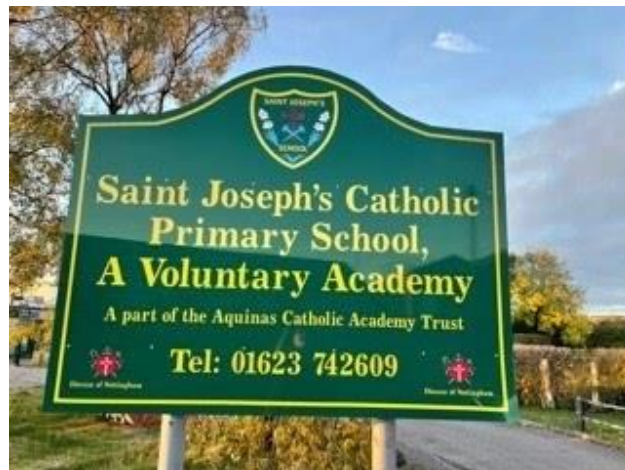


Friday 23rd February

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Trusting in God; Creating Tomorrow; Helping Today

NEWSLETTER



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Welcome Back!

We are thrilled to return to school and begin another exciting term at St Joseph's. We hope that you all had a restful half term break. This term, up until the Easter break, will be a busy and fun term in school with lots of exciting activities and opportunities ahead.

This week the children have been busy preparing for their work gallery on Friday.

Head Pupils



Our Head Pupils have been busy working towards our Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award. They also helped Reception class film their word of the week video this week, using this opportunity to teach others about the importance of treating everyone fairly.



Catholic Life and Mission

Year 4 led a beautiful Liturgy of the Word in church this week and year 2 led a Celebration of the Word for the whole school in the hall.

Over half term, we began the Season of Lent. As we prepare ourselves during this Holy Season, there will be a number of events in school to support the children's spiritual development. As part of our preparations, our children will be thinking about Almsgiving and how they can 'Lent a Hand'. All children will have the opportunity to give up some of their time to help others. If you would like to get involved with this or know of any worthy causes that we can give our time to, please contact the school office.

Big Lent Walk



During the Season of Lent, we are going to be taking part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk. All children will come home with a sponsor form so that we can try and help those living in poverty across the world. We will be working as a school team and as part of the Our Lady of Lourdes team to walk through lent and raise as much money as possible for the charity, CAFOD. All children will take part in a sponsored walk around school throughout Lent with each class spending some time walking each week. If you would like to sponsor your child, please complete the sponsor form or visit our JustGiving page

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-josephs-shirebrook>

First Holy Communion



On Monday 26th February, we will be hosting a Parents meeting for those wishing to prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. This will take place at 3:45pm in church. If you have not yet expressed your interest in your child preparing for these sacraments, please contact the school office.

On Saturday 2nd March, all children enrolled on the programme will take part in an Enrolment Mass in church at 5pm.

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

Nursery - The children have been talking about the language of more and less up to 5

Reception- The children have been working hard to understand the states of matter when melting ice.

Year One- The children conducted investigations in their materials topic in science. They have been learning about transparent and opaque materials.

Year Two- The children started a new unit in maths looking at division.

Year Three- The children have been learning about the structure of non chronological reports.

Year Four- The children have been practicing their water colour skills in art lessons.

Year Five- The children conducted a science experiment to find out which materials dissolve.

Year Six- The children have been learning about decimals in their maths work.

Wow! What a busy week; well done children!

Friends of St Joseph

If you are available to help out in anyway to support your children and St Joseph's then please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Fearn or one of the team...new volunteers are always welcome!

Parent Workshops

As a result of the feedback on our parent voice survey, we have planned a number of parent workshops to take place throughout the remainder of this academic year. These will be an opportunity for our staff to explain and model how we teach your children and for you to ask any questions. A full list of these workshops is attached to this newsletter. As we approach each workshop, a letter will be sent with further information. If you would like to see any additional workshops, please contact the school office.

Parking

We have noticed an increasing amount of parents parking in the school carpark, bus bay or on the grass between school and church. Although we do understand that people are in a rush at pick up and drop off times, we urge all of our parents to please park safely and considerately. There were a number of fines issued by the Police this week in an attempt to make the road safer for both our children and families.

Thank you to one of our parents who installed barriers over half term to prevent people parking on the grass outside church.

Mrs Carlisle has extended the art competition to Monday 26th February. Children are invited to create a piece of art which promotes road safety. There will be a prize for the winning art work.

Breakfast Club



We are delighted to offer our breakfast club to all children from Reception class upwards 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.

Baby and Toddler Groups

We had a fantastic morning at our baby group this week! It was wonderful to greet parents and babies and have an opportunity to chat with other parents, play and sing with your baby and have a hot drink. These classes will continue to run **each Thursday from 9:30- 10:30am in the school hall**. Everyone is welcome!

In addition, we will be hosting Parent and Toddler forest school sessions for over 2s. These will run on:

Thursday 14th March 2:15-3:15pm

Thursday 25th April 2:15-3:15pm

Thursday 6th June 2:15-3:15pm

Thursday 27th June 2:15-3:15pm

Thursday 18th July 2:15-3:15pm

If anyone has any donations of baby toys or equipment, we would really appreciate your support.

OPAL- Outdoor play and learning



Thank you to the incredible support so far this year with our OPAL provision. We have lots of fantastic equipment for our children to use. We are looking for any handy helpers who may be able to help us build some of our new storage and equipment. If you are able to offer your services, please contact the school office.

Attendance

Whole school attendance this week is 95.8%

Reception- 92.2%

Year One - 90%

Year Two - 98.8%

Year Three- 95.3%

Year Four- 99.1%

Year Five- 100%

Year Six- 96.6%

Well done to year 5 who have won our attendance award this week and have won Milkshake Monday next week. As they also got 100%, they will get an extra breaktime at some point over the week. Well done children!

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.**

Work Gallery

Thank you to everyone who attended our work gallery today! The children did a fantastic job showcasing their writing and art work based on the book, 'Journey'. Thank you to those parents who completed the survey at the gallery, this gives us a great insight into how we can further improve our opportunities to share children's work. If you would still like to complete the survey, please follow the link below.

<https://forms.gle/NMapm7h8U9m9cF2p7>

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.

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 **L LOOK**

The Wellbeing Champions led a fantastic assembly introducing this to the children. There is more information attached to the newsletter to find out more!

Reading Cafe

This term we will be continuing our weekly reading cafes on the following dates:

Year 4- Friday 1st March

Year Three- Friday 8th March

Year Six- Friday 15th March

After Easter:

Year 5- 19th April

Nursery- 26th April

Reception- 3rd May

Year 1- 10th May

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, 'Fairness', Reception class have produced a wonderful video to help us to reflect on how we can ensure that we show fairness to everyone as we are all created in God's image.

St Joseph's Bake Off Competition

GREAT
BAKE OFF!

St Joseph's Bake Off
Competition
26/02/2024
Bake at home your
favourite pudding, cake
or biscuit.
Bring to school on
Monday 26/02/2024.
Prizes for grabs and the
winning dessert will be
added to our
promotional menu!