



Autumn Term 2022

9th December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Liturgical Prayer

This week's Wednesday word is Christ. In this Sunday's Gospel, we are reminded that Jesus did not come to judge the world. Jesus came to offer forgiveness and healing.

This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday. The word 'Gaudete' means Rejoice. Let us all rejoice that Christ is coming.

Scarlet Fever, Strep A Infections and Winter Respiratory Illnesses

Please read the information at the end of this newsletter which has been provided from the UK Health Security Agency. It is a guideline for children with symptoms of Scarlet Fever, Strep A infections and Winter Respiratory Illnesses. If any child presents symptoms of either Scarlet Fever or Strep A, parents may be contacted to seek further guidance or investigation from the GP if necessary.

We understand at this time of year many children are poorly, however if your child seems withdrawn from their play and lessons and their illness is impacting upon their general wellbeing, you may be contacted and advised to collect your child, as seen in the guidance, until they are feeling better and are well enough to do their normal activities. This will help us to prevent the spread of any Winter illnesses, especially Scarlet Fever and Strep A.

As well as this, we will be encouraging children to maintain healthy hand washing regimes, coughing into their sleeve or a tissue and also washing hands after blowing their nose. We hope you can encourage this at home too.

Thank you for your continued support.

Christmas Lunch Day and Christmas Jumper Day - Thursday 15th December

Don't forget that it is Christmas Jumper day and Christmas Lunch Day next Thursday!

Please do not go out and buy a jumper. You can put decorations on any jumper.





Extra money for your child's school...

29.1% pupils in the North East qualify for free school meals (DfE, 2021/22).

Across England and Wales, children can receive free lunches if they are in reception to Year 2 and also if their parents or guardians meet certain criteria (see list below).

It is really important that you register for Free School Meals if you are entitled as the school receives an additional grant payment from government which makes a big difference to the school, providing additional funding to help support the children's education. If you are registered you may also be able to access school holiday meal vouchers.

To apply contact your council: www.durham.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals,
www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/free-school-meals (Sunderland),
<https://bit.ly/3NtgBtzSouthTynesideFreeSchoolMeals>

- Income support
- Income-based jobseeker's allowance
- State pension guarantee credit
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Child tax credit, as long as they don't also receive working tax credit and earn no more than £16,190 (£16,105 in Scotland)
- Working tax credit four week 'run-on' after stopping work
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal credit, if someone applied since April 2018 and their income is less than £7,400 a year after tax and not including benefits. (This threshold is different in Scotland and Northern Ireland.) If someone applied for UC before then, there is no income threshold
- Children who receive any of these benefits themselves are also eligible for free school meals.

Christmas Fayre Raffle 2022 Winners

The Friends of St Joseph's Christmas Fayre Raffle 2022 Winners

Prize	Name on Ticket	Ticket Colour	Ticket Number
1 st £100 cash	Abiel	Pink	656-660
2 nd £40 Morrisons Gift Card	PV	Blue	66-70
3 rd Food Hamper	Caizer	Blue	731-735
4 th Scarf	Brody	Yellow	631-635
5 th Rock Art Kit	Mofe	Pink	626 – 630
6 th Artists Case	Abby	Green	16-20
7 th £5 Book Token	Vince	Blue/White	851-855
8 th Jet Construction Kit	Thea	White	221-225
9 th Wooden Puzzle	Natan T	Blue	441-445

Winner of the sweet tree – Lily M

Winner of name the teddy – Rebecca P

Attendance Reminder

Parents/Carers are responsible for:

- Ensuring that their child attends school regularly and punctually unless prevented from doing so by illness or attendance at a medical appointment.
- Contacting the school office on the first morning of absence (before 9.30am).
- Informing the school in advance of any medical appointments in school time. For the absence to be recorded as a medical absence we do require evidence from the doctor or dentist. (Appointment card/letter). Where possible, ALL medical appointments should be made outside of the school day.
- Making requests for authorised absence in term time, only if absolutely necessary as these are not automatically authorised.
- Talking to the school as soon as possible about any child's reluctance to come to school so that problems can be quickly identified and dealt with.

Authorised absence

An absence is classified as authorised when a child has been away from school for a legitimate reason and the school has received notification from a parent or carer. For example, if a child has been unwell and the parent telephones the school to explain the absence.

Only the school can make an absence authorised. Parents do not have this authority. Consequently, not all absences supported by parents will be classified as authorised.

Unauthorised absence

An absence is classified as unauthorised when a child is away from school without the permission of the school.

