



St. Joseph's
Catholic Infant
& Junior Schools
Birtley



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Wednesday 8th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Mini-Vinnies:

We look forward to Michael Willcock from the Saint Vincent de Paul Society coming into both schools on Monday 20th November to re-establish the Mini-Vinnies groups. He is coming into deliver an information session to the children and we look forward to helping Mini-Vinnies raise funds to try and help their community.



Remembrance Mass:

Our Year 6 pupils will be participating in a Remembrance Mass on Friday 10th November, at 2pm, in St. Joseph's Catholic Church. All are welcome. We will be singing Wartime songs and hymns pertinent to Remembrance.



Year 6 parents only – please click on the link or respond by scanning the QR code. We will send out time slots ASAP, once the majority of parents/carers have responded. For those who have specified time slots because of work commitments, we will give you priority. <https://forms.office.com/e/K78JDvscqm>

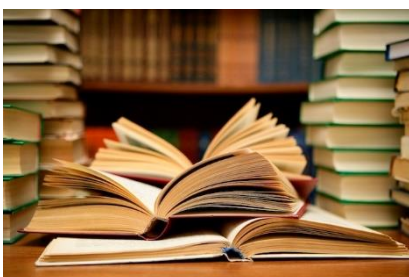


We are eager to use the expertise and resources of Side by Side arts. Since our Year 6 cohort left, we have spaces available for musical peripatetic tuition. Please use the link to sign-up – if anybody is struggling financially but would like their child to access piano or guitar tuition, then please contact school. **These paired lessons are available for all pupils in Year 1 upwards.**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc3_E90rcEbwkl2vsa6715UHB9hV5bwLO3HBF62timeuBlh3w/viewform?usp=sf_link

Reminder - Reading:

The Department for Education specify: *As pupils gain fluency, their motivation increases: they start to enjoy reading more and are willing to do more of it. Both accuracy and speed are essential.'*



We were recently asked: 'How do I use my child's reading diary?' The answer is very straightforward.

We ask that all pupils read for 10-15 minutes per night and return their books and reading diaries on a daily basis. Please sign your child's reading diary so that we know they are being heard by an adult – it's so important – as is the communication back to school about the words which your child found tricky!

Reading aloud helps pupils to develop intonation, prosody, expression and fluency and we strongly encourage this. Please ensure your child reads each night. Thank you for your support.

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)

LITERACY TARGET NUMERACY TARGET
NOVEMBER 2019

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:

Friday 17th November – Children In Need – Spot or Stripe-tacular Day



As part of the Children In Need celebrations children are invited to wear their PE kit, with a spots or stripes t-shirt, to show our support for the Children In Need cause. A voluntary contribution for this will be payable via Arbor in the 'school shop'.

In addition to wearing non-uniform, this year, Joe Wicks challenges all followers of Children In Need to get into shape by completing the Bearpee challenge! Therefore, we ask that wherever possible, our pupils come into school wearing appropriate PE trousers and trainers to enable them to access the sporting challenge! *Our children on the hour, each hour, will complete as many Bearpees as they can, in line with Joe's national challenge!*

We appreciate that asking each family to sponsor their children in the Bearpee challenge might be difficult, so we are going to set a standard charge in the 'school shop' on Arbor, of £2.50 for the Bearpee challenge. The £2.50 suggested donation will also include a delicious cupcake for playtime at this time – which will be offered instead of our normal Friday tuck-shop. We will not be collecting cash donations for this event.

Keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter pages for some Bearpee demonstrations!!! As part of the fun, we will also hold a 'Guess the baby competition...' where children will be tasked to match-up well-known celebrities to their baby photos with prizes for the winners in each class.



Disco:

Don't forget that we are hosting a Winter disco at St. Joseph's Catholic Club, on Tuesday 14th November from 4:00pm - 5:15pm for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and KS1, 5:20pm - 6:30pm for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Tickets will be available to purchase via Arbor for £2.50. For those children in attendance at an after-school club in the INFANT school (only) – we will arrange to take children across the road. Please allow us to dismiss the infant children, first, before the junior children come into the

Catholic Club hall. **Tuck shop, drinks and facepainting, glitter tattoos and nail painting will be offered – but please let us know if your child has an allergy and would be unable to have their faces painted.**

Careers Week:

We know that Careers Week will only be successful with the support of our fantastic friends and families! Please complete the form below to help us to organise Careers Week, for January 2024.

