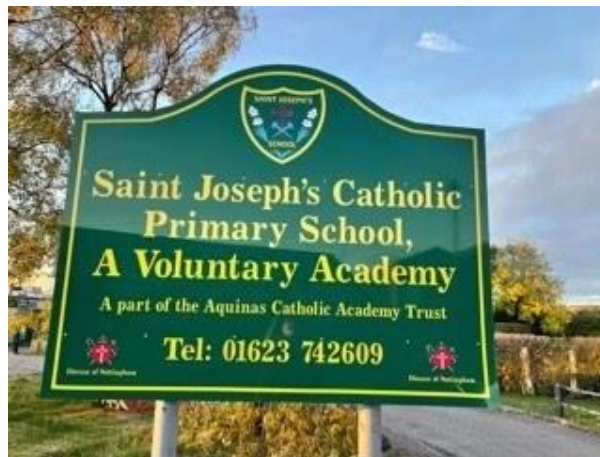


Friday 18th September 2026

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

It has been another great week at St Joseph's.

Year five led a beautiful whole school Celebration of the word to help us think about how we can care for our common home and the Chaplaincy Team planned and delivered a lovely day of prayer on Thursday.

This week, year six enjoyed a visit to Sudbury Hall to launch their history topic and our mental health ambassadors had a great training session.

Today year 6 enjoyed their Reading Cafe and year 1 went over to church for some quiet prayer and reflection time.

I will update Facebook with upcoming dates for next week on Sunday.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Seaman

What have we been learning this week?

The children have all been working really hard this week!

Nursery- the children have been practicing mark making in sensory trays using salt.

Reception- the children have been thinking about how they are all unique in RE and have been blending words in phonics.

Year One- the children have been learning about the four seasons and how to use finger spaces when writing.

Year Two- the children have been developing their map skills in geography and have been using adjectives in English.

Year Three- the children have been learning about directional language in geography.

Year Four- the children have been learning about electrical circuits in science.

Year Five- the children have been learning about life cycles of different animals in science.

Year Six- the children have been learning about the lives of rich and poor children in Victorian times.

Well done children! A great week at St Joseph's.

Lunch Boxes, Healthy Snacks and Try it Tuesday



At St Joseph's, we understand that the food we eat is fuel for our bodies and that a balanced diet helps us to play, grow and learn. All children are welcome to bring in a healthy snack to eat at breaktime. A free healthy snack will be provided for children in nursery- year 2 but if they wish, they are welcome to bring their own. Children should not bring crisps or chocolate bars in for their snack as we are encouraging them to select healthier options. This also applies to packed lunches. Our kitchen do provide healthy, balanced meals with a wide selection for children to select from each day. All children in reception- year 2 receive free school meals. However, children are welcome to bring in a packed lunch if they prefer.

Please note that chocolate bars and sweets should not be packed in lunches. The NHS has some great ideas for exciting packed lunches on their website Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS¹

All snacks and lunchboxes should be nut free and healthy options. Please ensure that grapes are cut in line with NHS guidance.

Catholic Life and Mission

The Gospel this week: Matthew 20:1-16

Why be envious because I am generous?

¹<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

This weekend there will be a children's liturgy at the 5pm Mass. All children are welcome to attend.

If you would like to know more about the Catholic faith or are interested in becoming a Catholic – there is a course starting in September. For more details, please contact Sr Susan – susanpbvm@yahoo.co.uk² ; 07751196124

Our Chaplaincy Team at the Trust have produced a wonderful podcast based on the Word of the Week. It is a great way to deepen your understanding of the Word. Listen here! Nun the Wiser – Chaplaincy Space³

Head Pupils



Our Head Pupils have been busy making sure that the new children in school are settling in and know how to show 'The St Joseph's Way'.

²<mailto:susanpbvm@yahoo.co.uk>

³<https://chaplaincy.space/nun-the-wiser/>

Article of the week- this week we have been thinking about the aims of education and why it is so important that we come to school.

Spellings and Homework



All of our children have a homework book that they bring home each week. This is in line with our Homework policy. We appreciate that family life is very busy and that children need to relax at home and therefore compulsory weekly homework is very limited whilst ensuring that the children progressively build to the homework expectation at secondary school. However, there are optional topic and RE homework task grids if parents or children wish to complete additional homework.