Therefore, the absence is unauthorised if a child is away from school without good reason, even with the support of a parent.

Please take a moment to read our Attendance Policy on our website:

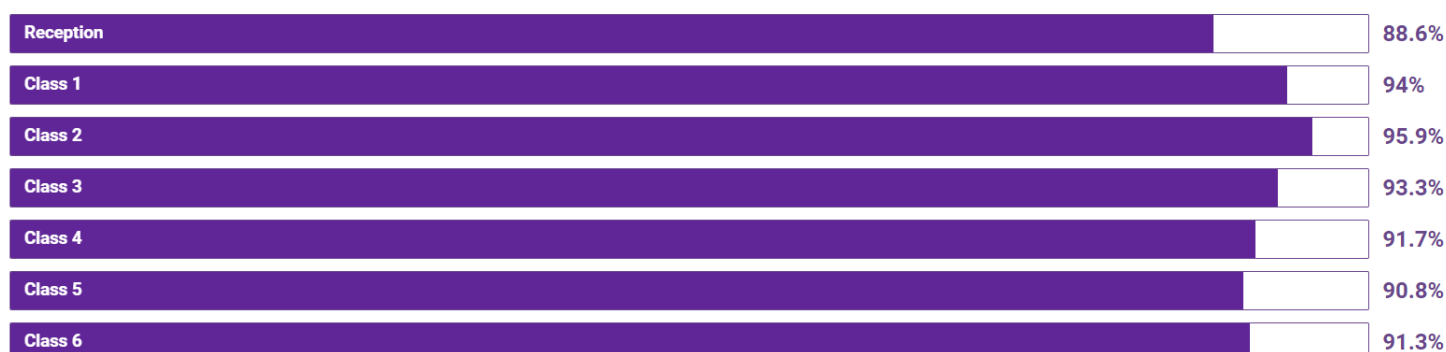
<https://stjosephscatholicsunderland.schacademy.durham.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/11/Attendance-Policy.pdf>

After School Clubs

Information on the after-school clubs for next half term (Spring 1) is now on ParentPay. This includes violin, saxophone, clarinet, orchestra, drum, guitar and gymnastics. Please ensure any monies are paid by the due date to allow your child to continue with their tuition. Thank you.

Attendance

Last week's attendance:



School Term Dates 2022/23

There will be an additional bank holiday in May 2023 to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. This bank holiday will fall on Monday 8th May 2023, following the Coronation on Saturday 6th May 2023, providing an opportunity for communities across the country to celebrate. This bank holiday will be in addition to the other bank holidays that take place in 2023.

St Josephs RC Primary School

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2022/23

SEPTEMBER

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JUNE




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JULY

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AUGUST

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27	28	29	30	31	1	2

-  Shaded areas are bank holidays
-  Shaded areas are school inset days
-  Shaded areas are school holidays

Please Keep Children off the Grass

As the weather has been so wet recently, the grass has become very muddy. We would be grateful if you could keep your child(ren) off the grass whilst it is like this, as we are having a number of slips and trips as well as muddy clothes and shoes coming into school!

Mini Vinnies

Thank you to everyone who has sent in toiletries for people in need. We are continuing to collect the items on the poster until Monday 12th December 2022. Please help if you can. Thank you.

*Mini Vinnies are collecting toiletries
for people in need.*

*It would be very good if you could
bring toiletries to school such as:*



**Shampoo, conditioner or
shower gel**



Soap



Toothbrushes



Toothpaste



**Shaving gel or
foam**



Razors

Meal Plans/Lunch Payments

Payments for school meals are to be made via ParentPay each Monday, in advance please. We do not allow debt balances. If you need any support in this respect, please contact school.

Should you wish for your child to change meal plans, you must give school notice, in writing.

Reminders

School Uniform

Our school uniform is important to us and a source of pride. It costs no more than other garments and is both a unifying factor and a source of pride in St Joseph's School. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school family and it promotes a strong, cohesive school identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life.

Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform, including a tie for children in Year 1 – Year 6, and all items of uniform have your child's name on.

Every child also needs to have sandshoes to change into when they come into school.

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons, St Joseph's has always had a **no jewellery policy**; only watches are permitted to be worn. Any earrings, bracelets, rings etc. must be left at home. Any child wearing earrings will be asked to take them out or place plasters over them. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Car parking

Please help us by not using the turning circle as a car park – it is a **drop off only area**. Please use the church car park.

