



Friday 19th January 2024

## Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Cross Country:**

Year 5 and Year 6 children have the opportunity to take part in cross country events, arranged by Chester-le-Street Primary Schools Athletics Association, and we are looking to take two teams along, to represent St Joseph's. The first event date is Saturday 20th January - 10.00 am at Bullion Lane/Newker Primary School and it should last around one hour. There will be a short warm-up and then the children will run, collecting a token at the finish for their overall team result. Ideally, children will participate in all three events. We look forward to hearing about their success!

### **Careers Week:**

Next week, we are looking forward to hosting an exciting careers' week with visitors spanning a range of occupations and professions. We have a variety of professionals who will be contributing – including some of own staff, who will be talking about their career pathways. We have an emergency medicine doctor, speakers from the North East Ambulance Service, Police force, procurement specialists, dental technicians, human resources, graphic designers and our Year 4 cohort have been working closely with Simpson Print brand influencers to launch a product.

On Tuesday, our Infant School pupils will need to bring in a teddy to school as part of their emergency care doctor's careers discussion.

















We are working closely with the National Institute of Health and Care Research who are also coming to perform live demonstrations about the importance of learning about the value and impact of research, at an early age. Each school has a separate agenda, and some speakers are attending both schools. A huge thank you to all of our community who have kindly volunteered their time to work with us.

### **Boost for e-Books:**

We are now set-up with e-Books for St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School, meaning that all of our Reception and Key Stage I pupils are able to participate in continuing to read their phonics books, should they wish to, or progress to other books within their level. We will still continue to send home physical books, but appreciate that e-Books may

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 I 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 I-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 10<sup>th</sup> 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:

29<sup>th</sup> 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:

5<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> January – Cross-Country at Bullion Lane/Newker Primary School - 9:45am

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Early Years Numbersense Workshop for children and parents – 9am

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> February – No swimming for Year 3 – All pupils to attend Mass for Presentation of the Lord – 10am

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Cross-Country at Rickleton Primary School - 9:45am

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> February – Year 5 Celebration of the Word – 9am

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> March – Year 6 Celebration of the Word – 9am

Thursday 7th March - Parents' Evening both schools

Friday 8th March - Whole-Schol Mass at 2pm in Church To be rearranged

Tuesday 12th March - Year I Celebration of the Word - 9am

Tuesday 19th March – Possible dance festival for two year groups (not yet confirmed)

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Year 3 Celebration of the Word – 9am

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday Celebration of the Word in Church – I0am (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) for more information