



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Statement to Live By: I understand what trust means.

Dear parents/carers,

We hope you enjoyed the recent bank holiday weekend. The weather is definitely warming up! It is lovely to see some of the children coming to school in their summer uniform.

Whole School Celebration of the Word

The month of May is dedicated to Mary, Mother of God.

Prayer
Holy Mary,
Mother fair,
Filled with love for God,
Pray for us in all our needs,
Pray for us today.
Amen

Celebration of the Word

Thank you to all families and friends who have supported our classes when they have attended mass in church. It is always lovely to see so many faces in church. The children work really hard in school, learning and practicing their hymns, prayers and readings for mass.

Our Year 1 class took part in Celebration of the Word with the theme of the 'Ascension'. Thank you to all of the families and friends who attended, I'm sure you will all agree the children were brilliant at sharing their special message.

Year 6

Year 6 have continued to work hard in preparation for their upcoming SATs tests which begin on the 13th May. We wish them all good luck. Please keep the children and their class teacher Miss Cutter, in your prayers this week.

Year 4

All children in Year 4 have been participating in tennis coaching as part of their P.E. lessons this term. At the end of the coaching sessions eight children were picked by the coach to participate in a competition at Sunderland Tennis Centre. St. Joseph's won the competition. Congratulations to Sophia, Maisie, Rose, Seth, Callum, Felix, William and Erin. They have now been entered into the Sunderland regional final which will take place in July. Well done everyone!

Nursery and Reception

A trip has been arranged for Nursery and Reception to Hall Hill Farm on Tuesday 21st May. All parents should have received a letter on Arbor regarding the trip. If you have not already done so, please give consent and sign up on Arbor for your child to attend.

Gardening Gang

Children in Year 5 have volunteered to help Mr Wrightson, a volunteer in school, in our gardening gang. The children are learning about planting, growing flowers and cultivation of soil. The reflection garden and allotment garden are both looking lovely! Well done for all of the hard work.

If anyone would like to donate any seeds, plants, compost or small pieces of gardening equipment for our garden project, please contact the school office.

School Council

The school council are busy working on projects to protect our local environment as part of their Catholic social values.

They have started by litter picking around the school grounds and the immediate area including the church gardens. They will also be taking part in other local community projects in the area.

Year 6 – Trip to SafetyWorks

A letter has been sent out to Year 6 parents regarding a trip to SafetyWorks on the 3rd June. SafetyWorks is a life-sized safety town where children participate in realistic learning situations including personal safety, road safety, fire safety and water safety.

Please give consent and sign your child up by the 16th May.

Staff Shout Out!

This week's staff shout out is for Mrs Hampson. Thank you for always leading our choir and hymn practice in school. Mrs Hampson is so enthusiastic about music in school and this enthusiasm is passed onto the children, who always put 100% into their beautiful singing.

As always, if you have any issues you would like to discuss or any concerns, please contact the school office.

School Pick Up

Dogs are not permitted on school grounds, this includes the staff car park at drop off and pick up times. As part of our safeguarding procedures at pick up time, staff are not able to let children leave, even if parents are visible on the staff car park. Staff are not able to see the children go behind the containers on the yard and then the parish rooms and are therefore unclear whether the child has met their parent safely. Please come into the school yard to pick up children at home time. With exception of Year 6 children, who have been given permission to leave on their own.

Leave of Absence

In line with our attendance policy, a leave of absence form should be completed for all children, for all holidays during term time. This can be found on the website or at the school office. Holidays will be unauthorised during term time.

Parking outside school

Parking outside of school is a safety concern.

Traffic wardens and parking patrols will be intermittently monitoring parking outside of school.

Please be considerate when parking around school, it has recently become very hazardous for children getting across the road. Parking is not permitted in the bus stop, or on the yellow lines directly outside of school, even for drop off. There is parking availability in the Church carpark and at the park. Sunderland Council are aware and will be doing spot checks on cars parked illegally or causing a hazard and may issue penalty notices.

We have also had a number of complaints from members of the public about parking around school. We do not want near misses to become something more serious!

Keeping Children Safe

Every member of staff in school will act to keep children safe. Our designated staff who have a lead role in keeping them safe are:

Mrs E Maher - Headteacher
Mrs F Lawton – Acting Deputy Headteacher
Mrs J Johnson – Senior Leader
Mrs P Swanston – Business Manager

Attendance

Congratulations to Year 6, their attendance was 96.4% this week and therefore they look after 'Bingo' our school attendance mascot until next week.

As part of our attendance monitoring and in line with the attendance policy, letters of attendance will be sent out to parents every half term, detailing your child's attendance percentage.

We will be continuing our attendance monitoring this term. If attendance has dropped below our Trust target of 97% an attendance letter may be sent out.

Lunch Money

School lunch is £2.65 per day. Payments for school lunches must be made on the Monday for the week ahead. We cannot operate a system which allows arrears to build up for meals taken in previous weeks.

What's on this Half Term – this may change and new dates maybe added

Monday 13 th – Thursday 16 th May	SATS – Year 6
Friday 17 th May	Year 3 – Celebration of the Word 9.00am – school hall
Friday 17 th May	Year 6 and Reception – celebration picnic – details to follow
Monday 20 th May – Thursday 23 rd May	Year 5 – Bikeability – details to follow
Tuesday 21 st May	Nursery and Reception trip to Hall Hill Farm
Wednesday 22 nd – Friday 24 th May	Year 6 Residential – Ford Castle
Friday 24 th May	Year 5 – Celebration of the Word 9.00am – school hall
Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May	Half Term – School Closed
Monday 3 rd June – Friday 7 th June	Year 4 – Times Tables Check tests
Monday 3 rd June	Year 6 – SafetyWorks visit (am)
Monday 10 th June – Friday 14 th June	Year 1 – Phonics Screening Check
Tuesday 11 th June	Mass in church 10am – Year 5 and Year 1
Friday 14 th June	Reception – Celebration of the word 9.00am – school hall
Friday 21 st June	Inset Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 25 th June – Thursday 27 th June	Year 6 transition week to St. Robert's/comprehensive school
Tuesday 25 th June	Mass in church 10am – Year 4, First Holy Communion Mass – Whole School attending
Friday 28 th June	Year 2 – Celebration of the Word 9.00am – school hall
Tuesday 2 nd July	Mass in church 10am- Year 3 and Reception
Friday 12 th July	Year 4 – Celebration of the Word 9.00am – school hall
Tuesday 16 th July	Mass in church 10am – Year 6 leavers mass – whole school
Tuesday 16 th July	Year 6 and parents picnic after mass – details to follow