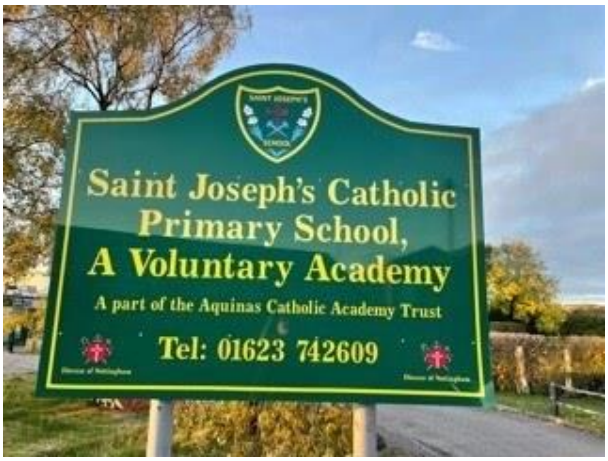
Friday 20th November 2026

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Trusting in God; Creating Tomorrow; Helping Today

NEWSLETTER



In This Issue

- This week at St Joseph's
- What have we been learning this week?
- Class Christmas Hampers
- 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

This week at St Joseph's

It has been another busy week at St Joseph's and all of the children have been working incredibly hard.

This week, Reception Class and Year One had a great time taking part in workshops linked to their topics led by staff from Mansfield Museum.

On Thursday, year 3 had a great time at Mansfield Museum. The children travelled on the train and learned more about our local area during their time at the museum.

Year 6 had a great reading cafe in the hall sharing their favourite books from our library.

Nursery and Reception did a great job leading prayers in church, year 1 went to the library and year 6 led a whole school celebration of the word.

Have a lovely weekend! I will update Facebook on Sunday with key information for next week,

Mrs Seaman

What have we been learning this week?

The children have all been working really hard this week!

Nursery- the children have been subitising to 3.

Reception- the children have been using natural materials to make woodland animals and had a great session on healthy eating.

Year One- the children have been learning about proper nouns and adjectives.

Year Two- the children have been learning about shops in the past and the opening of Shirebrook Colliery.

Year Three- the children have been learning about fossils in Science.

Year Four- the children have been learning about area in maths and about Indus Valley houses in history.

Year Five- the children have been learning about prime and square numbers in maths.

Year Six- the children have been looking at countries of the British Empire.

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

Class Hampers

Each year, as part of our fundraising at the Christmas Fayre, we raffle class hampers. These are always wonderful prizes that our families win each year. In order to make these hampers a success, we ask that if any families that can to donate to the class hampers. We understand that this is an incredibly demanding time of year so please do not feel any pressure to donate. If you are able, we ask for small items such as chocolate, bubble baths, candles etc for each hamper in the relevant class colour. This year the class colours are:

Nursery and Reception- green

Year One- orange

Year Two- purple

Year Three- Red

Year Four- Pink

Year Five - Gold/ Silver

Year Six- Blue

As always, we really appreciate your support. If you have any questions about items for the hampers, please speak to your child's class teacher.

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 25:31-46

I was naked and you clothed me; sick, and you visited me

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 is due to start Primary School in September 2027, you can apply for your Derbyshire primary school place online through your local council who you pay council tax to from **Monday 9 November 2026 until the deadline on 15 January 2027.** Applications are made via the council's official admissions portal, and offers are issued on 16 April 2027.

In addition to your application online, you will need to complete a Suplementary form which needs to be returned to school. Forms are available in the school office. If you would like to visit school before making your application, please contact the school office.

---

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

Please note that if your child is in nursery, this does not automatically give them a place in school and you will need to apply for your child's place as detailed above.

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 COURAGE

Article of the week- this week we have been thinking about anti bullying 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 - **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:

Monday 23rd November- nursery PJ day to celebrate their attendance. **Children can come dressed in PJS**

Thursday 26th November- Big Build Afternoon- **if parents are able to support, please contact the school office**

Thursday 26th November- Reception at the Library

Friday 27th November- Year 5 reading cafe at 8:50am- **parents welcome**

Friday 27th November- year 4 extra PE day- children should come to school in PE kits

Friday 27th November- Years 1 and 6 Prayers in Church at 9am- **parents welcome**

Monday 30th November at 2:30pm - Rock Steady Concert for children who have been having lessons- **parents welcome**

Wednesday 2nd December- non uniform day in exchange for a teddy or toy for our Christmas Fayre Stalls

Thursday 3rd December at 9:30am- Mass in Church for years 3-6- **parents welcome**

Thursday 3rd December- nursery visit to the library- **parents are welcome to attend**

Friday 4th December- Years 3 and 5 Prayers in Church at 9am- **parents welcome**

Friday 4th December- Year 4 reading cafe at 8:50am- **parents welcome**

Friday 4th December- Awards Assembly- **parents will be invited via email if their child is going to receive an award**

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- 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 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 weeks whole school attendance is 96.3%. Attendance has been a little lower in some classes this week so we are hoping that this will improve next week.

Reception- 97.7%

Year One- 99.3%

Year Two-98%

Year Three-96.3%

Year Four- 92.6%

Year Five- 97.1%

Year Six- 91.9%

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 August 2024, The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 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.

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. All of our top earners are from Reception class this week! Well done children!

Jada

Jude

Hubert

Joshua

David

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

Children's Achievements

Well done to Kayden in Reception class who achieved his Learn to Swim Level 1 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



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.