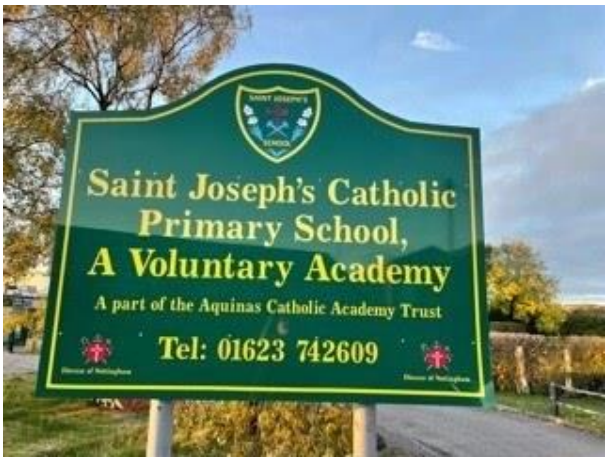
# Friday 16th October 2026

## St. Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Trusting in God; Creating Tomorrow; Helping Today

## NEWSLETTER




## In This Issue


- End of term
- What have we been learning this week?
- Half Term Homework
- Lunch Boxes and Healthy Snacks
- Catholic Life and Mission
- School Admissions
- Head Pupils
- Consents in Arbor
- Dates
- Friends of St Joseph
- PE and Forest Schools Dates
- Breakfast Club

- Attendance
- Top Dojo Earners
- Children's Achievements
- SMILERS
- School Facebook Page

## End of term

I cannot believe that we have come to an end of the first term at St Joseph's. It has been a fantastic term and the children have worked incredibly hard. On behalf of the staff team, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for your support this term and we look forward to another wonderful term when the children return on Monday 2nd November.

Year 4 went on a walk to the library and enjoyed their time reading.

Years 3-6 celebrated our first Mass of the term with our new Parish Priest Fr Paul.

Key Stage Two did a wonderful workshop learning about Nano Nagle.

Year 2 had a wonderful reading cafe and years 1 and 6 led prayers over in church on Friday.

All of the classes have been working really hard to produce work for our art and writing gallery.

After the holiday, all children should return to school in full winter uniform. Please make sure that children have weather appropriate outdoor coats and shoes. If you need any support with this, please contact the school office.

I will update Facebook with upcoming dates for the first week back on Sunday 1st November.

Have a lovely half term break,

Mrs Seaman

## What have we been learning this week?

The children have all been working really hard this week!

Nursery- the children have been building with 2D and 3D shapes.

Reception- the children have been learning about the creation story in RE and have been drawing bears.

Year One- the children have been conducting a science investigation to explore the amount of rainfall.

Year Two- the children have been learning about microhabitats in science and addition in maths.

Year Three- the children have been learning about different regions of Greece and the climate.

Year Four- the children have been sewing bookmarks using cross stitch and half stitch.

Year Five- the children have been learning about multiples and factors in maths.

Year Six- the children have been writing speeches to protect the rights of Hansel and Gretel.

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

## Half Term Homework and Competition

We acknowledge how hard our children have worked this term and that all children need time to rest and to play. Therefore, there will be no formal homework sent home this term. If children wish to complete work they can:

Read

Spend time in TTRS or Numbots

Complete something from their topic or RE grid

Children also have the opportunity to take part in an exciting Rock Painting competition over half term! This is optional but if children wish to enter, they should bring their painted rocks after half term.




## Lunch Boxes and Healthy Snacks



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 - NHS[1]

**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 22:15-21**

**Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar**

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, please contact Sr Susan – susanpbvm@yahoo.co.uk[2] ; 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 Space[3]

## School Admissions

If your child was born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 and is in their last year of primary school, you should apply for a secondary school place between **7 September 2026 and 31 October 2026.** You can still apply after this date, but your application will be treated as late.

You should apply through your home council. Parents 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

[1] https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/
[2] mailto:susanpbvm@yahoo.co.uk
[3] https://chaplaincy.space/nun-the-wiser/

- Amber Valley Borough Council
- Erewash Borough Council
- South Derbyshire District Council

To apply online please visit Secondary school admissions - Derbyshire County Council[4]

If you are applying to a Catholic Secondary school, you will also have to fill in a school supplementary form and return it to your chosen school.

## Head Pupils



**Our Head Pupils have been giving out our Head Teacher's Award this week after our secret spotter was looking for children showing LOVE AND CHARITY.**

[4]https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/secondary-admissions/secondary-school-admissions.aspx

**Article of the week- this week we have been thinking about food and how we all have the right to a healthy diet.**

## 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:**

**Friday 16th October is the last day of term, school will reopen on Monday 2nd November**

Monday 2nd November- All children return to school

Tuesday 3rd November- Open Evening Parents' Evening- parents are invited to visit their child's classroom, look at their work and speak to the class teacher

Tuesday 3rd November- Year One Topic Launch Day- **a letter has been sent to parents**

Wednesday 4th November- Friday 6th November- year 5 residential visit

Thursday 5th November- Year Two Topic Launch Day- **a letter has been sent to parents**

Thursday 5th November- year 3 visit to the Library

Friday 6th November- Year 1 reading cafe at 8:50am in the school hall- **parents welcome**

Friday 6th November- Years 2 and 4 Prayers in Church at 9am- **parents welcome**

Monday 9th November- Shine your Light Day- **children are invited to come dressed in bright clothing**

Tuesday 10th November- Year 2 visit to the Museum- **a letter has been sent to parents**

Thursday 12th November- Year 2 visit to the library

Friday 13th November - Reception and Nursery Reading cafe and Stay and Play at 8:50am- **parents welcome**

Friday 13th November- Years 3 and 5 Prayers in Church at 9am- **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 next 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- Friday

Year Two- Wednesday

Year Three- Thursday

Year Four- Tuesday

Year Five- Wednesday

Reception and year 6 have Forest Schools this term and should therefore come dressed in Forest School clothing as detailed in the letter sent home to these classes.

Reception - Wednesday

Year Six - Monday

## New Breakfast Club




We are delighted to announce that 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 weeks whole school attendance is 95.7%.

Reception- 94.3%

Year One- 98.7%

Year Two-96.7%

Year Three-95%

Year Four- 93.9%

Year Five- 96.8%

Year Six- 97.7%

Well done to YEAR ONE 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.

**Jude in Reception**

**Dolores in year 4**

**Matlida in year 2**

**Harry  in year 4**

**Jada in Reception**

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

## 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




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

**This week,  our Mental Health Ambassadors have been working hard training to support children with their mental health.**

## 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.