



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



**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

## **Dear Parents and Carers,**

We've had a very busy few weeks which have included King Charles III Coronation tapestries, KS2 assessments, organising residentials, theatre trips, sports days, Team Adventure Challenge as well as welcoming our new staff into school.

With only one week to go until half-term, we thought we would write just to give you a bit of an update.

### **Sacramental Preparation:**

Our sacramental preparation is nearing its final stages of completion. A big well done to all those who attended and made their first confession at our joint reconciliation celebration with St. Benet's, Ouston, last week. We look forward to seeing our communicants in church on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June, at 11am. You are all more than welcome to attend and support our Year 4 pupils, at the First Holy Communion Mass.

### **Mrs Nutton:**

We send fondest wishes to Mr and Mrs Nutton who gave birth to a little baby girl last week. Both mother and daughter are doing well, and I know that you will send your best wishes to her.

### **Sunny Weather:**

It's that time of year when the sunny weather (hopefully!) will shine upon us...please remember to bring in caps, hats, water bottles and sun cream. Please apply this each morning before school and, if required, we will top-it-up during the day, with pupils' own suncream.

### **Half-term:**

Please remember that school will be closed Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June for half-term.

### **INSET:**

Please remember that school is closed to pupils for INSET, on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**.

### **Sports' Day:**

We have provisionally arranged **Junior sports' day to take place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 10:00am** – this will ensure that we have sufficient time to make alternative arrangements for a date later in June, should we have adverse weather!

We have provisionally arranged **Infant sports' day to take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 9:30am**.

### **Year 4/5/6 Fun Run at Saltwell Park:**

We're really looking forward to the Fun Run at Saltwell Park on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Coaches will be leaving at 9am – so we ask for children to arrive promptly for school. Children will either have a packed lunch from school or home. Our school's number is 36 and each pupil will be given a sticky number to affix to their PE top. Our race numbers are blue and this colour will be used to at the finish line to guide children to their holding area. We are praying for good weather and look forward to enjoying what promises to be a fabulous event! Don't forget – shorts, caps, suncream and a coat – just in case!

### **Swimming:**

This week will be the last week for Year 3 swimming sessions, for this year. After half-term, our Year 6 pupils will be going swimming on a Tuesday and Year 5 will continue to swim on a Wednesday.

### **Music Peripatetic Lessons:**

A big welcome to Julia from Side by Side Arts who will also be taking peripatetic lessons. Lessons occur on Tuesdays. There are spaces available for guitar lessons, for KS2 pupils, should your child wish to join – please contact the school office for further information.





Kensho Karate are also really eager to support us once more in pupils' sporting journey and will be conducting demonstrations in the juniors on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Team Adventure Challenge** are coming to school to conduct team challenges and problem-solving with our pupils in Years 3/4/5. On these days – please ensure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit and has usual summer attire as well as warm clothing. Don't forget water, snacks, suncream and a coat, too, on these days!

**Mass** – After half-term we will be alternating Friday Masses/venues with St. Benet's, Ouston. See the newsletter for more information.

### Residential:

We sent out letters this week for residential for the incoming Years 4/5 to the Youth Ministry Team and for Year 6 to Robinwood. We would appreciate your support in a quick turnaround, so that we can secure deposits and placements. We are really excited to launch this extra residential for our Year 4 and 5 pupils and think it will be a wonderful opportunity for personal developmental and spiritual growth in the safety and serenity of the Youth Village.



### Swap-Up Morning:

As our Year 6 pupils are due to attend Cardinal Hume for the day on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> (and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>), we are using **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** as the ideal time to hold a swap-up morning.

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July will act as a transition morning for all pupils in our current Reception to Year 5 classes. They will 'move' to the next class and meet their teachers.

Our incoming Reception cohort are being notified that will come for a welcome stay and play session, with a grown-up on this day. We will also use this as an opportunity for our Year 2 pupils to sample life at the junior school.

On this day, we ask that our Year 2 pupils are dropped off at the junior school between 8:30am and 8:55am. Pupils will experience how our start of day procedures work, where things are, how lunchtimes work and will get to play on the fabulous climbing frames! Pupil will have lunch at the junior school, and we will walk pupils back down to the infant school, after dinnertime has ended. Please book lunch as normal, and we will ensure that this provided on the day, at the junior school. **We will be holding an incoming Year 3 Parents' transition session at the juniors on the evening of Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 3:45pm (this is for current Year 2 parents).**

### School Day:

It has come to our attention that a number of pupils are being taken from early, on an afternoon, as opposed to staying until 3:15pm or 3:30pm. Please note that we are duty bound to ensure that pupils remain in education for 32.5 hours per day and should a pattern begin to emerge, then we will have no option but to refer families to the Education Welfare Officer. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Year 6 Celebrations:

As we have now had our Masses for next term, confirmed – we are now in a position to be able to share our end of term arrangements for Year 6 pupils.

