



St. Joseph's
Catholic Infant
& Junior Schools
Birtley



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Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow! What a fantastic start to the term we've had – the children look so incredibly smart and parents no longer need worry about school lunches affecting the colour of the children's PE tops! 😊 We ask the children to remember not to wear any earrings – we are trying to eliminate as many dangers as possible during PE. Should a child have just had their ears pierced, and are not at the end of the period in which to take them out, then plasters must be worn for PE and swimming.

Visits: As you are aware, all of our central information management system is now 'Arbor'. Prior to the holidays, we weren't fully 'live' – but I must publicly thank the school office who have worked incredibly hard to ensure that 100% of parents and carers are signed-up to the app. We are setting-up consent procedures and processes, but for the time being will use last year's consents for first aid, social media, local permissions.

A reminder that all clubs need to be booked by Friday 8th September 2023, for the half-term.

Ms Song is really eager to continue Korean club, so for any children in Year 3 who would like to join in – it's a brilliant opportunity to learn a new language! They have fully resourced lessons, textbooks and the sessions include arts, crafts and culture with language learning.

*We realise that Kensho Karate is a miss – but we have done all we can to try and facilitate Kensho for this half-term; however, the circumstances are beyond our control. Unfortunately, due to qualified coaches' availability, they are unable to provide us with a coach for this half-term, but if they can, they will support us next half-term. **We appreciate your patience in this matter.***



Visits to Great North Museum:

Because Arbor wasn't fully operational, prior to the holidays, we were unable to arrange consents and payments for visits. Next week (we appreciate its short notice - but hopefully you will recognise that we couldn't make arrangements/take payments for this prior to the holidays), our Year 3/4/5 pupils will be attending the Great North Museum.

The Year 3 visit will take place on Tuesday 12th September, with Year 4/5 visit taking place on Friday 15th September – payments and consent have been set-up on Arbor.

Nourish Food School:



We are excited by our new partnership with the Nourish Food School, who are going to work with Key Stage 2 pupils and a family member as we seek to develop pupils' cooking abilities in design technology. On each class's planned day (see dates for the diary), parents will select one slot out of three possible times, to come into school to work with their child. Parents will select their chosen slot via a Microsoft Form which will be sent out closer to the time (e.g. a parent/family member would chose the time most convenient for them for example: 9:30am, 1:00pm or 3:00pm – please note times are yet to be confirmed with Nourish and we will finalise this information in due course). Parents can then work with their child to create an exciting meal, which can be eaten at the end of the session or taken home. We hope that this is a lovely way to develop relationships and to have some quality time in school with your child - outside of the home environment.

Side by Side Arts – Peripatetic Lessons:



Lessons are taught in groups of two where each student is matched with another of a similar age and ability. Lessons are £11.50 per child for a 30-minute session and payment will be arranged through Side by Side Arts.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc3_E90rcEbwkI2vsa67I5UHB9hV5bwLO3HBF62timeuBlh3w/viewform?usp=sf_link

Staffing Updates:

Just a little change to note – but Miss Fraser became Mrs McLardy over the holidays! Huge congratulations to you both.

Visits to school:

Are you interested in a Reception place for September 2024? If so, please contact our school office to make an appointment for one of the senior leadership team to show you round our settings – we'd be delighted to see you! Don't be shy! 😊 Just email info@sjb.bwcet.com so that we can find a mutually convenient time slot.



Homework:

Just a little reminder about our homework strategy!

Year group	Phonics	Reading	Mathematics
Reception	Flashcards and phonics worksheets will be sent home.	<p>At least two books per week will be sent home – one on a Monday and one on a Friday.</p> <p>An additional book may be sent home to 'share' with a parent for inference work and may support sight reading vocabulary.</p> <p>Please bring in reading bags, books and diaries, daily, and read with your child at home, on a daily, basis.</p>	<p>Number formation worksheets, progressing to subitising</p> <p>(looking at a group of objects and knowing their worth)</p>

Year group	Core Subjects	Reading	Spellings	Number bonds, Times Tables and/or Division Facts
Years 1 – 6	English grammar, punctuation and spelling task from CGP book or mathematics task taken from Target Your Maths	Daily reading – quantity dependent upon age	Weekly	Weekly
Given out	Given on a Friday to return on a Tuesday	Daily – signed by the parent on a daily basis and brought into school each day.	Given on a Monday, write out three times, for a test the following Monday	Given on a Friday to be tested the following Friday
Reading	<p>KSI books will be changed twice per week on Mondays and Fridays.</p> <p>Key Stage 1 books – Books, connected to phonics sounds taught in the classroom will be sent home. An additional book may be sent home to 'share' with a parent for inference work – it may also support sight reading vocabulary.</p>			

Dates for the Diary

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

Tuesday 12th September – Year 4/5 Visit to Great North Museum
Friday 15th September – Year 3 Visit to Great North Museum
Friday 15th September – Tuck shop to recommence from this day
Tuesday 19th September – Year 6 Sports Leader Training
Thursday 21st September – Football match at Kibblesworth
Tuesday 26th September – Friday 29th September – Year 5 - Bikeability
Tuesday 26th September – Year 2 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
Thursday 28st September – Football match at Edmondsley
Friday 29th September – Year 3 Nourish Food School
Wednesday 4th October – Year 3 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am (or as close to as possible)
Friday 6th October – Flu Immunisations across both sites
Tuesday 10th October – Year 6 Visit to Safetyworks
Friday 13th October – Year 4 Nourish Food School
Tuesday 17th October – Year 1 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
Thursday 19th October – Year 5/6 Sports Hall Athletics at Gateshead Stadium
Thursday 19th October – Mr Taylor Bible Story – 1pm
Wednesday 1st November – Year 4 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am (or as close to as possible)
Monday 6th November – Parents' Evenings
Tuesday 7th November – Reception Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
Wednesday 8th November – Parents' Evenings
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
Tuesday 21st November – Year 2 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
Wednesday 29th November – Year 6 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am (or as close to as possible)
Thursday 12th December – EY Christmas Performance - 10am and 2pm (Venue TBC)
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:

Monday 4th September 2023

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

Designated Safeguarding Leads for the school:

Mrs K. Swaddle

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads for the school:

Mrs M. Maddock, Mrs C. Peacock, Mrs A. Snaith and Miss Maggiore.