



St. Joseph's
Catholic Infant
& Junior Schools
Birtley



All are welcome in this place

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info@sjib.bwcet.com

Tuesday 14th July 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

*Give us the rest and refreshment we need this summer.
Let our efforts of this past year bear fruit.
Bring all of our plans to a joyful conclusion,
And bless us, according to your will,
With the fulfilment of our summer hopes and dreams.
Watch over us in the weeks of rest ahead,
And guide each day as you have done this past year.
Help us return to school with a new spirit and a new energy.
May we continue to grow
In age, wisdom, knowledge and grace
All the days of our lives.
Amen.*

School Mass:

We will come together on **Friday 17th July at 10:00am (revised time)** for Year 6 to lead us in our Leavers' Mass. We would be delighted to welcome you as we come together in prayer, reflection, and thanksgiving as a whole school community.

Catholic Social Teaching Link: *In joining together to celebrate Mass, we live out the Catholic Social Teaching principle of **community and participation**, recognising that we are called to belong, support one another, and grow together in faith.*

Year 6 Leavers' Assembly:

We welcome our Year 6 parents and carers to the Year 6 Leavers' assembly and look forward to celebrating this special time with you on Wednesday at 9am.

FUN-draising – Summer Fayre:

We had superb weather for our summer fayre! A huge thank you to all those who volunteered their time and energy to support with raffle prizes, donations, stalls, tombolas, catering and general fetching and carrying on the day. Our fayre is a wonderful show of how our community pulls together and Year 6 pupils rose to the challenge of helping to man their stalls. We raised over £2000 and we hope that this will once again be match-funded by Barclays Bank PLC. Once we have confirmation as to whether our match-funding has been approved, we will then work with our school council to discuss how best to use the funds raised.

Catholic Social Teaching Link: Solidarity – *showing we care by working together*

Grant from Royal Horticultural Society:

Over the last couple of months, Miss Sheavills and our Mini-Vinnies have been improving God's Creation Garden at the Infant School.

We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Royal Horticultural Society, aimed at increasing biodiversity in

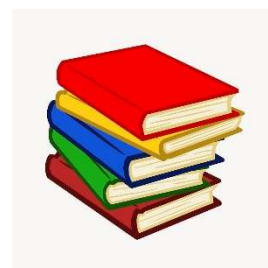
schools. With the funding, we purchased a bird feeder, a water feature, growhouses and planters. The Mini Vinnies then had a great time deciding which flowers and vegetables they would like to grow. Earlier in the year, we grew potatoes, and we are currently growing carrots and beetroot. Take a look at the photographs of our newly improved God's Creation Garden.



Catholic Social Teaching Link: Distributive justice and stewardship

Bag for Life:

Please may we ask that all children bring a strong 'bag for life' to school in the next couple of days, **with their name written on it**, to enable them to bring their exercise books and other bits and bobs home at the end of the week.



Announcement:

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Mr and Mrs McConnell are expecting a new addition to their family, in January 2027. Mrs McConnell will continue working with our new Year 1 cohort until she begins her maternity leave. We extend our warmest congratulations to the family and wish them every blessing as they look forward to welcoming their little one safely into the world.

PE Days for September:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reception				PE	
Year 1	PE			PE	
Year 2		PE			PE
Year 3			PE		Swimming
Year 4		PE			PE
Year 5		PE		PE	
Year 6	PE		PE		

Catholic Social Teaching Link: Participation

School Uniform:

Details of our school uniform can be found in the parent section of our school website and if you wish to buy branded items, you will find them online at Tots to Teams:

[Buy St. Joseph's Catholic Infant & Junior Schools \(Birtley\) Uniform for from Tots To Teams](#)

We look forward to seeing everyone dressed smartly in September!

Flu Vaccinations:

You will have received an email on 29th June, asking you to consent for your child/ren to have the flu vaccination in school, during the Autumn Term (next academic year). Please ensure you complete the online form at your earliest convenience <https://www.northumbriaimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

Please remember to use the correct code, based on where your child/ren will attend school in September:

Junior School – NBI48844

Infant School - NBI48809

After School & Lunchtime Activity Clubs:

Details of our after school and lunchtime activity clubs for the first half of Autumn term will be sent out shortly by email – bookings will go live on Arbor at 6pm on Wednesday, on a first come, first served basis, so set your alarm now!

