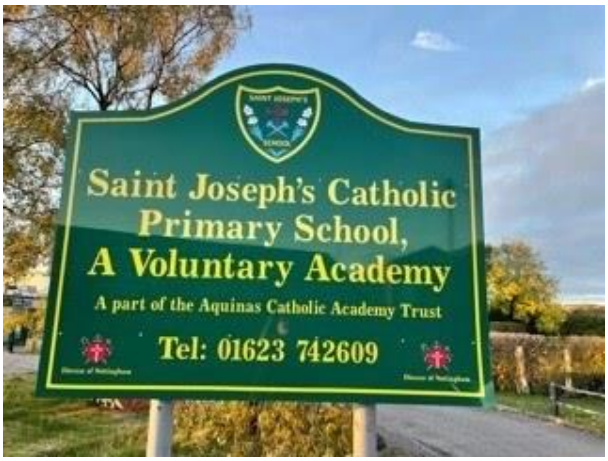
Friday 6th November 2026

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Trusting in God; Creating Tomorrow; Helping Today

NEWSLETTER



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Welcome Back

I hope that you have all enjoyed a wonderful half term break. We were all so happy to welcome the children back this week and they have all done an incredible job settling back into school. This term will be a busy 7 weeks as we approach the Season of Advent. There are lots of upcoming events happening in school this term so please check the term dates, class newsletters, weekly newsletter and weekly Facebook updates for any upcoming dates. This term is a wonderful time of the year but we also appreciate it can be a stressful time for families. Please do not feel that you need to attend every event and if you need any support during this term, please do not hesitate to contact me in school.

This week has been an incredibly busy first week back.

Year 3 went on a walk to the library and enjoyed their time reading.

Year 5 had a fantastic time on their two night residential at Hagg Farm. They took part in many activities including: climbing, zip wires and orienteering. It was a privilege to spend three days with them and watch them demonstrate courage and the St Joseph's Way.

All of the children spent time with Sr Susan in the graveyard praying for those who have died.

All of our classes made poppies to contribute to the Shirebrook Remembrance celebrations.

Some of our Key Stage One children started their training to be our Kindness Champions in school.

Year 1 had a wonderful reading cafe and years 2 and 4 led prayers over in church on Friday.

It was fantastic that so many of our parents were able to attend our drop in session and look at their child's work so far this year.

Years 1 and 2 had their launch days in school and some of the year 4 class took part in 'Shirebrook on the Move'.

WOW! What a busy first week back!

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 looking at patterns and have been learning about bonfire night.

Reception- the children have been making poppies for Remembrance Day and have been learning about fireworks.

Year One- the children have been learning about capital letters and full stops.

Year Two- the children have been learning about adaptations in science.

Year Three- the children have been looking at different types of rock in science.

Year Four- the children have been learning about Elijah's miracle in RE.

Year Five- the children have been learning about metaphors in English and enjoyed a great three days at Hagg Farm.

Year Six- the children have been using more than one co-ordinating conjunction in a sentence.

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

Competition

We have had some fantastic painted rock entries this week. If your child would like to take part, it is not too late! All entries should be in school by Friday 13th November.



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 25:1-13

The wise and foolish virgins

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 Derbyshire County Council 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.

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.

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

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 THE ST JOSEPH'S Way

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:

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

Monday 9th November- year 5 launch day- **parents have been sent a letter with more information**

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**

Friday 13th November- closing date for painted rock competition entries

Tuesday 17th November- Reception and Year One Workshop with Mansfield Museum in school

Thursday 19th November- Year 3 visit to the Museum- **a letter has been sent to parents**

Thursday 19th November- Year 1 visit to the Library

Thursday 19th November- Movie Night until 5pm- **more information to follow**

Friday 20th November- Children in Need- **children are invited to come in non uniform in exchange for a donation paid via Arbor.**

Friday 20th November- Year 6 reading cafe at 8:50am- **parents welcome**

Friday 20th November- Nursery and Reception 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 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 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 97.4%. Some absolutely fantastic attendance this week!

Reception- 99.2%

Year One- 99.2%

Year Two-96.7%

Year Three-99.6%

Year Four- 94.8%

Year Five- 100%

Year Six- 94%

Well done to YEAR FIVE 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.

Jada in Reception

Jude in Reception

Ivy Rose in Reception

Joshua in year 3

Teddie in year 3

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.