

Friday 3rd October

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Trusting in God; Creating Tomorrow; Helping Today

NEWSLETTER



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This week at St Joseph's!

We have enjoyed another wonderful week at St Joseph's. The children have been busy writing poetry which they shared at the Poetry Showcase. I was so proud of all their hard work and how they presented their poetry so beautifully.

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

This week, year one filled their attendance challenge poster and enjoyed a non uniform to celebrate.

Finally, year 1 did a wonderful job leading the whole school in a beautiful celebration of the word this week and year 3 and 5 spent time in church praying together.

As always, we will keep you all updated about events in school in this weekly newsletter as well as our 'Sunday Update' on Facebook each week.

Have a lovely weekend,

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 17:5-10

Say, 'We are merely servants'

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.

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 2 and 30 as we enter October and celebrate Black History month as a school community.

Art Competition

St Joseph's Art Competition 🎨 ✏️

Calling all young artists! 🌿 🍎 🌊 ☀️

This term the theme is “Inspired by the Beauty of Nature” – and we can’t wait to see how you bring the outdoors to life through your art.

✏️ Use any medium you like:

🎨 Painting

✏️ Drawing

📷 Photography

🖼️ Mixed Media

🗿 Sculpture or Textiles

💻 Digital Art

Let your imagination wander through forests, rivers, skies, gardens, and every little detail of nature’s wonders. 🌸 🦋 🌳

📅 Submission Deadline: 13th October

📍 Where to Submit: Year 1 Class teacher

🏆 Prizes will be awarded for creativity, originality, and expression

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. During the month of September, we have been thinking about how we can chose better snacks to support this.

Throughout the month of September, we have been trialling different foods in school as part of our, 'Try it Tuesdays', children will be encouraged to try fruits and vegetables that they may not have tried before.

In addition, we will be on the look out for healthy snacks and packed lunches that we can take pictures of and share to give our busy parents exciting ideas for snacks that children could bring to school to enjoy.

As this has been so popular, we are going to continue this until Christmas with a 'Try it Tuesday' each week!

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

Nursery- The children have been singing counting songs and drawing their families.

Reception- The children have been learning about the symbols of baptism and they went over to church to recreate a baptism.

Year One- The children have been learning about seasonal changes and have been keeping a weather diary.

Year Two- The children have been learning about map skills in geography and using number lines in maths.

Year Three- The children have been learning how we can all be Stewards of creation in RE.

Year Four- The children have been making circuits to light a bulb in Science.

Year Five- The children have been rounding up in maths and learning about animal adaptations in Science.

Year Six- The children have been writing their own Kennings poems in English and have been learning about crime and punishment in Victorian times in history.

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:

Monday 6th October- School photograph day. Children should all come in full school uniform. Year 2 can bring their PE kits to change into after their photographs.

Friday 10th October - Year 3 Reading Cafe at 8:50am in the school hall- **parents welcome**

Friday 10th October- Year 5 and 6 RE assembly in the school hall at 2:45pm- **parents welcome**

Wednesday 15th October- EYFS trip to Sherwood Pines- **more information to follow**

Thursday 16th October- Harvest Collection- we will be collecting dried and tinned food items to donate to a local food bank

Friday 17th October- Year 4 reading Cafe at 8:50am in the school hall- **parents welcome**

Friday 17th October- dress as a fairytale character day for all children

Friday 17th October- Write to Excite Gallery at 2:45pm- **parents welcome**

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**

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 **96.2 %** which is higher than last week. Thank you for your support. 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- 95.3%

Year 1- 100%

Year 2- 97.4%

Year 3- 93.5%

Year 4- 96.4%

Year 5- 98.4%

Year 6- 96.2%

Well done to year 1 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



Well done to Lily in year 3 who achieved her level one in gymnastics this week!

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 year, our Mental Health Ambassadors will be working hard to teach our children about how they can care for their mental health with simple actions.

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.