



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



info@sjib.bwcet.com
info@sjjb.bwcet.com

Friday 9th June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a wonderful half-term break. Please find below some reminders which may help you throughout the exceptionally busy last half-term of the year!

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, before half-term. We look forward to seeing our communicants in church on Saturday 10th June, at 11am. You are all more than welcome to attend and support our Year 4 pupils, at the First Holy Communion Mass.

New Email Addresses:

As communicated to you before half-term, we have been working to improve our ongoing information management systems.

Therefore, if you need to contact us – we now have new email addresses for our school offices.

St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School: info@sjib.bwcet.com

St. Joseph's Catholic Junior School: info@sjjb.bwcet.com

We also now have: teachers@sjib.bwcet.com and teachers@sjjb.bwcet.com

You will not be able to use: stjosephsjuniorslearning@gatedu.org going forward.

Please use these email addresses for any future communication to the school offices.

While the email addresses almost look identical, we ask you to take on board the very important, yet subtle (!) difference of the third character in the abbreviation: sjib or sjjb (**St. Joseph's Infants, Birtley and St. Joseph's Juniors Birtley**).

Sunny Weather:

It's that time of year when the sunny weather will shine upon us (hopefully!)...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.

INSET:

Please remember that our schools are closed to pupils for INSET, on **Friday 23rd June**.

Sports' Day:

We have provisionally arranged **Junior sports' day to take place on Thursday 15th 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 22nd June at 9:30am**.

Swimming:

Our Year 6 pupils are now swimming on a Tuesday and Year 5 will continue to swim on a Wednesday.

Music Peripatetic Lessons:

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:

There will be no Kensho Karate classes on the 11th and 13th July as all instructors will be in Dundee at the World Championships. Our office will send a letter regarding gradings on 18th and 20th July.

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!

Swap-Up Morning:

As our Year 6 pupils are due to attend Cardinal Hume for the day on Monday 3rd (and Tuesday 4th), we are using **Monday 3rd July** as the ideal time to hold a 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 are being notified about 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 3rd 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 school 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 week 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 this term, confirmed – we are now in a position to be able to share our end of term arrangements for Year 6 pupils.

On **Wednesday 19th 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 21st July – at 10am**, where they will lead us in their final Mass as a cohort.

Goodbye & good luck



SEND Support Meetings:

For those pupils who are on the official SEND register, we will hold face to face meetings with our parents, where we will review their SEND Pupil Support Plan (PSP). At the start of this year, all parents/carers of those pupils who have a SEND need and required placement on our SEND register, were informed by letter. We review PSPs twice a year, and would like to take this opportunity for you to meet Mrs Maddock/Mrs Peacock in a face to face meeting, where your child's targets will be reviewed, before they are handed onto their teacher, next year.

Dates for these meetings are scheduled for Thursday 29th and Friday 30th June.

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.

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

W/C Monday 5th June – Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check
Thursday 8th June – Year 3/4 Selected pupils Quadkids Athletics at Grace College
Thursday 8th June – Mr Taylor Bible Story – KS2 - 1:15pm
Friday 9th June – School Mass – 10am – Year 3 to lead
Saturday 10th June – First Holy Communions at St. Joseph's RC Church – 11am
W/C Monday 12th June – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Tuesday 13th June – Year 5/6 Mini Tennis at Cardinal Hume
Tuesday 13th June – Science Family Learning at Cardinal Hume School 6:00pm – 7:00pm for Year 6 transition
Wednesday 14th June – Year 5 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am
Wednesday 14th June – Reception Class Trip to Hall Hill Farm
Thursday 15th June – St. Joseph's Catholic Junior School Sports Day – 10am – School field
Friday 16th June – Sponsored Sports for School Event with the Sports for Schools Team – More details to follow
Friday 16th June – Year 3 Visit to Whickham Thorns
Tuesday 20th June – Year 2 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
Tuesday 20th June - Year 6 Pastoral Day at Cardinal Hume School
Thursday 22nd June – Selected pupils Year 5/6 Orienteering Festival – Gibside
Thursday 22nd June – St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School Sports Day – 9:30am – At the welfare ground
Thursday 22nd June – Music Family Learning at Cardinal Hume School 6:00pm – 7:00pm for Year 6 transition
Friday 23rd June – School Closed for INSET
Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul – TBC
Monday 26th June – Reception Induction meeting for new September 2023 starters – 2pm
Tuesday 27th June – Team Adventure Challenge Day – Year 3 Team building day
Wednesday 28th June – Year 4/5 Team Adventure Challenge Day – Year 4/5 Team building day
Wednesday 28th June – Big Sing for Mini-Singers for Year 2 pupils at Sage, Gateshead – morning
Wednesday 28th June – English Family Learning at Cardinal Hume School 6:00pm – 7:00pm for Year 6 transition
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