



St. Joseph's
Catholic Infant
& Junior Schools
Birtley



Friday 10th May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 2 Transition

As part of Year 2's transition to St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, we have arranged transition dates for Year 2 to attend the junior school to help make the process as smooth as possible.

The dates are:

- **Friday 24th May** (PM – after lunch – pupils will return to the infant school for home time collection)
- **Monday 3rd June** (PM – after lunch – pupils will return to the infant school for home time collection)
- **Monday 1st July** (All-day; however, those children in football club will be walked down to the infants so that they can participate in their after-school club)

Swap-Up Morning:



As our Year 6 pupils are due to attend Cardinal Hume/Lord Lawson for the day on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd July, we are using **Monday 1st July** as the ideal time to hold a swap-up morning.

Monday 1st 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. Please note that we will confirm staffing arrangements after half-term.

Our incoming Reception cohort are also 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! Pupils will have lunch at the junior school, and **we ask that Year 2 pupils are collected from the juniors on this day. Unlike the rest of the school, Year 2 will spend the full day at the junior school.** Lunch arrangements will be as normal, 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 1st July at 3:40pm (this is for current Year 2 parents). We will ensure that we are finished in time so that parents who have a child in the infant school's football club, can be collected.

Welcome to Reception Class



Incoming Reception Parents/Carers Dates for the diary:

Thursday 20th June at 2pm – Reception Information Session for parents

Parents are invited to attend a meet and greet information session in St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School Hall. A short presentation will be given, which will cover many frequently asked questions about our day-to-day structure and operations.

Tuesday 25th June – Friday 28th June (approximately) - Home Visits

Our Reception teacher, Miss Maggiore and Teaching Assistant, Miss Jobson, will come and see your child in their home environment. During this session, you will have an opportunity to share your child's likes, dislikes, interests, hobbies and passions with us. You can also tell us about their nursery learning journey and where you feel your child's strengths lie.

Monday 1st July - Stay and Play for 1 hour with parents

Closer to the date, you and your child will be allocated a slot, to attend St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School – this will either be: 9:15am–10:15am or 10:30am–11:30am.

On this morning, you and your child will be able to explore our Early Years classroom, together, and will meet the staff who will be working in our Early Years setting.

Transition Information Handover



We recognise that parents really value an opportunity to communicate their child's strengths, extra-curricular activities, and areas of difficulty to their child's new class teacher and we want to assure you that we equally value this information and know that it can change year on year.

In order to help us to prepare for a fantastic start to the academic year of 2024 - 2025, we would like to invite you to complete this short Microsoft Form to support your child's transition as they move into a new year group. We also know that some parents/carers would like to communicate new or updated medical information to the next class teacher and hope that this is an easy and effective way to help you to communicate with us.

Please note that we will still continue to share information with teachers in the usual way (e.g. official medical registers/SEND registers) – but we appreciate that some parents may wish to reiterate some 'headlines' to their child's new teachers e.g. dates of last NHS clinical appointments and outcomes – or latest family situations.

To help us to prepare for September 2024 transition – we ask you to complete a short Microsoft Form by clicking the link or via scanning the QR code above by Friday 21st June:

<https://forms.office.com/e/9usYTShtA7>

Many thanks in advance for your understanding and support as we make try to make transition into September 2024 as smooth as possible.

First Holy Communicants:

We look forward to our First Holy Communicants receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist on Saturday 18th May at 10am and we keep them in our prayers at this time.

We will host a 'Going forth' Mass on Tuesday 4th June at 2pm. Our Holy Communicants will lead us in the celebration.



Bishop Stephen:

Taken from the parish newsletter:

'Our bishop is gradually moving around the Diocese visiting as many parishes as possible. The bishop will visit St Joseph's on Saturday 18th May and celebrate our 5.00pm Vigil Mass for the solemn feast of Pentecost followed by a reception in our Parish Centre. See the Newsletter for details of further celebrations within the parish of St John XXIII.'

SIGNIFICANCE FESTIVAL WEEKEND



All are welcome to the Emmaus Village for the Significance Festival on Saturday 29th June from 10.00am. The day will offer a fayre of stalls and activities, sessions for children and young people, guest speakers and live music. Mass celebrated by Bishop Stephen Wright will take place at 3.15pm, followed by a Barbecue and Ceilidh in the evening. Entry is free with charges for accommodation and camping (self-catered) on Friday and Saturday nights. BBQ tickets will cost £10. All proceeds and any donations will support Significance, the charity founded by Fr Dermott Donnelly. Please support this vital work. To book, email Nicole at nsalkeld@ymt.org or Tel. 01207 592244.