<https://forms.office.com/e/ffEB4rsPfN>

This year, we intend to host visitors on three afternoons:

- Monday 22nd January 2024
- Tuesday 23rd January 2024
- Friday 26th January 2024

Our aim is to provide our children and young people with age-appropriate career insights to help them to develop an awareness and excitement about their future career pathways.

Careers Week provides our pupils with access to a variety of dedicated, committed and innovate adults. Ideally, our volunteers would come prepared to rotate around each class - delivering a short presentation to each class either at the infant school, junior school or both schools. Volunteers are welcome to bring props/PowerPoint presentations to support their delivery. We promise that the children's questions won't be too difficult to answer!!! 😊

Don't be shy - please help us to raise our children's aspirations as they learn about a variety of jobs and organisations that they can become part of, when they become adults!

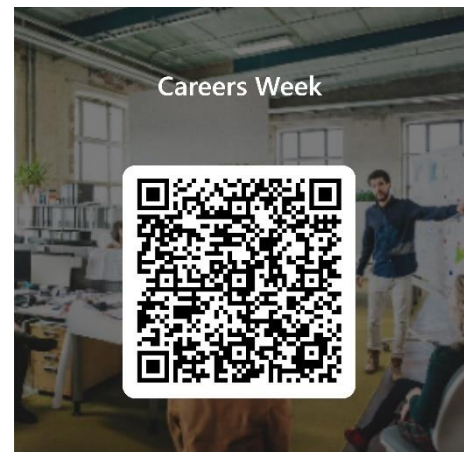
If you volunteered last year, we'd still love to have you in school, again! We will confirm timings once we have sufficient volunteers to make the sessions work - thank you for your support! 😊

Red Sky Foundation:

Just a reminder that we are supporting the Red Sky Foundation Charity, by having a donation bank at each school (a new bank will be delivered to the junior school sometime next week). Please use these banks to recycle your unwanted clothing, shoes, handbags and so on, and not add to overstretched landfill sites.

To date they have raised over an incredible **£1 MILLION POUNDS** to buy a variety of equipment and provide facilities and after care at the Children's Heart Unit at Newcastle's Freeman Hospital, Sunderland Royal Hospital and the James Cook Hospital, Teesside.

ECS Textiles pay £200 per ton to the Red Sky Foundation, which they use to purchase defibrillators which are available to thousands and work closely with schools, communities and city centres, so they can be used in those moments when someone has a cardiac arrest and when time is of the essence.



Dates for the Diary

(Please note that these dates are subject to change – Masses will be arranged once our new Parish Priests have arrived):

Friday 10th November - Remembrance Mass – St. Joseph's Church – 2pm

Monday 13th November – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Parental Workshop – 9am

Tuesday 14th November – Winter Disco - 4:00pm - 5:15pm for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and KSI, 5:20pm - 6:30pm for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Tickets are available to purchase via Arbor for £2.50.

Wednesday 15th November – Year 5 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am (or as close to as possible)

Thursday 16th November – Scholastic Book Fayre

Friday 17th November – Year 6 Nourish Food School (three sessions)

Friday 17th November – Reception Phonics Workshop – 9am

Tuesday 21st November – Year 2 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am

Wednesday 29th November – Year 6 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am (or as close to as possible)

Tuesday 12th December – EY Christmas Performance - 10am and 2pm (In St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School)

Wednesday 13th December – Christmas Dinner and festive jumper day £1 donation for Saint Vincent de Paul

Thursday 14th December – KSI Christmas Performance – 10am and 2pm in St. Joseph's Church

Tuesday 19th December – KS2 Christmas Carol Service – 5pm in St. Joseph's Church

Wednesday 20th December – Whole-school to see pantomime at Little Theatre, Gateshead (afternoon)

INSET days:

Friday 22nd December 2023, Monday 24th June 2024, Monday 22nd July 2024, Tuesday 23rd July 2024

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