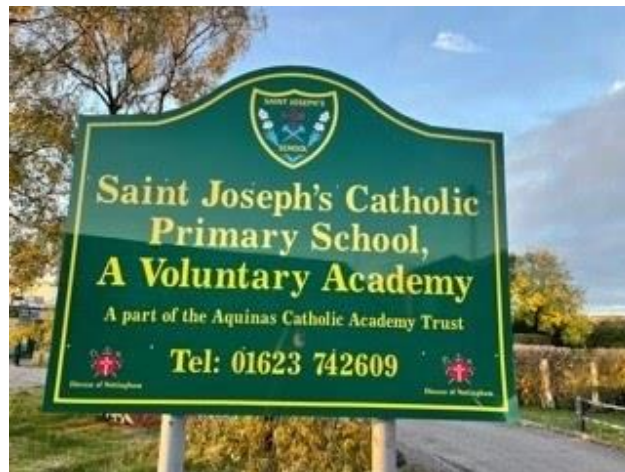


Friday 10th November

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Trusting in God; Creating Tomorrow; Helping Today

NEWSLETTER



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Welcome Back!



We were delighted to welcome our children and families back this week. We hope that you enjoyed a lovely half term, despite the weather, and managed to find some time to relax.

This will be another busy and exciting term as we approach Christmas. A reminder list of dates for our events this term was sent out via email this week. If you would like a paper copy of these, please contact the school office.

Head Pupils



This week, our Head Pupils have been exceptionally busy learning about our latest initiative, to be a Rights Respecting School. They have been working incredibly hard preparing for our launch on 20th November and will be sharing more information with the children and parents soon.



Catholic Life and Mission



This week year 6 celebrated Mass in school as the Church was having new radiators fitted. The children led a beautiful celebration of Mass and it was a nice change to have this in the school hall. We are looking forward to using the church again next week when nursery and reception classes celebrate a Liturgy of the Word on Tuesday at 9am. All parents are welcome to join them in the church for this celebration.

This week, every child made a poppy. These will all be displayed in Shirebrook Church Hall on Remembrance Sunday on 12th November.

Our Eco committee is currently working alongside CAFOD to achieve our LiveSimply Award for our school. This award focuses on how we can take better care of God's creation. The LiveSimply Award consists of a multitude of different actions that they will try to complete throughout the rest of 2023 and into 2024 to help us to live more simply so that we can care for our common home.

What have we been up to at St Joseph's?

This week has been a very busy week at St Joseph's. It has been great to all be back together.

EYFS have been busy making firework pictures.

Year one have been working really hard with their maths work. They have been splitting a number into parts!

Year two visited Shirebrook Library and did a fantastic job representing the school.

Year three have been looking at different types of settlements in their Geography.

Year four have been working really hard in their RE thinking about how people are called to do God's work.

Year five have been looking at the features of newspaper reports in English to prepare them for writing their own.

Year six celebrated Mass and have been looking at short and long multiplication in maths.

Parent Voice Survey

Thank you to all the parents who completed our most recent parent voice survey. We have displayed some of our key actions as a result of this on our parent voice board in the entrance.

You said, We did

You said you wanted a change in the way we set homework so that it was more flexible and creative

We have launched a new homework format this week which will allow children to choose homework tasks they complete each week.

You said that you wanted events in school to be less busy with staggered year groups involved.

Our Awards assemblies are now staggered so that there are less children involved making these quicker and less crowded. From next week, our come and see assemblies will only have the children that are involved in the hall so that the hall is less busy and there is more space for parents.

You said that you wanted more updates on what your children were doing in class and opportunities to see your child's work more regularly.

We are going to share updates on the newsletter and on Facebook. In addition, classes will all plan opportunities to showcase their work in express events and work galleries.

You said that you wanted more notice of upcoming dates of events in school.

We will continue to post upcoming events in the newsletter and on Facebook. In addition to the yearly dates sent in September, we will send a list of dates as a reminder each term.

You said that you would like to see new content in some of our assemblies so that children can showcase their learning in different ways.

We are launching a new Come and See Assembly from next week with an exciting new format.

