



Week Commencing Friday 10th October 2025 – 3rd Edition

St Joseph's School Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends of St Joseph's,

As we continue to settle into the new school year, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the many wonderful things already happening across our school community — and to further introduce myself as your new Headteacher.

What does a 'typical' day look like?

I spend a lot of time in classrooms, informally visiting children and staff throughout the day. I also enjoy being outside for as many mornings and afternoons as possible to greet and say farewell to pupils and their families. I try to learn every name — it's important to me to get to know everyone in our school community. Please do continue to introduce yourself.

What is my leadership style?

I lead with my heart — as a dad, a son, and a friend. I believe in developing compassionate and meaningful systems that bring consistency to how we approach challenges. I genuinely feel privileged to do this job.

What is the best piece of leadership advice I've received?

To put the child at the center of every decision. Any decision made with the child or children at its heart is a good one.

What do I enjoy most about the job?

Working in education is incredibly rewarding. I love getting to know people. It can be tough at times, but when you see someone shine — whether it's a child, a staff member, or someone in our wider community — it's amazing. When someone believes in you, that's when people thrive.

What are the key challenges facing the education sector?

Finance affects every school. As Headteacher, I must make the best decisions with children at the center, while being realistic about the resources available.

What changes or improvements are planned for this academic year and beyond?

Right now, I'm doing a lot of listening. I'm proud of our school community — especially our children, who typically behave exceptionally well. I have two daughters, and they've taught me that sometimes, when you quietly work hard and behave well, you can be overlooked in a busy classroom. This year, we're introducing new rewards to celebrate pupils who consistently meet our high expectations — if they 'stay in green.'

At St Joseph's, the overwhelming majority of children beautifully behave every day, and they will be regularly recognised and rewarded. For the small number who occasionally fall short with their behaviour, we'll continue to offer support to help them meet our standards consistently.

We're also beginning to refine our writing curriculum. I believe writing is a powerful way for children to show what they understand, know, and can do.

My pledge to you is that we will strive for excellence in all that we do, inspired by Gospel values. I want all in our community to flourish.

What has been your proudest achievement, both personally and professionally?

I'm a family person, so my greatest achievement is my family. Alongside my wife Clare, I've had the privilege of raising two wonderful daughters. Rachel is training to be a sports journalist in Manchester, and Alison has just

started Sixth Form. Professionally, my proudest achievement is knowing that the schools I've had the privilege to lead continue to thrive.

Favourite artist/band?

The Stone Roses.

Favourite film?

Billy Elliot. I took my late Gran to see it — she lived near Easington Colliery. That film reminds me a lot of her, and she meant a great deal to me.

Celebrating Our School Community

A few weeks ago, our children enjoyed a beautiful celebration of My World, where they explored cultures, traditions, and stories from around the globe. It was a joyful reminder of the diversity and unity that make our school so special. Last Friday Y3 led us to a beautiful Celebration of the Word. I really enjoyed it as did many parents and grandparents.

In classrooms, the energy and enthusiasm for learning have been fantastic. Children are working hard, showing curiosity, and embracing new challenges with confidence. Our staff have been equally committed — refining our behaviour management procedures to ensure consistency and care and developing a shared approach to writing that builds cohesion across year groups. We want every teacher to know what's happening in other classes, helping us support each child's journey more effectively.

Music has returned with a flourish! Our wider offer includes violin and guitar lessons, and we're thrilled that our school choir has restarted. The sound of singing and instruments filling the corridors on a Friday is great

Toilet Training Session

On Friday 24th October, we are holding a toilet training session for any nursery parents who would like to come along. The session runs from 12.30pm – 1.30pm. All are welcome.

Anti-Bullying Week

The 10th- 14th November 2025 is anti-bullying week. Monday 10th November is odd socks day. Please could the children come into school wearing odd socks – this is to celebrate what makes us all unique!

Upcoming Parents' Evenings

We are pleased to invite you to our Parents' Evenings on Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th November, from 3:30pm to 5:15pm. This will be a valuable opportunity to meet your child's teacher, learn about their progress both in lessons and beyond the classroom, and view the quality of their work through their books.

While we kindly discourage bringing children along, we understand this may be necessary for some families. We are doing something different this year: we will provide childcare during your appointment if needed. The event will be informal and welcoming, with tea, coffee, and biscuits available for adults.

You'll be able to book your timeslot on Arbor soon. Meetings will be face-to-face, but in exceptional circumstances, we can facilitate a phone call instead.

As a Catholic school, we continue to place love, respect, and community at the heart of everything we do. I'm proud of the way our staff and pupils live out these values.

Lunch Money

Please be reminded that lunch money must be paid on a weekly basis – please keep up to date with this but please contact the office should you need to discuss

Changes to the Diary

Please note that the Year 5 celebration of the word has now changed to 7th November 2025 at 245pm.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to sharing more moments of joy, growth, and achievement with you in the weeks ahead.

Warm regards,

Mr. Nick Conway
Headteacher

Date	Time	Year Group	Event
13 th October	9.30am	Y6	Leave for Derwent Hill
17 th October	TBC	Y6	Return from Derwent Hill
24 th October	9.00am	Y6/ Rec	Y6/ Rec Celebration of the Word
Friday 24th October 3.30pm, BREAK UP FOR HOLIDAY			
3 rd November	9.00am	ALL	Return to school
7 th November	2.45 pm	Y3	Y5 Celebration of the word
10 th -14 th November		ALL	Antibullying Week
10 th November		All	Odd Socks Day
11 th and 12 th November	3.30-5.15pm	Y1-Y6	Teacher / Parental Consultations –
21 st November	2.45pm	Year 1	Celebration of the Word
26 th November	9.30am	Y2/Y5	Y2/Y5 Mass – Church
16 th December	9.30am 2.45pm	Nursery	Nursery Nativity – School Hall
17 th December	9.30am	R-Y2	Reception-Y2 Nativity – School Hall
18 th December	9.30am	Y3-Y6	KS2 Carol Service
	12.00pm	ALL	Christmas Dinner
19 th December	12 .00pm	ALL	Christmas Party Day
	1.15pm	ALL	End of Christmas term, break up
Tuesday, 6th January 2026, Return to school			
NOTE: TEACHER TRAINING DAY, Monday, 5th January			