

be useful should a child finish their phonics book. There is no obligation to read the electronic book – but we recognise that for some children and parents – this is a really helpful tool to help to promote reading.

Numbots/Times Tables Rock Stars:



All pupils at St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School have been sent home with a letter and a log in to Numbots. Year 1 parents have also been asked to 'Save the date' – for a Numbersense workshop in February.

We would very much like our pupils to regularly access these apps as part of their ability to acquire 'automaticity' of number facts, which will help them to become adept mathematicians.

Please remember that our Year 4 pupils are required to complete the Multiplication Times Table check in June 2024, where they have 6-seconds to answer each times table question.

White Rose Maths App:

We strongly encourage all of our parents to download the White Rose Mathematics app. There are fabulous 1-minute games which focus on times table facts, division facts, numbers bonds and the to recognise quantities at sight.



Air-up bottles:

We recognise that several children are now bringing in 'air-up' bottles to school. These water bottles are very expensive and we advise that children do not bring them into school. We do not wish for pupils to become upset if their bottles become damaged, or even lost. Please consider this before purchasing. Thank you.

Altar-Servers:

Prior to Christmas, we were delighted to host John Sexton from the Parish of St. Joseph's, Birtley to discuss the prospect of our children becoming altar-servers. Should you wish your child to be considered for this very important role, then please email your child's details to us and we will pass on the information to the parish. Alternatively, you can contact John, either after Mass, or after the Sunday family liturgy at church. Lots of our pupils expressed interest – and we'd be delighted to see them serve the Lord both on a Sunday and at school Masses.

FHC Pre-loved:

The Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust are delighted to invite you to attend our very first "Pre-Loved First Holy Communion Wear" event on **Saturday 10th February 2024 between 10am and 2pm.**

We have small range of dresses, all in excellent condition, which have been donated to our Trust and are FREE to borrow! All we ask is that you return the outfits in a clean condition after the holy communion, ready for the next young person to wear.

The PRE-LOVED shop is located at Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education HQ, Barmston Court, Turbine Business Park, Nissan Way, Washington, SR5 3NY.

To book an appointment, please email ethos@bwcet.com stating your preferred time. Thank you.

Residential Visits:

For the children going on residential trips, information will be emailed to you, imminently. We are just awaiting a couple of final details to be confirmed. The departure and arrival times are as follows:

Robinwood for Year 6:

29th January – Leaving school at 9:30am - please ensure that the pupils arrive at the normal time for school on this day, in non-uniform, and bring in cases to school.

31st January – Arriving back at school at approx. 3:15pm – collect at 3:30pm.

YMT for Years 4 & 5:

5th February – Leaving school after lunch – please ensure that the pupils arrive at the normal time for school on this day, in non-uniform, and bring in cases to school.

7th February – Arriving back at school at approx. 2:45pm – collect at 3:30pm.

Designated Safeguarding Leads for the school:

Mrs K. Swaddle

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads for the school:

Mrs E. McConnell, Mrs A Snaith and Miss Maggiore.

Dates for the Diary

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

- Saturday 20th January – Cross-Country at Bullion Lane/Newker Primary School - 9:45am
- Monday 22nd January – Early Years Numbersense Workshop for children and parents – 9am
- Monday 22nd January – Friday 26th January – Careers Week
- Wednesday 24th January – Year 4 Celebration of the Word – 9am
- Saturday 27th January – Cross-Country at Ouston Juniors - 9:45am
- Tuesday 30th January – Reception Celebration of the Word – 9am
- Monday 29th – Wednesday 31st January – Year 6 Residential to Robinwood
- Friday 2nd February – No swimming for Year 3 – All pupils to attend Mass for Presentation of the Lord – 10am
- Saturday 3rd February – Cross-Country at Rickleton Primary School - 9:45am
- Monday 5th – Wednesday 7th February – Year 4/5 Residential to Youth Ministry Team
- Monday 12th – Friday 16th February – Half-term
- Tuesday 20th February – Year 1 Numbersense Workshop for children and parents – 9am
- Wednesday 21st February – Year 5 Celebration of the Word – 9am
- Tuesday 27th February – Year 2 Celebration of the Word – 9am
- Wednesday 28th February – Year 5 Singing Day at Cardinal Hume Catholic Secondary School
- Thursday 29th February – Creative Arts Workshop
- Monday 4th March – Parents' Evening both schools
- Wednesday 6th March – Year 6 Celebration of the Word – 9am
- Thursday 7th March - Parents' Evening both schools
- Friday 8th March – Whole School Mass at 2pm in Church To be rearranged
- Tuesday 12th March - Year 1 Celebration of the Word – 9am
- Tuesday 19th March – Possible dance festival for two year groups (not yet confirmed)
- Wednesday 20th March – Year 3 Celebration of the Word – 9am
- Tuesday 26th March – Palm Sunday Celebration of the Word in Church – 10am (Reception class to lead)
- Thursday 28th March – Stations of the Cross – 10am

INSET days:

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