Thank you again to those who contributed to our survey, we will be sending another out later this term. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

Shine your Light Day- Diwali Celebration



As you may be aware, the celebration of Diwali will take place on Sunday 12th November. Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights with its variations also celebrated in other Indian religions. It symbolises the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance".

On Monday 13th November, we are going to share in these celebrations in our 'Shine your Light' day. For the day, all children are invited to come dressed in bright clothing and the kitchen will be making a special themed lunch for us to enjoy.

Children in Need

On Thursday 16th November, we are going to be showing our support for Children in Need in school. On Thursday, all children are invited to come to school in their own clothes in exchange for £1 which we will donate to the charity. They may want to wear Children in Need merchandise, spotty clothing or their own clothes.

Come and See Assembly

We are really excited for years 2, 4 and 6 to showcase their learning from RE lessons in our Come and See Assembly next Friday 17th November. All parents are welcome to come and share this celebration at 2:45pm in the school hall.

Parents' Evening

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents' into school and virtually to our parents' evening this week. There is another opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher next week and discuss their progress. Please contact the school office to make an appointment for next Tuesday 14th November.

Breakfast Club



We are delighted to offer our breakfast club to all children for £2. If you would like your child to attend, please pre book their place on Arbor. The breakfast club will run from 7:30am.

OPAL- Outdoor play and learning



WOW! Our OPAL launch has been amazing and it has been wonderful to see the children so engaged at lunchtime. A reminder that we are still looking for any toy, book or loose part donations.

Please ensure that all children have appropriate outdoor clothing, coats and shoes (if they wish to access the field).

Attendance

Whole School Attendance this week is 95.5%

Reception- 89.1%

Year One - 96.6%

Year Two - 100%

Year Three- 90.6%

Year Four- 98.9%

Year Five- 97%

Year Six- 98%

Well done to year 2 who won our attendance award this week! They will be the first class to enjoy Milkshake Monday next week!

Letters were sent home to all parents sharing their child's attendance for this year so far last term. Those with concerning attendance will be invited to an attendance panel in the coming weeks.

We are aware that this time of year can be tricky with illness. However, we are confident that we will see improved attendance across school this term.

Attending school every day = 100% attendance

Attending 4½ days a week = 90% attendance = **4 weeks missed per year**

Attending 4 days a week = 80% attendance = **more than half a term missed per year.**

Attending 3½ days each week = 70% attendance = **more than a quarter of the school year missed.**

An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to **missing a whole 2 years from school.**

Children's Achievements



We love celebrating your child's out of school achievements! Please make sure you share these with school so that we can publish them in our newsletter.

Christmas Fayre

Although it seems like a very long way away, the Christmas Fayre will soon be upon us on 1st December. Our amazing PTA, Friends of St Joseph, are looking for donations for the Christmas Raffle. If you have any soft toys or have any business links that may like to donate a prize, please contact the school office.

The classes will be making our amazing Christmas hampers again this year. Please send donations of coloured items to your class teacher who will place these in the hamper.

EYFS- red

Year 1- orange

Year 2- silver and gold

Year 3 - white

Year 4- purple

Year 5- pink

Year 6 - blue

Thank you for your continued support.

Reading Cafe



After half term, we are delighted that we are hosting our weekly reading cafe again this year. This is a fantastic opportunity to share a book with your child, learn more about how we teach reading at St Joseph's and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. Due to such a busy term of events, there will only be two cafes before Christmas.

This term the reading cafe dates are:

Friday 17th November - Reception

Friday 24th November - year 6

SMILERS



SMILERS is a whole school approach to wellbeing.

It is a way of helping children understand that they can make choices to help them feel better mentally and help them stay emotionally strong and well.

We will use the SMILERS formula to help us develop healthy habits for life and to look after our own wellbeing.

This month's focus is: **M.....for Move**

School Facebook Page



A reminder that we have launched our school Facebook page. We have been adding updates of children's work and news for parents onto the page regularly. Please follow us at 'St Joseph's Shirebrook' to keep up to date with our latest class news and school events.

Word of the Week



Next week, our word of the week is, 'Kindness', year 5 have worked hard to produce our video to help us reflect on how we can show kindness to everyone we meet.