School Meals Service:

Gateshead Schools Catering Service currently works with our schools, providing nutritious lunchtime meals that meet Government food standards. They're always keen to hear from primary aged pupils and parents/carers, as your feedback plays a vital role in shaping our future service and look for ways to improve.

Their survey is now open **until 24th July** to children who have school meals as well as children who bring packed lunches (and their parents). Please take a few minutes to share your feedback www.gateshead.gov.uk/PandPsurvey



Children should be supported by an adult when completing the survey. Thank you for helping to make school meals even better!

Important: Please be reminded that there are changes for free school meal entitlement from September, so we will shortly be renewing this for those children who are current eligible. **All families in receipt of universal credit** should now be eligible, so if you would like us to check this for you, please email us or populate your Arbor guardian profile with your date of birth and National Insurance number and we will complete the check on your behalf.



We are in the planning stages for our educational visits programme for next academic year. We have already shared trip letters for those children taking part in a visit during the first half of Autumn term and they will be available on Arbor on 1st September, for consent and payment. Details of other visits will be shared in September. All of our classes will have the opportunity to enhance their learning and enrich our curriculum offer through the school trips we arrange.

Please note that we work hard to achieve the best possible prices for admission and travel and school will subsidise the cost as far as possible; however, we do rely on parental contributions, to allow the visits to go ahead and appreciate your support with this. Payments will be taken via Arbor, at the time of parents/carers giving their consent.

PGL Newby Wiske Hall Residential - July 2027

Thank you to parents of next year's year 5 and 6, for completing the expression of interest form for the July 2027 residential visit. We have a maximum of 35 places available, so all year 6 children will have the opportunity to confirm with a **deposit of £60**, when we return in September (*full payment schedule to follow*). Following that strict payment deadline of **noon on Friday 4th September 2026**, we will draw names out of hat for year 5 pupils wishing to take part and request their confirmation deposit at that stage. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact the school office.



Join the free Summer Reading Challenge at any Gateshead Library!

Dear parents and carers,

We're excited to invite your child to take part in this year's [Summer Reading Challenge](#) – Read to the Beat! - completely free at your local library!

What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The Summer Reading Challenge is a fun, free way for children aged 4–11 to stay motivated to read during the summer holidays. Children set their own reading goal and can read anything they enjoy – all books count!

Why should my child sign up?

One in four children hasn't reached the expected level of reading by the age of 11 and many will struggle to keep up at secondary school, despite reading for pleasure being one of the single biggest indicators of children's development.

The Summer Reading Challenge helps your child to:

- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Stay prepared to return to school in the autumn
- Settle into a new year group
- Access free books and fun family activities all through the summer at your local library

Your child will be part of a UK-wide programme developed by The Reading Agency, delivered in partnership with the public library network, and this year powered by Universal Music Group UK – whose artists will be championing the joy of reading and sharing their own stories of creative expression. All brought to life with wonderful illustrations by award-winning author and illustrator Harry Woodgate.

"We've joined the reading challenge for the past 4 years and every year it has inspired and encouraged a deeper joy for reading. For a young dyslexic boy the challenge helps make reading fun."

parent/carer of 6–7-year-old boy

How can my child take part? (Library or online)

At the library:

- Visit any Gateshead library to sign up – the first 500 children to complete the challenge will be able to choose a book to keep, so hurry we only have 500 books to give away!
- Set a summer reading goal and choose from books, eBooks, or audiobooks. Check out the [Read to the Beat Collection](#) for suggestions
- Receive a special sticker booklet and collect rewards for reading

Or online

- Visit summerreadingchallenge.org.uk
- Sign up, set a reading goal, and get book recommendations
- Unlock digital badges and earn a printable certificate

When does it start?

- At all Gateshead Libraries from Saturday 11 July 2026.

Don't miss out – head to your local library and sign up this summer!

WhatsApp/Text Messaging

 Read to the Beat! Summer Reading Challenge - free at all Gateshead Libraries!

Dear parents and carers,

Your child (age 4–11) can join the Summer Reading Challenge this summer. It's fun, free and helps keep up reading skills over the holidays!

- Set a reading goal
- Read whatever they like – books, eBooks, audiobooks
- Earn stickers, rewards and even a certificate

Available in libraries or online: summerreadingchallenge.org.uk At all Gateshead Libraries from Saturday 11 July 2026. It's a great way to boost confidence and make reading fun!



