miércoles (Spanish), Dydd Mercher (Welsh)

The Big Bad Bug – Read to end – more fluent

Thursday 14 jeudi (French), Donnerstag (German), jueves (Spanish), Dydd Iau (Welsh)

The Big Bad Bug – Read from start to finish.

Friday 15 vendredi (French), Freitag (German), viernes (Spanish), Dydd Gwener (Welsh)

The Best Party – Read the first chapter – stuck on 'y' sound.

Parent / Guardian / Teacher comments:

Literacy & Numeracy target review: Spelling test results:

Reminder – Open Mornings:

We also have spaces for additional pupils within most classes, at both schools – and ask you to spread the word to your friends, families, parishioners, and wider community. Remember, you do not have to be Catholic to attend a Catholic school and we would love to see more pupils becoming part of our family!

Two key dates for future cohorts (September 2023 cohorts) – sign up at:
<https://forms.office.com/r/vsFvq4jVQb>

St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School – Open morning – Tuesday 20th September - 9:30am – 11:00am

St. Joseph's Catholic Junior School – Open morning – Thursday 22nd September - 9:30am – 11:00am (for those seeking a place in a Key Stage 2 year groups, or for those who are unfamiliar with the junior school)



Year 2 Parents:

Attached to this newsletter, is a letter describing what you are required to do to ensure you can secure a place for your child in St. Joseph's Junior School, as they enter Year 3. Please note that parents of Year 2 children must apply through the portal at www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions for places in the Junior School – places are not automatically given.

Year 6 Parents:

Attached to this newsletter is a letter describing what you are required to do to ensure you can secure a place for your child, in Year 7. Please note that deadline for secondary school admission places is 31st October 2022.



The weekly homework timetable – please keep this somewhere safe (e.g. on the fridge!)

Year group	Phonics	Reading		Mathematics
Reception	Flashcards and phonics worksheets will be sent home.	At least two books per week will be sent home – one on a Monday and one on a Friday. An additional book may be sent home to 'share' with a parent for inference work and may support sight reading vocabulary. Please bring in reading bags, books and diaries, daily, and read with your child at home, on a daily, basis.		Number formation worksheets, progressing to subitising (looking at a group of objects and knowing their worth)
Year group	Core Subjects	Reading	Spellings	Number bonds, Times Tables and/or Division Facts
Years 1 – 5	Reading comprehension or mathematics task - usually linked to work taught in class	Daily reading – quantity dependent upon age	Weekly	Weekly
Given out	Given on a Friday to return on a Tuesday	Daily – signed by the parent on a daily basis and brought into school each day.	Given on a Monday, write out three times, for a test the following Monday	Given on a Friday to be tested the following Friday
Reading	Books will be changed twice per week on Mondays and Fridays. Key Stage 1 books – Books, connected to phonics sounds taught in the classroom will be sent home. An additional book may be sent home to 'share' with a parent for inference work – it may also support sight reading vocabulary.			

Year group	English	Mathematics	Reading	Spellings	Times Tables and Division Facts
Year 6	Reading comprehension or grammar and punctuation work.	Usually linked to work taught in class	Daily reading e.g. one chapter	Weekly	Weekly
Given out	Given on a Monday to return on a Friday	Given on a Friday to return on a Tuesday	Daily – signed by the parent on a daily basis – brought into school each day.	Given on a Monday to be tested on the following Monday	Given on a Friday to be tested on the following Friday
	N.B. As pupils approach end of key stage 2 assessments, it is likely that frequency of homework may change e.g. practice test papers may be sent home to consolidate and revise key skills.				
Reading	We recognise that as children grow, their reading habits change and they read more independently. It is still important that an adult signs their child's reading diary and children return this on a daily basis, to allow the class teacher an opportunity to read with children, during the week.				

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

Tuesday 6th September – Pupils return to school

Tuesday 20th September – 9:30am St. Joseph's Catholic infant School Opening morning – to book a place for the forthcoming 2024 Reception Opening morning sign-up <https://forms.office.com/r/vsFvq4jVQb>

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

Thursday 22nd September - 9:30am – 11:00am (for those seeking a place in a Key Stage 2 year groups, or for those who are unfamiliar with the junior school)

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

Friday 30th September – Harvest Festival (more details to follow)

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