



Spring Term 2023

Tuesday 24th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

It is hard to believe that it is mid-January and this is the beginning of my third week here at St Joseph's. I have to say it is an absolute pleasure to lead St Joseph's School with Mrs Toward; Head of School. The staff here are all so caring and have of course the very best interests at heart for all of your children. The children at St Joseph's are absolutely delightful, they have made me so welcome, they are very polite, well-mannered and are fully engaged in all that St Joseph's has to offer them. Year 4 children last week attended a residential at the Youth Village, they have been sharing with me the great experiences that they had, Year 1 are currently making smoothies and the year 6 vegetable curry that they made last week was apparently absolutely delicious. I look forward to being part of the school's journey until a new Head Teacher is appointed. I am the Executive Head Teacher of St Mary's in Jarrow and Our Lady of the Rosary in Peterlee so I may be at St Joseph's different days across the week but can assure you Mrs Toward is on hand leading the school, please do not hesitate to contact school if we can be of any assistance.

Mrs M. Graham

Messages from Matthew's Gospel: Follow Jesus!

In our Liturgical Prayer today we heard about the call to follow Jesus. Our Children understand that we choose to follow instructions from people who love us. Matthew shares that the disciples' choice to follow Jesus changed their whole live. They learned to live like Jesus and we can do the same!



Attendance Matters!

Currently we have a number of children whose attendance is below 96% which is obviously a concern. Please do not be offended if you receive letters from us, it is our duty to track attendance and keep you informed. Government departments track school attendance figures. It is considered that attendance of 90% or below is **persistent absence** which will be closely monitored by school staff.

Likewise, it is really important that we work together to ensure the children arrive to school on time – please do remember arriving late is unsettling for the children and learning does start the minute the children walk through the door.

First lesson of the day is either Phonics, Maths or English so regularly arriving late means that your child is missing out on vital education. The equivalent of being 10 minutes late every day, equals 7 whole days over a year. Every second counts!

Remember Great Attendance leads to Great Progress and this is what we all want for our children!

The Connection Science Assembly and Workshops

On Thursday 16th March, a science assembly and workshop for children in Reception - Year 6, led by As Creatives, will be taking place in school. Designed specifically to tie in with "Connections", the theme for British Science Week 2023, The Connection places science, engineering and technology firmly in context by exploring the lives, achievements and legacies of individuals whose inventions and discoveries have affected all our lives! A highly engaging, thought provoking and informative programme.

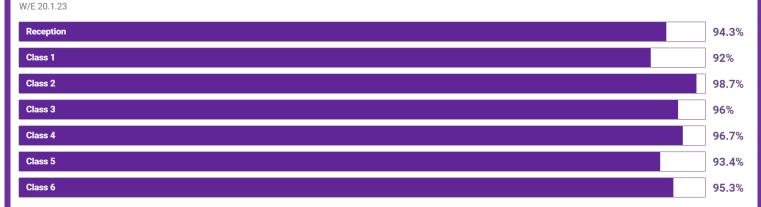
Visits and workshops enhance learning and the school is keen that all pupils are able to enjoy and learn from these.

There is a small contribution of £2.85 per child payable via ParentPay.

Please help us by giving your permission and making your payment. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated and allows us to continue to provide these special learning opportunities in the future. Thank you.

Attendance

Last week's attendance:



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.

Jewellerv

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, Mrs Graham 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

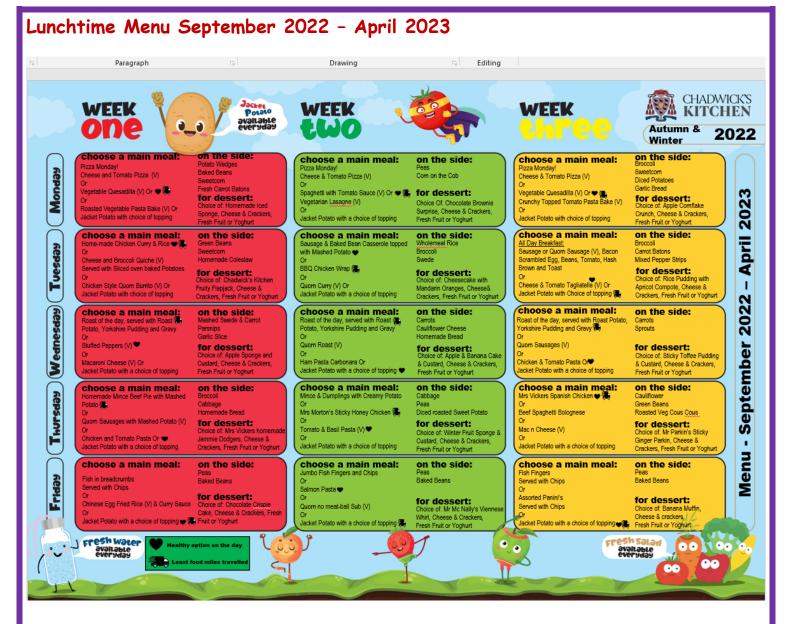
Mrs M Graham

Executive Headteacher

follow us on Twitter



@StJosephsSR46HY



Upcoming Events

January 2023

11th January – 15th February Each Wednesday Year 1 and Year 2 will take part in Dance City Workshops

in school

24th January School Nurse visiting Year 3 to talk about Friendship and Bullying (pm)

25th January Nursery Oral Health Workshop (am) 25th January Year 4 Swimming lessons commence

February 2023

7th February School Nurse visiting Year 1 to talk about Dental Health (pm)

March 2023

2nd March School Nurse visiting Year 6 – Emotional Health and Well-being

9th March Year 6 visit to Safety Works

9th March *Year 5 Early Islamic Civilisation Drama Day

16th March *Science assembly and workshop for children in Reception – Year 6

*Please help us by giving your permission and making payment via ParentPay. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated and allows us to continue to provide these special learning opportunities in the future. Thank you.

St Josephs RC Primary School

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2022/23

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