Year 6 End of Key Stage 2 Assessments:

We wish our Year 6 pupils well as they embark on KS2 assessments, next week. Pupils should come to school at 8am. We will offer breakfast, and a revision session before the tests commence. Good luck, Year 6!

School Meals & Breakfast Club Payments

Please ensure that school meals and breakfast club sessions are paid for in advance and a credit balance is maintained at all times in Arbor. You can 'top up' your child's accounts as often as you wish.

Educational Visits & Trips

As you will see from the diary dates below, we have lots of exciting visits taking place in the next few weeks. If you haven't already done so, please visit Arbor to give consent and make payment, by the deadlines outlined in the individual trip letters, emailed to you in the past couple of weeks. If you have any concerns about making payment, or queries about the visits themselves, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Dates for the Diary

(Please note that these dates are subject to change):

Thursday 9th May – Football team at Kibblesworth

Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May – Year 6 SATs

Thursday 16th May – Willis' Year 4/5 Football Competition at Chester-Le-Street

Friday 17th May – Year 6 visit to Newburn Activity Centre

Friday 17th May – Year 2 Nourish Food Schools (AM) for final group

Saturday 18th May – First Holy Communion Day – 10am

Tuesday 21st May – Reception Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am

Wednesday 22nd May – Gateshead Council Dental Visit for Reception

Thursday 23rd May – Mr Taylor Bible Stories (PM – SJJB)

Friday 24th May – Year 6 Team Adventure Challenge Day

Friday 24th May – Mr Taylor Bible Stories (PM – SJJB)

Friday 24th May – Non-uniform day for bring-a-bottle

Friday 24th May – Year 2 to St. Joseph's Catholic Junior School – PM session (parents to collect from SJJB as normal)

Monday 3rd June – Year 3 visiting Brancepeth Working Farm – Geography Field Trip

Monday 3rd June - Year 2 to St. Joseph's Catholic Junior School – PM session (parents to collect from SJJB as normal)

Monday 3rd June – Year 6 Nexus Bus Induction (AM)

Tuesday 4th June – Whole-school mass – Going forth Year 4 to lead – 2pm

Wednesday 5th June – Infant school trip to Northumberland Zoo – 5pm collection

Wednesday 5th June – Year 6 Celebration of the Word – 9am

Friday 7th June – Non-uniform day for chocolate tombola

Friday 7th June – Fundraising meeting (PTA – 2:15pm at St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School)

Monday 10th June – Year 4/5 visiting Brancepeth Working Farm – Geography Field Trip

W/C Monday 10th June – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Tuesday 11th June – Reception Vision Screening

Tuesday 11th June – Year 2 Celebration of the Word – 9am

Friday 14th June – St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School Sports Day (AM) - Welfare Ground

Tuesday 18th June – Year 6 Transition Day at Cardinal Hume School (Pupils to make their own way there)

Wednesday 19th June – Year 5 Careers Day at Cardinal Hume

Wednesday 19th June – Year 3 Celebration of the Word – 9am

Friday 21st June – St. Joseph's Catholic Junior School Sports Day (PM) - Junior Field

Monday 24th June – INSET Day

Tuesday 25th June – Year 6 at Youth Ministry Team for Year 6 Festival

Tuesday 25th June – Year 1 Celebration of the Word – 9am

Monday 1st July and Tuesday 2nd July - Year 6 Transition Day at Cardinal Hume/Lord Lawson

Monday 1st July – Transition morning for all pupils (Parents/Carers of current Year 2 pupils entering Year 3 pupils will need to drop off pupils at the Junior school and collect pupils from the Junior school)

Monday 1st July – 3:40pm – Parental transition meeting for Year 2 parents (entering Year 3 in September 2024), at St. Joseph's Catholic Junior School

Wednesday 3rd July – Big Sing for Years 3 and Year 4 at The Glasshouse, Gateshead

Thursday 4th July – Mr Taylor Bible Stories (PM) Infant School

Friday 5th July – Mr Taylor Bible Stories (PM) Junior School

Friday 5th July – Summer fayre – 2pm start at St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School

Thursday 11th July – Big Sing for Mini-Singers at The Glasshouse, Gateshead for all St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School AM session

Monday 15th July – Year 5 pupils to Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust Celebration of Sport Day at Gateshead International Stadium

Tuesday 16th July – Year 6 Leavers' Assembly – 9:15am

Friday 19th July – Year 6 Leavers' Mass at 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