



**Bishop Chadwick**  
Catholic Education Trust



Autumn Term 2023

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are well. As we approach the end of our first half term next week I would like to update you on a few changes and other updates or news across school.

Next week Mrs Mills our Year 1 teacher will be leaving St Joseph's. Mrs Mills started teaching at St Joseph's in September 2005 and I know we will all be very sad to see her leave. I am sure she will have taught many of your children and she even taught one of our current teachers here at St Joseph's when she was at a previous school! I will keep you guessing who this teacher is!

Mrs Mills has had a huge impact on our children's lives she has such an engaging presence, her commitment to our school sees her helping to improve the confidence of children, their self-esteem and she has always encouraged them to do their best. Mrs Mills will be a huge miss but as she takes up a new career working to develop safety education in the police force we wish her all the very best and I am sure we will be calling on her new skills to enhance our teaching of safety outside of school.

Mrs Gillingham will also be taking a break from school as she begins her maternity leave sometime in the next half term and we will keep you informed of this date. We have begun the recruitment process for their posts and will again keep you up to date with any new appointments.

In the shorter term we will secure a supply teacher to ensure we provide a consistent teaching process for our Year 1 children. We do have a number of support staff vacancies that have also been advertised so we are hoping to introduce these new staff who will be joining us to you all, again when the recruitment process is complete.

## **Harvest**

Harvest Festival is being celebrated throughout the month, where farmers and growers give thanks for a successful harvest season. Last year during the harvest season, schools made a real difference to families across their areas, by collecting food and delivering it to charities that can give it to those who need it most. This year we would like to support this so during October and November each class will have a collection box in their classroom.

We ask that if you have any of these items that you can donate, that children bring them in and add them to their class boxes- any donations would be gratefully received.

During the month we will take some of our children to donate these items to our local charity so they can arrange distribution to families or individuals in need. Together our donations can make a big difference.

What items can be donated:

- tinned food (vegetables, fruit, meat, fish),

- spreads (butter, jam, honey etc.)
- long-life milk, juice and drinks
- dried pasta
- cooking sauces
- condiments
- tea and coffee
- rice
- cereal
- toiletries



## Macmillan Fundraiser

A huge thank you to all who were able to attend our Macmillan Coffee Morning. Those who brought cakes and those who brought donations and the children's cakes from the yard. This is a cause very close to our hearts and collectively we made the grand total of £355.75. In these difficult times financially, we really do thank you for your continued support as we work together for the benefit of others.

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

## School Uniform

Thank you to those parents/carers who removed their children's ear rings and replaced with spacers if needed. Children cannot wear earrings at school.



As a staff we have discussed the wearing of ties at St Joseph's as we see children stretching their ties, losing ties and generally the tie causing a concern for them and us. What are your thoughts as parents/carers? Next week we have a Governors meeting and if parents and carers would like me to ask that children can begin wearing white polo shirts instead of a shirt and tie then I will ask this to be considered at our meeting. Please email your response to: [sjmooffice@stjosephssunderland.school](mailto:sjmooffice@stjosephssunderland.school)

On PE days your child can continue to come to school in their sportswear which is jogging trousers, polo shirt and school sweatshirt, children cannot wear jogging pants with logos on they must be plain black or you can buy school jogging pants from Little Gems shop in Sunderland Town Centre or online at <https://theschooloutfit.co.uk/>. These joggers have the school badge on.

## Exceptionality

Next Friday, the 20th of October is an Inset day. Teachers will be carrying out training and development work around exceptionality at St Joseph's which will include enhancing our curriculum and extra-curricular experiences to our children. If you have any skills that could support or contribute to any area of our curriculum or school we would love to hear from you. An example could be gardening skills, cooking, engineering etc please email [sjmooffice@stjosephssunderland.school](mailto:sjmooffice@stjosephssunderland.school).

## Parent/Carer Information Sessions

This term our Open 'Evenings' will be held in school with your child's class teacher, on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October for Year 5 and Year 6, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 for Year 3 and Year 4 and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 for Year 1 and Year 2. Please note that Reception Information Sessions will follow later in the year.