No Dogs on School Premises

Please note that we do not allow any dogs, except guide dogs on the school premises.

Bikes and Scooters

It has come to our attention that some of our pupils and parents/carers are riding/scooting on the school grounds. I would like to remind you that, for the wellbeing of our staff, pupils, parents and visitors please dismount and walk with your bike/scooter whilst on the school site.

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

Any concerns about safeguarding should be reported to our designated safeguarding lead, Miss Brown or the deputy designated safeguarding leads Mrs Toward, Mrs Forbister, Miss Forbister and Mrs Teasdale. Ask at the school office if you would like a paper copy of the safeguarding policy. All of our Safeguarding policies are available on our school website.

Weekend Mass Times

St. Joseph's Church:	Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm
	Sunday Morning 9:30 am
St. Patrick's Church	Sunday 9.30am
St. Anne & Holy Family Church	Sunday 11.00am

Miss S M Brown
Headteacher



follow us on Twitter @StJosephsSR46HY

Lunchtime Menu September 2022 - April 2023

Paragraph		Drawing		Editing	
WEEK one		WEEK two		WEEK three	
Monday		Monday		Monday	
choose a main meal: Pizza Monday! Cheese and Tomato Pizza (V) Or Vegetable Quesadilla (V) Or ♥️ 🌱 Or Roasted Vegetable Pasta Bake (V) Or Jacket Potato with choice of topping		choose a main meal: Pizza Monday! Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) Or Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce (V) Or ♥️ 🌱 Vegetarian Lasagne (V) Or Jacket Potato with a choice of topping		choose a main meal: Pizza Monday! Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) Or Vegetable Quesadilla (V) Or ♥️ 🌱 Crunchy Topped Tomato Pasta Bake (V) Or Jacket Potato with choice of topping	
on the side: Potato Wedges Baked Beans Sweetcorn Fresh Carrot Batons for dessert: Choice of: Homemade Iced Sponge, Cheese & Crackers, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt		on the side: Peas Corn on the Cob for dessert: Choice Of: Chocolate Brownie Surprise, Cheese & Crackers, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt		on the side: Broccoli Sweetcorn Diced Potatoes Garlic Bread for dessert: Choice of: Apple Comflake Crunch, Cheese & Crackers, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	
Tuesday		Tuesday		Tuesday	
choose a main meal: Home-made Chicken Curry & Rice ♥️ 🌱 Or Cheese and Broccoli Quiche (V) Served with Sliced oven baked Potatoes Or Chicken Style Quorn Burrito (V) Or Jacket Potato with choice of topping		choose a main meal: Sausage & Baked Bean Casserole topped with Mashed Potato ♥️ Or BBQ Chicken Wrap 🌱 Or Quorn Curry (V) Or Jacket Potato with a choice of topping		choose a main meal: <u>All Day Breakfast</u> Sausage or Quorn Sausage (V), Bacon Scrambled Egg, Beans, Tomato, Hash Brown and Toast Or Cheese & Tomato Tagliatelle (V) Or Jacket Potato with Choice of topping 🌱	
on the side: Green Beans Sweetcorn Homemade Coleslaw for dessert: Choice of: Chadwick's Kitchen Fruity Flapjack, Cheese & Crackers, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt		on the side: Wholemeal Rice Broccoli Swede for dessert: Choice of: Cheesecake with Mandarin Oranges, Cheese & Crackers, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt		on the side: Broccoli Carrot Batons Mixed Pepper Strips for dessert: Choice of: Rice Pudding with Apricot Compote, Cheese & Crackers, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	
Wednesday		Wednesday		Wednesday	
choose a main meal: Roast of the day, served with Roast Potato, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy Or Stuffed Peppers (V) ♥️ Or Macaroni Cheese (V) Or Jacket Potato with a choice of topping		choose a main meal: Roast of the day, served with Roast Potato, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy Or Quorn Roast (V) Or Ham Pasta Carbonara Or Jacket Potato with a choice of topping ♥️		choose a main meal: Roast of the day, served with Roast Potato, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy 🌱 Or Quorn Sausages (V) Or Chicken & Tomato Pasta Or ♥️ Jacket Potato with a choice of topping	
on the side: Mashed Swede & Carrot Parsnips Garlic Slice for dessert: Choice of: Apple Sponge and Custard, Cheese & Crackers, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt		on the side: Carrots Cauliflower Cheese Homemade Bread for dessert: Choice of: Apple & Banana Cake & Custard, Cheese & Crackers, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt		on the side: Carrots Sprouts for dessert: Choice of: Sticky Toffee Pudding & Custard, Cheese & Crackers, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	
Thursday		Thursday		Thursday	
choose a main meal: Homemade Mince Beef Pie with Mashed Potato 🌱 Or Quorn Sausages with Mashed Potato (V) Or Chicken and Tomato Pasta Or ♥️ Jacket Potato with a choice of topping		choose a main meal: Mince & Dumplings with Creamy Potato Or Mrs Morton's Sticky Honey Chicken 🌱 Or Tomato & Basil Pasta (V) ♥️ Or Jacket Potato with a choice of topping		choose a main meal: Mrs Vickers Spanish Chicken ♥️ 🌱 Or Beef Spaghetti Bolognese Or Mac n Cheese (V) Or Jacket Potato with a choice of topping	
on the side: Broccoli Cabbage Homemade Bread for dessert: Choice of: Mrs Vickers homemade Jammie Dodgers, Cheese & Crackers, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt		on the side: Cabbage Peas Diced roasted Sweet Potato for dessert: Choice of: Winter Fruit Sponge & Custard, Cheese & Crackers, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt		on the side: Cauliflower Green Beans Roasted Veg Cous Cous for dessert: Choice of: Mr Parkin's Sticky Ginger Parkin, Cheese & Crackers, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	
Friday		Friday		Friday	
choose a main meal: Fish in bread crumbs Served with Chips Or Chinese Egg Fried Rice (V) & Curry Sauce Or Jacket Potato with a choice of topping ♥️ 🌱		choose a main meal: Jumbo Fish Fingers and Chips Or Salmon Pasta ♥️ Or Quorn no meat-ball Sub (V) Or Jacket Potato with a choice of topping 🌱		choose a main meal: Fish Fingers Served with Chips Or Assorted Panini's Served with Chips Or Jacket Potato with a choice of topping ♥️ 🌱	
on the side: Peas Baked Beans for dessert: Choice of: Chocolate Crispie Cake, Cheese & Crackers, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt		on the side: Peas Baked Beans for dessert: Choice of: Mr Mc Nally's Viennese Whirl, Cheese & Crackers, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt		on the side: Peas Baked Beans for dessert: Choice of: Banana Muffin, Cheese & crackers, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	