CALLUM SMITH
SPORTS COACHING



SUMMER HOLIDAYS FOOTBALL CAMP

 MONDAY 27TH JULY – FRIDAY 31ST JULY
 MONDAY 10TH AUGUST – FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST
 MONDAY 24TH AUGUST – FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST

£20 PER DAY
OR £70 FULL WEEK

 **9:30AM – 3:00PM**

 BIRTLEY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB, DH3 2QW
 SUITABLE FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 4-13 AND EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
 COACHED BY A UEFA B LICENSED COACH AND EX-PROFESSIONAL

WHAT TO BRING:

 FOOTBALL BOOTS OR TRAINERS
 SHINPADS
 PACKED LUNCH
 PLENTY OF WATER
 COMFORTABLE SPORTS CLOTHING

 **CONTACT – CALLUM SMITH** | **07825440998**



CALLUM SMITH
SPORTS COACHING

CSSC TECHNICAL

INDOOR FUTSAL

DEVELOP SKILLS. BUILD CONFIDENCE. ENJOY THE GAME.

 **TUESDAY**
YEAR 5 - YEAR 6
5:30PM - 6:30PM
STARTS 8TH SEPTEMBER

 **WEDNESDAY**
YEAR 2 - YEAR 4
5:30PM - 6:30PM
STARTS 9TH SEPTEMBER

 **BIRTLEY LEISURE CENTRE (DH3 2TB)**

£30 PER MONTH

SPACES ARE LIMITED!

 IMPROVE TECHNIQUE
 MAXIMISE TOUCHES
 MAKE FRIENDS
 BUILD CONFIDENCE

 **CALLUM SMITH** | **07825440998** |  **FACEBOOK**
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 ALL AGES WELCOME
 ALL ABOUT YOU
 NO JUDGEMENT
 GOOD VIBES ONLY



BIRTLEY TOWN WILDCATS



For girls ages 5 to 11 years with a cost of £15 per month. The sessions take place in a safe environment where girls with no previous experience can have fun and make friends through sport.



Contact Mel to register on 07709313192.
All welcome. Start your football journey with us.

Dates for the Diary

(Please note that these dates are subject to change)

Tuesday 14th July – Reception Celebration of the Word – 9:00am

Wednesday 15th July – Year 6 Leavers' assembly – 9:00am

Wednesday 15th July – Leavers' lunch

Friday 17th July – Leavers' Mass in Church – 10:00am

Friday 17th July – Last day in school

Autumn Term:

Tuesday 1st September – INSET Day

Wednesday 2nd September – Children are welcomed back to school

Tuesday 8th September – Year 5 Visit to Kynren

Thursday 10th September – Bible Stories with Mr Taylor at SJJB

Friday 11th September – School Mass - 10:00am

Friday 11th September – Bible Stories with Mr Taylor at SJJB

Tuesday 15th September – Year 6 Celebration of the Word - 9:00am

Tuesday 22nd September – Year 2 Celebration of the Word - 9:00am

Tuesday 29th September – Year 5 Celebration of the Word - 9:00am

Tuesday 6th October – Year 1 Celebration of the Word - 9:00am

Friday 9th October – School Mass – 10:00am

Tuesday 13th October – Year 4 Celebration of the Word - 9:00am

Tuesday 13th October – Bible Stories with Mr Taylor at SJJB

Tuesday 20th October – Reception Class Celebration of the Word - 9:00am

Friday 23rd October – Last Day in school - half term holiday

Monday 2nd November – Return to School

Monday 2nd November – Parents' Evening

Wednesday 4th November – Parents' Evening

Tuesday 10th November – Remembrance Mass - 10:00am – with involvement from Year 3

Tuesday 10th November – School Disco at The Masonic Hall

Friday 13th November – Flu Vaccinations

Tuesday 17th November - Year 2 Celebration of the Word - 9:00am

Tuesday 24th November - Year 6 Celebration of the Word - 9:00am

Thursday 26th November – Bible Stories with Mr Taylor at SJJB

Friday 27th November – Bible Stories with Mr Taylor at SJJB

Tuesday 1st December – Year 1 Celebration of the Word - 9:00am

Wednesday 9th December – Reception & KS1 Nativity in Church 10:00am & 2:00pm

Wednesday 16th December – KS2 Carol Service in Church 2:00pm

Friday 18th December – Last day before the Christmas Holiday

Spring Term:

Monday 4th January – INSET Day

Tuesday 5th January – Children are welcomed back to school

Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school: *Mrs K Swaddle*

Deputy Leads: *Mrs R Nutton, Mrs E McConnell, Mrs A Snaith & Mrs J Smith*

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