The appointments will take place at 5-minute intervals from 1.30pm – 5.00pm.

Appointments will be booked the same as last year. Again, we are asking parents to come into school to book an appointment. In the Community Room there will be an appointments sheet whereby you can choose your preferred appointment time. The appointment will take place in school, face to face, at the time chosen by you. You can book your appointment from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

We also understand that a telephone consultation may suit some of our parents, particularly those who work, so we will also be offering this option.

If you would like a face to face appointment, please come into school next week to make this booking. If you would prefer a telephone appointment, please email [sjmooffice@stjosephssunderland.school](mailto:sjmooffice@stjosephssunderland.school) advising of a preferred time, your child's name, class and contact details (parents name and telephone number). The teacher will attempt to call you at some point within the hour, depending on the number of face to face appointments they may have during that time. If they are unable to call you at your preferred time, they will do so as soon as they can. Please note that if a telephone booking is made, it is likely that the teacher will phone you with NO CALLER ID shown. Please answer the call if this shows.

I would urge you all to book an appointment as it is an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress this term. Teacher's will share information with you regarding how well your child is doing in school and any way that you can support your child at home.

### **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Parish**

Parents/Carers are invited to join the celebrations of 150 years of St Joseph's parish 1873 - 2023:

#### **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October** **(To commemorate the establishment of the Parish on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1873)**

Holy Mass 7pm

#### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

Silent Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament from 10am

Followed by Holy Mass at 7pm

#### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

Parishioners are invited to light candles for the souls of deceased priests, religious, relatives and friends from 5pm – 5.20pm before 5.30pm Mass

#### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

Thanksgiving Mass 4pm

Bishop Stephen will preside over the Liturgy

Refreshments after Mass

## Library Book Sale

We will be selling out of date books each morning next week (Monday – Thursday) at 8.30am in the library. Each book is priced at 10p but please feel free to donate more as any monies raised will go towards buying new books for each classroom. Parents/Carers and children are all welcome to come along. Access will be through the Key Stage 1 entrance.

## After School Clubs/Music Tuition

Lego Club, Art Club and Prayer Club clubs will no longer operate after October half term.

Information on Music Tuition will be on ParentPay shortly.

Next half term, Monday's after school club will continue with Gymnastics, Tuesdays will continue with Mixed Sports and Sewing Club and Wednesday will be Football Club. Details and bookings are now available on ParentPay. Please remember that you must enrol your child, via ParentPay, before they attend After School Clubs.

## Upcoming Events

### October 2023

Friday 13th October	Police visiting School – all classes Year 1 handwashing workshop with the school nurse
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Liturgy to celebrate 150 years of St Joseph's in Church at 9.15am – Parents/Carers are welcome
Thursday 19th October	M&M Productions 'Jack and the Beanstalk' Pantomime in school for Reception – Year 6
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	School Closed – Inset Day
Monday 23rd – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Half Term Holidays
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 Liturgical Prayer in school 9am

### November 2023

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Feast of All Saints Whole School Mass in church at 9.15am
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Reception Welcome Assembly (Reception Parents are invited) at 9am in school
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 Liturgical Prayer
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 Class Mass in Church at 9.15am
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Author (David Waugh) visiting Year 6 in School
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 1 Liturgical Prayer in school at 9am
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 Liturgical Prayer in school at 9am
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Year 3 Class Mass in Church at 9.15am
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> –	Year 4 Residential Visit to Youth Ministry Trust
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Liturgical Prayer

### December 2023

Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 and Year 2 Class Mass in Church at 9.15am
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 and Year 6 at St Patrick's Church for the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Parents welcome.
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Advent Mass in Church at 9.15am
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 Football at St Anthony's (pm)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service in Church. Time to be confirmed

We look forward to seeing you across the next half term and we hope you enjoy the half term holiday.  
Best wishes

Mrs M.Graham  
Acting Executive Head Teacher

Mrs A.Toward  
Head of School

*St Joseph's 150th Anniversary of our Parish*

*1873 - 2023*