Menu - September 2022 - April 2023

Upcoming Events

December 2022

12 th December	Nursery Nativity Play 9.30am and 2.30pm
13 th December	Reception Nativity Play 2.30pm
14 th December	Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2) Nativity Play 9.30am and 2.00pm
15 th December	Christmas Lunch/Jumper Day
16 th December	House Point Winners Film Afternoon
19 th December	Nursery Christmas Parties am and pm (come to Nursery dressed to party!)
20 th December	EYFS (Nursery and Reception) The Clumsiest Christmas Elf Show am
20 th December	Reception Christmas Party pm (party clothes can be worn all day)
20 th December	Key Stage 2 Carol Service in church 2pm
21 st December	Whole School Mass in Church at 9.30am
21 st December	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party pm (party clothes can be worn all day)
22 nd December	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party am (party clothes can be worn all day)
22 nd December	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Party pm (party clothes can be worn all day)
26 th December – 6 th January 2023	School Closed for Christmas Holidays

January 2023

9 th January	Children return to school
18 th January – 20 th January	Year 4 Residential visit to Youth Village



UK Health
Security
Agency

WINTER ILLNESSES IN NORTH EAST SCHOOLS INFORMATION FOR PUPILS, PARENTS AND STAFF

September 2022

As autumn and winter approach, it is likely that there will be increasing numbers of people affected by winter illnesses, such as diarrhoea and vomiting, influenza and scarlet fever. This leaflet provides advice for pupils, parents and staff on how to reduce the risk of catching these common bugs.

General hygiene

Handwashing is a highly effective way of preventing many infections from spreading. Pupils and staff should frequently wash their hands with warm water and soap, particularly after using the toilet, after using a tissue to catch a cough or sneeze, and before eating. As they are not effective against some germs which cause gastrointestinal illnesses, hand sanitiser gels are not a suitable substitute for handwashing after using the toilet.

