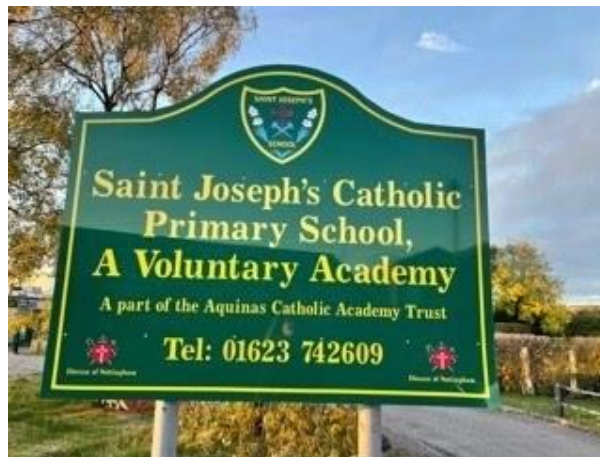


Friday 17th October

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Trusting in God; Creating Tomorrow; Helping Today

NEWSLETTER



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End of term!

I cannot believe that we have come to the end of another busy term at St Joseph's. It has been a really successful term for all of the children who have already achieved so much.

This week at St Joseph's, the children have continued looking at different Traditional Tales and how the characters of the stories were not given their rights. They have been doing some amazing work which they displayed in our 'Write to Respect' gallery today. It was great to see the children dressed as fairytale characters and speak so passionately about the importance of all children having their rights met.

Also, as part of Snack-tember, we tried pears in school and we have seen some excellent healthy snacks and lunchboxes.

On Wednesday, EYFS went on a trip to Sherwood Pines where they explored the nature and tried to find the Gruffalo.

In school, the children enjoyed celebrating our Harvest Festival. Thank you to the generosity of our families who donated food to our collection. This will be taken to church so that the Parish can contribute to this before our Head Pupils take it to the Freedom Project after half term.

Finally, year 5 and 6 celebrated a wonderful Mass together over in church. It was inspiring to see how confidently the children professed their faith and read confidently.

Today is the last day of our term and school will be closed for the next two weeks. School will open on 3rd November when children are invited to come dressed in bright colours as we celebrate our, Shine your light day. The children will all be thinking of ways that they can let their light shine for others.

As always, we will keep you all updated about events in school in this weekly newsletter as well as our 'Sunday Update' on Facebook before we return to school on 3rd November.

Have a lovely half term break,

Mrs Seaman

Secondary School Applications

If your child is due to start secondary school in September 2026, parents need to apply for their place at their chosen secondary school place between 8 September 2025 and **31**

October 2025. You can still apply after this date, but your application will be treated as late. You should make your application through your own local authority.

You should apply through Derbyshire County Council if you pay your Council Tax to one of the following councils:

- High Peak Borough Council
- Derbyshire Dales District
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- North East Derbyshire District Council
- Bolsover District Council
- Amber Valley Borough Council
- Erewash Borough Council
- South Derbyshire District Council

If you are applying for a Catholic school, you will also need to return a supplementary form to your chosen school.

This weekend in Mass

Luke 18:1-8

The parable of the unjust judge

This weekend is Education Sunday. On Saturday at 5pm, we would like to invite children to attend Mass and take part in the readings and prayers.

Head Pupils





Our Head Pupils have been busy working on how we can be more aware of our rights. They have written their action plan for the year and have some great plans to make our school an even better place.

Article of the week- this is an opportunity for the children to look at different articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

This week the children have been looking at articles 6- life, survival and development.

Try it Tuesday

This year, we have thinking about how we can all eat a healthy diet to keep our brain and body strong and working well. This week the children all tried pears and have been very proud of the healthy snacks and lunchboxes they have been bringing into school.

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

Nursery- The children have been doing some fantastic work around Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

Reception- The children have been doing some wonderful guided drawings of bears.

Year One- The children have been completing the class weather diary and have also been thinking about how they can care for the world.

Year Two- The children have been creating Three Little Pigs puppets and in RE have been thinking about how their actions can impact others.

Year Three- The children have been looking at transpiration in science this week.

Year Four- The children have been writing explanation texts and have been explaining how tourism affects mountains.

Year Five- The children have been completing their innovate work on, 'Are rivers helpful or harmful?'

Year Six- The children have been creating art work of the witches eyes for the gallery this week.

Consents in Arbor

Could we please ask you to check you have no outstanding **CONSENTS** in the **NOTICES** section of Arbor for your children. We have added a new consent titled - **Photographs/Videos - for use in Social Media** such as YouTube, Facebook and instagram for you to either accept or decline.

This would also be a good time to check all your details are correct, in particular any emergency contacts you have provided. If you are unable to amend or add any details to Arbor please email the school office with your information and we will amend it on your behalf.

Upcoming Dates

Please see this year's key dates attached to the newsletter.

Upcoming dates to highlight:

Last day of term on 17th October. School will reopen for all pupils on Monday 3rd November

Monday 3rd November- Shine your light day- **children come dressed in bright colours**

Tuesday 4th November- Open Evening- **all parents can attend and look at their child's work so far this year**

Thursday 6th November- **year 1 will be walking to the local library**

Friday 7th November- year 5 reading cafe- **all parents are welcome to join the children in the hall from 8:50am**

Monday 10th November- year 3 trip to Cresswell Crag- **more information to follow**

Wednesday 12th November- year one workshop in school from Mansfield Museum

Thursday 13th November- year 2 trip to Mansfield Museum- **more information to follow**

Thursday 13th November- Movie night- **if you would like your children to attend, please book on Arbor**

Friday 14th November- Children in Need- **all children are invited to come dressed in non uniform in exchange for a donation to Children in Need.**

Friday 14th November- year 6 reading cafe- **parents are welcome to join the children in the hall from 8:50am**

Friends of St Joseph

We are very grateful for all of the work that our PTA, Friends of St Joseph do to support our school. They are looking for new members to help them. If you think you could help, even if you are only able to give a little time, please contact Mrs Fearn in the office.

Breakfast Club



We are delighted to offer our breakfast club to all children from Reception to year 6. The cost for this will be £2.50 per child. If you would like your child to attend, please pre book their place on Arbor. The breakfast club will run from 7:30am with **last entry being at 8:15am.**

We are very excited that we now have a Breakfast Club for Nursery children. This runs from 7:45am in the nursery classroom. If you would like your child to attend, please book them on via Arbor.

Please note we are now capping the numbers at Breakfast club. To secure your child's place, please book on Arbor. Only the children booked on will be allowed into the hall.

Attendance

Whole school attendance this week is **95.2 %** . A reminder that we can administer medication in school if your child is feeling a little unwell but is still able to attend school.

Reception- 90.7%

Year 1- 98%

Year 2- 97.1%

Year 3- 98.7%

Year 4- 95.2%

Year 5- 94.5%

Year 6- 94.7%

Well done to year 3 this week who have won our attendance award this week and enjoyed Fresh Air Friday!

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.

SMILERS



SMILERS is a whole school approach to wellbeing.

This week, our Mental Health Ambassadors have been busy promoting this around school.

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.