



St. Joseph's
Catholic Infant
& Junior Schools
Birtley



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Thursday 29th June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all those who attended our two fantastic sports' day events! The children were an absolute credit to us all and their friendly competitiveness was matched by their desire to cheer on their peers. The set-up and structure of the events worked well - and it was lovely to hear such positive comments from you all!

Industrial Action:

Our schools will remain fully open on Wednesday 5th July.

On Friday 7th July, Reception and Year 1 will be closed for Industrial Action – thank you for your understanding.

Team Adventure Challenge:

As parents in Years 3/4/5 will be aware, we had to cancel the Team Adventure Challenge days because of the inclement weather. **The challenge days have now been rearranged for:**

Wednesday 5th July – Years 4/5

Friday 7th July – Year 3 (Year 3 will not attend Mass)

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!

Musical Concert:

On Thursday 13th July, our pupils from Reception to Year 6 will perform a small whole-school concert in St. Joseph's church to demonstrate their wonderful abilities in music. Each class will take it in turns to perform a small song or piece taken from their music curriculum. Instruments including boomwhackers and bells are also set to make an appearance! Tickets can be purchased for £2 per person via SchoolGateway.



Swap-Up Morning:

Monday 3rd 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 have been notified about their 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 3rd July at 3:45pm (this is for current Year 2 parents).**

Consultation for amalgamation of the schools:

Please remember that all amalgamation feedback needs to be emailed to the Chair of the Local Governing Committee by Friday 21st July. info@sjib.bwcet.com



Miss Angus:

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of Miss Angus who will leave us at the end of July. Miss Angus has been planning her retirement for several years and our community always knew that one day, this day would come. Miss Angus has worked at St. Joseph's for over 24 years and has had the pleasure of working with and educating some of our parents and now their children!

She has been an excellent support and help to all our families and always goes the extra mile to help our children to succeed. We know that she cannot wait to go and visit her grandchildren who live 'down South' and she has promised to visit us all and to pop into school, when she has some spare time.

Miss Angus - on behalf of the local governing committee and St. Joseph's community — we wish you the very best for a happy and fulfilled retirement and we thank you for all you have done for St. Joseph's pupils.

Sports For Schools:

We were delighted to raise nearly £400 in sponsorship for the Sports For Schools Jenny Wallwork event. This money will go towards purchasing and replenishing our stock of netballs, footballs, racquets and hockey sticks across both schools. Thank you enormously for your contributions.

Uniform:

Just a gentle reminder that you can purchase new uniform via the Tots to Teams website. [St. Joseph's Catholic Infant & Junior Schools \(Birtley\) \(totstoteams.com\)](http://St.Joseph's.Catholic.Infant.&.Junior.Schools.Birtley.totstoteams.com) We have ordered some samples which will be on display at our Reception and Year 3 induction meetings.



Sending Forth Mass:

Our First Holy Communicants will lead us in a Sending Forth Mass on Friday 7th July where Year 2, 4, 5 and 6 will be present. As always, our community are invited to join us in this celebration.

A huge thank you:

An American visitor who visited us for Careers Week kindly donated an American Basketball shirt as part of a sporting incentive to raise the profile of basketball shooting at lunchtime. Each pupil in KS2 was given an opportunity to shoot and we had a Year 5 winner who scored 5/5!

Miss Cameron:

We are delighted to announce that Miss Cameron has given birth to two healthy boys - and we look forward to seeing her new family in due course.

Year 3 Induction Evening:

Please remember that our Year 3 transition meeting will take place at 3:45pm.

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

- Thursday 29th June – Year 6 Bus Induction AM session – practice session with Go North East.
- Friday 30th June – Selected pupils Year 3/4/5 Athletics competition – Selected pupils
- Friday 30th June – Year 6 to YMT for Transition Event
- Friday 30th June – Deposit for Year 4/5 Residential to YMT
- Monday 3rd July and Tuesday 4th July – Year 6 Transition Days to Cardinal Hume
- Monday 3rd July - Stay and play for 1 hour with parents (invitations will indicate times for the different groups)
- Monday 3rd July – Swap-up morning for all of school
- Monday 3rd July – Year 3 Transition Evening for Parents
- Tuesday 4th July – Parents' Meeting at Cardinal Hume – 6:00 – 7:30pm
- Tuesday 4th July – Year 1 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
- Tuesday 4th July – Year 4 to Souter Lighthouse
- Wednesday 5th July – Year 3 Big Sing: You and Me – AM session
- Wednesday 5th July - Mathematics Family Learning at Cardinal Hume School 6:00pm – 7:00pm for Year 6 transition
- Friday 7th July – Whole-School Mass – 10am at Church
- Wednesday 12th July – Year 3 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am
- Thursday 13th July – Musical Concert in Church – 10am start (approx. 1 hour)
- Thursday 13th July – Mr Taylor Bible Story KS2 – 1:15pm
- Wednesday 19th July – Year 6 Leavers' Assembly and end of term awards assembly for the juniors
- Friday 21st July – Year 6 Leavers' Mass - Whole-School Mass – 10am at Church
- Monday 21st August – Friday 25th 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