Respiratory infections including influenza (flu) and COVID-19

Respiratory viruses such as flu and other flu-like illnesses spread easily between people from coughs and sneezes and can live on surfaces for several days. Symptoms may develop quickly and can include sudden fever, a dry chesty cough, a sore throat, aching body, headache, tiredness, diarrhoea or tummy pain, and nausea. For most people, viral respiratory infections result in an unpleasant but self-limiting illness. However, some people are at risk of developing severe illness or complications, including older adults, pregnant women, those with a long-term condition or a weakened immune system, and those in long-term care facilities.

Vaccination of eligible children can reduce the risk of infection, including to others they are in contact with.

There is more information on the COVID-19 vaccine for children at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-for-children/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-for-children-aged-5-to-15/>

The seasonal flu jab offers the best available protection against severe illness caused by the influenza virus. **All children and adults eligible for an NHS vaccination should take up this offer.**

There is more information on the flu vaccine for children at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/>

If you or your child are in an at-risk group **and** develop symptoms of flu, anti-viral treatment may be advised. Please seek prompt medical assessment via NHS 111, a GP or a nurse who will be able to provide further advice.

If you or your child are in an at-risk group **and** have had recent contact with a confirmed influenza case **and** have not had the seasonal flu jab, anti-viral treatment may be advised. Please seek prompt advice via NHS 111, a GP or a nurse.

If you or your child are not in an at-risk group and develop symptoms of flu, and would like advice on managing these symptoms, please consult a pharmacist, NHS 111, or your GP or nurse in the usual way.

As with any respiratory illness, any child or staff member with these symptoms should stay off school until any fever has resolved and they are well enough to do their normal activities.

There is more information on flu at [nhs.uk/conditions/flu](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu)

Diarrhoea and vomiting

It is not unusual for viruses which cause diarrhoea and vomiting to circulate among children, especially over the winter. If you or your child develop these symptoms and are concerned about them, please contact NHS 111 or your GP or nurse in the usual way.

Any child or staff member who develops diarrhoea and/or vomiting should stay off school until 48 hours after they last had diarrhoea or vomiting.

There is more information on diarrhoea and vomiting at [nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting)

Scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, though it typically needs to be treated with a course of antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others. Scarlet fever is characterised by a fine red rash which typically appears first on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. The skin can feel a bit like sandpaper, and the face can be flushed red while remaining pale around the mouth. The rash often appears after or along with symptoms such as a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. Children who have recently had chickenpox are at high risk of a more severe course of illness if they catch scarlet fever.

If you think you or your child has scarlet fever, please seek prompt medical assessment via NHS 111, or your GP or nurse.

Any child or staff member who develops scarlet fever should stay off school until 24 hours after their first dose of antibiotics.

There is more information on scarlet fever at [nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever)

COVID-19

It is possible that we will see an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases over the autumn and winter period. Vaccination offers the best available protection against severe illness caused by COVID-19. **Anyone eligible for an NHS COVID-19 booster vaccination should take up this offer.**

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, a new continuous cough, a loss of or change to your sense of taste or smell, shortness of breath, feeling unusually tired, an aching body, a headache, sore throat, blocked or runny nose, a loss of appetite, diarrhoea and feeling or being sick. If you or your child develop these symptoms and are concerned about them, please contact NHS 111 or your GP or nurse in the usual way.

As with any respiratory illness, any child or staff member who develops these symptoms should stay off school until any fever has resolved and they are well enough to do their normal activities. Although most people are no longer eligible for COVID-19 testing, any child who happens to have a positive COVID-19 test should stay off school for at least three days from the date of the test, and any adult who happens to have a positive COVID-19 test should stay off school for at least five days from the date of the test.

There is more information on COVID-19 at nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

School closures

The Health Protection Team **does not** frequently or routinely advise that schools close when there are increased levels of diarrhoea and vomiting, increased number of COVID cases, or increase numbers of cases of other winter illnesses. Closing schools does not usually provide substantial additional protection against catching illnesses which are commonly circulating in the community.

However, schools may need to close for other practical reasons, such as due to high levels of staff absence, or a need to facilitate additional cleaning. Any decision about school closures will be taken by the school's management team, and any queries regarding these should be addressed to the school.

Exclude unwell pupils and staff

Children and staff who are unwell should not come to nursery. Those affected by winter respiratory illnesses should stay off nursery until they have recovered. Those affected by scarlet fever should stay off nursery until 24 hours after their first dose of antibiotics. Those affected by diarrhoea or vomiting should stay off nursery until at least 48 hours after they last had diarrhoea or vomiting. While most people are no longer eligible for COVID-19 testing, children who test positive should stay at home for three days after the positive test; staff members who test positive should stay at home for five days.