As part of homework, children will have a set of spellings to learn at home. These will be sent each Friday after the children have learned the spelling rule in school. To support your child with learning these spellings, parents are encouraged to read the words with their child, discuss the meaning of the words and then try to recall the spelling of the words from memory. This recall could be done in the car, before bedtime or even as you walk together. This retrieval practice at home will support your child in memorising the words and patterns in the spelling.

Homework books should be handed in each Wednesday. For this year, we are going to complete spelling tests on a Wednesday across school. This will ensure that there is no cross over between the children learning spelling rules and it will allow children to perform the spelling tests whilst the spellings are still fresh in their minds after completing their homework.

If you have any questions or concerns about homework, please contact your child's class teacher.

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 - **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

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:

Tuesday 22nd September- Year 4 visit to Magna

Wednesday 23rd September- National Fitness Day- **all children should come dressed in PE kits**

Thursday 24th September at 10am- Feed a Family live cooking event

Friday 25th September- Year 5 Reading Cafe in the school hall at 8:50am- **parents welcome**

Friday 25th September- Macmillan Coffee Afternoon at 2:30pm- **parents welcome and cake donations gratefully received**

Friday 2nd October- Year 4 Reading Cafe in the school hall at 8:50am- **parents welcome**

Friday 2nd October- Poetry Showcase in the school hall from 2:45pm- **parents welcome**

As always, we will continue to update you on the week ahead each Sunday afternoon on Facebook.

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.

PE days and Forest Schools this term

All children will have a class newsletter which indicates when their PE day in school is this term. These days will also be shared each week on Facebook.

Please ensure that children come to school dressed in PE kits on the days that they have PE.

PE Kits

- Emerald Green shorts
- White polo shirt (plain or St Joseph's branded)
- Plimsolls for indoor sports
- Trainers for outdoor sports
- Unbranded, black jogging bottoms with a black unbranded jumper (or St Joseph's) for outdoor sports

Reception - Friday

Year One- Wednesday

Year Three- Thursday

Year Four- Wednesday

Year Six- Monday

Years two and five have Forest Schools this term and should therefore come dressed in Forest School clothing as detailed in the letter sent home to these classes.

Year Two - Wednesday

Year Five- Friday

New Breakfast Club



We are delighted to announce that we have successfully launched our new breakfast club provision in school. The children have been enjoying pancakes, hash browns, beans on toast, porridge and eggs this week.

Nursery: 7:45- 8:30 breakfast club- **£2.50**

Reception- year 6: 7:30- 8:00 paid breakfast club - **£1.50**

Reception- year 6: 8:00- 8:30 **free breakfast club provision**

Last entry to all breakfast clubs will be 8:15am and spaces must be booked on Arbor by 1pm on the day before the required club. Please note that as there will be no member of staff on the door at this time, all children must be escorted to breakfast club and signed in. **Children should not walk themselves onto school site for the breakfast club.** The new breakfast clubs will include lots of exciting activities and will include a wide range of healthy hot and cold food options.

Attendance

This week's whole school attendance is 96.4%. This is a little lower than last week but year 2 did achieve 100%. Well done year 2!

Reception- 98%

Year One- 95.7%

Year Two-100%

Year Three-91.9%

Year Four- 97.4%

Year Five- 97.4%

Year Six- 96.3%

Well done to year 2 who won our attendance award this week!

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.**

In September 2013 the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 came into force. These regulations make it clear that Headteachers should not grant approval for any leave of absence during term-time, including holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

If your child is absent from school during term time for the purpose of a family holiday or any other unauthorised absence you may be issued with a Penalty Notice.

Our Top Dojo earners this week!

Our children are working incredibly hard to show the St Joseph's Way and earn dojos. Each week, we are going to share our top 5 dojo earners across school. This week our top 5 are...

Dolores in year 4

Abel in year 2

Matilda in year 2

Kerrigan in year 3

Maggie in year 5

Well done children. I wonder who will be our top five earners next week?

Children's Achievements



Well done to all of our children that took part in Shirebrook Park Run!

Well done to Ivy in year 5 who was very brave this week having an operation, good girl.

Well done to Igi and Dolly who completed the summer reading challenge at the library .Great work!

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



We are very proud to be a SMILERS school. SMILERS is a whole school approach to wellbeing.

This week, our Mental Health Ambassadors will be working hard over the coming weeks to introduce this to the children across 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.