



**St. Joseph's
Catholic Infant
& Junior Schools**
Birtley



Thursday 26th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Strike Action for 1.2.23 Update:

Since our last update, two class teachers have decided to participate in the strike action, as is their lawful right to do so. **Therefore, Reception and Year 3 will be closed on 1.2.23. Our schools will remain open for all other pupils and breakfast club will be on as normal. Should there be any further changes to this arrangement, then we will communicate this to you in due course. Thank you for your patience.**

A Warm Welcome:

In January, we welcomed two fantastic members of staff to our schools and are delighted with their appointments. Mr Stephenson has already managed to inspire the children with his passion in Design Technology - and Mrs Thornton, our new school business manager, has been a brilliant addition to our operations team. Please say hello and introduce yourself to them, if you see them around our schools!

Korean Club:

We had our first brilliant Korean Club session on Tuesday evening – we have a couple of additional places, if any other Key Stage 2 pupils would like to join us! Please book via School Gateway.

Careers and Vocations Week 2023:

Thank you to the adults who came to our schools to help us to discuss and promote careers and vocations to our pupils last week. There are ample photographs on Twitter – but it was a brilliant week which would not have been possible without your support. The children asked our visitors some very thoughtful and tough questions! From musicians to health workers, to business development managers, to an American costume designer – the week was truly inspirational.

Holocaust Memorial Day Mass:

Children from both schools will be attending Mass on Friday morning, at 10am, where our Year 4 children will be leading Mass and our Year 1 children be sharing a short liturgical dance as part of the final blessing. Please feel free to join us. As our Reception children have a gymnastics coach in school, on Friday mornings, they will remain in school, tomorrow.

Reminder – First Holy Communion Preparation:

Tuesday 7th February: 5:30 – 6:30pm and/or Wednesday 8th February at St. Joseph's Presbytery.

Sunday 12th February: 10:00am – 10:45am.

Toddlers:

Don't forget that our very friendly Toddler group is on in school on Wednesday mornings from 9am. 😊

Parents' Evenings:

Parents' Evenings will shortly be open for bookings via the School Gateway App – appointment slots are from 3:30pm – 6:00pm. Should you require a longer session, then please contact us to arrange a separate appointment.

Reading:

More information will follow in a separate reading newsletter – which will explore more about our strategies for developing reading including reading buddies.

Message from Mr McKinnon:

I would just like to say a BIG BIG THANK YOU to all the children, parents and staff at St. Joseph's Infants, Birtley, for all the lovely gifts and cards for my retirement. I am going to miss you all. Again, a big thank you. Mr A. McKinnon.

And on behalf of the school and governors – may I take this opportunity to, once again, thank Mr McKinnon for his hard work and commitment to the school, over the years. We wish you well in your retirement!

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

Thursday 26th January – Year 5/6 BEE Netball Competition

Friday 27th January – School Mass at Church for Holocaust Memorial Day – 10am

Saturday 28th January – Year 6 Cross-Country to Ouston Juniors - 10am

Tuesday 31st January – Year 3/4 Mini-Basketball Competition - PM

Friday 3rd February – Year 1 Mathematics Parental Workshop - 8:45am for a 9am start

Friday 3rd February – Numbers Day – Times Table Rock Start Relaunch!

Saturday 4th February - Year 6 Cross-Country to Langley Park Primary – 10am

Monday 6th – Wednesday 8th February – Robinwood for Year 6 pupils (*Please arrive at school at the normal time on Monday - and pick-up from school at normal time on Wednesday*)

Tuesday 7th February – Year 5 Visit to St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School for Reading Buddies

Friday 10th February – Year 2 Visit to Chopwell Woods

Wednesday 15th February – Year 6 and Year 3 Reading Buddies

Tuesday 28th February and Thursday 2nd March – Parents' Evenings

Friday 3rd March – World Book Day (Children can dress-up as their favourite book character with a donation of £1 to go towards school - to purchase new books)

Friday 3rd March – Reception Parental Mathematics Workshop - 8:45am for a 9am start

Friday 3rd March – Year 4/5 Girls' Football Competition

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