Firstly, we are delighted to have arranged educational visits to the Little Theatre, Eden Camp and YMT for Year 6 pupils.

On **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July – at 9:30am**, we will host our Year 6 Leavers' Assembly in school, where **Year 6 parents/carers** are invited to attend.

The Year 6 pupils' final event is due to take place on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July – at 10am**, where they will lead us in their final Mass as a cohort.

Goodbye & good luck



### Public Health:

Our Reception and Year 6 pupils have been sent letters from the Gateshead 0-19 service. The letters contain links for parents and carers to complete an electronic confidential school health questionnaire, to see if the Gateshead School Nursing Team could offer any health advice or support, if required.

### School Lunches:

Our Junior School Council has been working hard to improve and make changes around school. They have helped to organise the summerhouse and have been very efficient at ordering products on Amazon (!). More recently, they voted on the new school menu choices for next year. They were very vocal about wanting a wider range of cold options and voted for a 'deli' option along with the option for sandwiches. The children's votes and feedback are now being collated by Gateshead Catering who will produce a final version of the menu and communicate this to you, as soon as possible.



### **Dates for the Diary (Please note that these are subject to change):**

- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Year 4/5/6 Fun run at Saltwell Park
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Expression of interest for YMT Residential (Year 4/5) and Robinwood Residential (Year 6)
- W/C Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Reception Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Year 1 Visit to Newcastle Keep
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Craft Family Learning at Cardinal Hume School 6:00pm – 7:00pm for Year 6 transition
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Year 3/4 Selected pupils Quadkids Athletics at Grace College
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Mr Taylor Bible Story – KS2 - 1:15pm
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June – School Mass – 10am – Year 3 to lead
- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June – First Holy Communions at St. Joseph's RC Church – 11am
- W/C Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June – Year 5/6 Mini Tennis at Cardinal Hume
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June – Science Family Learning at Cardinal Hume School 6:00pm – 7:00pm for Year 6 transition
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Year 5 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Reception Class Trip to Hall Hill Farm
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June – St. Joseph's Catholic Junior School Sports Day – 10am – School field
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Sponsored Sports for School Event with the Sports for Schools Team – More details to follow
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Year 3 Visit to Whickham Thorns
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June – Year 2 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 Pastoral Day at Cardinal Hume School
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Selected pupils Year 5/6 Orienteering Festival – Gibside
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School Sports Day – 9:30am – At the welfare ground
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Music Family Learning at Cardinal Hume School 6:00pm – 7:00pm for Year 6 transition
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – School Closed for INSET**
- Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul – TBC
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June – Reception Induction meeting for new September 2023 starters – 2pm
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Team Adventure Challenge Day – Year 3 Team building day
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Year 4/5 Team Adventure Challenge Day – Year 4/5 Team building day
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Big Sing for Mini-Singers for Year 2 pupils at Sage, Gateshead – morning
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June – English Family Learning at Cardinal Hume School 6:00pm – 7:00pm for Year 6 transition
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 Bus Induction AM session – practice session with Go North East.
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Selected pupils Year 3/4/5 Athletics competition – Selected pupils
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 to YMT for Transition Event
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Deposit for Year 4/5 Residential to YMT
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Transition Days to Cardinal Hume
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July - Stay and play for 1 hour with parents (invitations will indicate times for the different groups)
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Swap-up morning for all of school
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Year 3 Transition Evening for Parents
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Parents' Meeting at Cardinal Hume – 6:00 – 7:30pm

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Year 1 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July – Year 3 Big Sing: You and Me – AM session  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July - Mathematics Family Learning at Cardinal Hume School 6:00pm – 7:00pm for Year 6 transition  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Whole-School Mass – 10am at Church  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Year 3 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers' Assembly and end of term awards assembly for the juniors  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers' Mass - Whole-School Mass – 10am at Church  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August – Cardinal Hume Summer School for Year 6 Pupils

N.B. For those families wishing to book places at Cardinal Hume School for family learning, please call Cardinal Hume School reception 0191 4877638, leaving a contact number, to book places.

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