

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary Monthly Update

Living, loving and learning together  
with our eyes focused on Jesus.



Address: Durham Rd, Ushaw Moor, DH7 7LF

Telephone: 0191 3730355

Email: [ushawmoorstjoseph@durhamlearning.net](mailto:ushawmoorstjoseph@durhamlearning.net)

Website: [www.olgmstj.durham.sch.uk](http://www.olgmstj.durham.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Keenan

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A massive welcome back to all our children, parents and carers, and the warmest of welcomes to our new starters in reception, year 1, year 2 and their families. The beginning of school is always exciting, and this year is no exception! We are anticipating a wonderful year and have already planned many activities and trips for your children to engage in.

I am enclosing a lot of information in this update. As always, if you are in any doubt about anything, please contact the school for help and support.

*St Joseph,  
patron saint of our school,  
father to Jesus,  
watch over us during this school year.  
Help us, as you helped Jesus,  
to be patient and kind  
with each other and ourselves,  
to give our very best in all that we do,  
and to be thankful for all that we have.  
Amen.*

Louise Keenan

#Article 2 (Non-discrimination)  
#Article 3 (Best interests of the child)

## Weekly and Monthly Communication

We have listened to what you have said and tried to plan well ahead and share this information with you. Please be aware, if there are circumstances beyond our control, we may need to move events.

The Monthly Update will continue this year and we will supplement it with a Weekly Calendar which will be emailed detailing what's happening in each class along with supplementary details. We hope these will help to aid communication and make this

easier for you as this was one area we feel, and you feel, we need to improve.

## School Trips

You also told us you wanted more notice of trips to help spread the costs. Below under the dates is a table of trips, when we are hoping to go and an indication of cost. With increased fuel and venue costs, prices are not available until closer to travel. We have estimated the cost of trips and will ensure if over payments are made monies are moved to the next trip, and so on. We will inform you of the cost of each trip once we have it finalised.

## Energy rising costs

As we all know, energy costs are currently soaring. Please ensure your child is warmly wrapped up to come to school, just as you did at the height of the pandemic (vests are excellent!) as we will be unable to put the heating on, as early as we used to, to 'take the chill off' as we have always done previously and it can, at times, be cool in school, particularly on a morning. To put your minds at ease the heating will be on in school but like yourselves we will be trying to reduce the time and temperature to meet these new costs. I am sure you understand the situation we are all in and that we need to work together on this matter.

## Swimming – Year 6

Swimming for year 6 will begin on 13<sup>th</sup> September and continue all term. Children will need a towel, swimming cap and costume or trunks.

### **School Uniform**

Full school uniform is required for September including black school shoes, not trainers, as per our school policy which will be adhered to. Orders for new uniform can be placed via [Tots ToTeams](#). Uniform does not need to include a school badge, this is discretionary, but uniform must be adhered to.

Please remember to label all your child's belongings before they come into school so that we can ensure found items are returned to their rightful owner.

### **PE kits**

As we informed you in our July update, this year we will be reverting to changing for PE rather than attending in PE Kit.



PE kit is to be sent into school in a bag at the start of term. This will be sent home at the end of each half term. PE kit needs to be: trainers, as we do go outside (not plimsoles), ROUND NECKED white T-shirt, navy shorts/joggers - NO LOGOS other than school badge. **(The wearing of badged uniform is at your discretion as we are aware that this can add extra costs.)**

### **Earrings and Jewellery**

**No jewellery is permitted in school** - this includes friendship bracelets and **earrings** - including spacers. It is not part of our school uniform. If you would like your child to have their ears pierced, please do this early in the six weeks holidays so that their ears will be healed by autumn term. As with school uniform this rule will be enforced in September.

### **School Dinners**

As we are now part of the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust their catering section will be taking over the provision of school meals from September. If you have not done so already, please have a look at the menu – [it's in with the Monthly Updates and Weekly Calendar on the website](#).

The meals will again follow a 3-week cycle but **will not** involve a pre-order system. Meals will be on display to the children and they will be able to choose from 3 'school dinners', 3 sandwich varieties and 3 jacket potato options daily. In total they will be 9 choices of meal to choose from each day. School Meal prices will increase to £2.40 per day - £12 per week.

Perhaps you'd like your child to give it a try for the few weeks? It would normally require just 1 week to switch between school meals and packed lunch. For the first few weeks, if you give it a try, no notice will be required. For those of you that currently do a mix of packed lunch and school dinners, I'm sorry but that will no longer be an option.

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club will start on Monday 12th September 8:00am. A Simply Sport Coach will be on site to take the children for PE activities before school and breakfast. The cost of breakfast club will be £2.50. It is imperative that these places be *booked and paid for in advance* through the school gateway. We cannot always guarantee places on an ad hoc basis as we are restricted to numbers. To avoid disappointment please ensure you book in advance.

### **After school club**

After School Club starts on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September with a coach from Simply Sport. The cost will be £2 per session and spaces are limited so please ensure you book online when the link arrives.

### **Wilderness Camp Residential in 2023 (Class 4)**

We have pre booked the Wilderness camp in the Durham Dales again for next year, The dates are 24<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The estimated cost is £220 per child. Secure a place by paying a deposit of £30 by Sept 30<sup>th</sup> payments may be made online from today. As in the past, a saving scheme will be set up in school to allow families to pay for the trip gradually. If you have any questions at all regarding this matter, please phone the school.

### National Breakfast Programme



We are part of the National Breakfast Programme and as such every child will continue to receive a bagel each morning after they have hung their coats up.

### Violin

Those children in KS2 who do violin - lessons will continue to take place on a Monday afternoon starting from 12<sup>th</sup> September.

### Recycle Week 19<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> September

The theme for Recycling week this year is 'Let's get real about recycling'. If you would like to learn more yourself please follow this link: [Recycle Week 2022: Let's get real about recycling | WRAP](#).



Recycling fits perfectly with Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Sii which inspires us to care for the our common home – the earth - and help do all we can to reduce the damage that we are doing to it. During the week our PSHE lessons will focus on these areas.

### Welcome Mass – 20<sup>th</sup> September

We will be holding a welcome mass at 9.15 to welcome all our children back to school and to welcome all our new starters into the family community of the school and parish. It is a fantastic way to start the school year by receiving God's blessings! Please come along and share in this wonderful celebration.

### Car Free Day – 22<sup>nd</sup> September

Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> is Car-Free day and we are all encouraged to give up our cars for a day. You could try walking to school rather than driving even walk just one way for one day! Come on we can do it! Think of the price of fuel, the health benefits but most importantly the environment.

### Open School Prospective Parents – 23<sup>rd</sup> September



We will be opening the school to prospective parents and children on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September from 1-3pm to have a 'pop around the school'. If you have a child who is starting school next September or know anyone else who may like to attend, please pass on this information. All are welcome.

### Jorvick Visit in York – Class 4 – 28<sup>th</sup> September

Class 4 will be visiting the Jorvick Viking Centre as part of their history topic. Children will be required to wear school jumpers, and will need: a packed Lunch, water Bottle and waterproof coat. It is probable the bus will leave early and return late. We will need helpers for this trip so if you are available please let Mrs Bowron at the office know.



### McMillan Coffee Afternoon - 30<sup>th</sup> September

It is that time of year again where we all come out in support of this wonderful charity and even better get to eat cake as well.

We would really appreciate donations of any kind of cakes – small, medium, large, home-made or shop bought to be brought to school on the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> please. Non-uniform can be worn and children will then have the opportunity to buy cakes after lunch, max £1. We would love if you could also attend from 3pm and share a drink of tea/coffee/juice and a cake with your child.

### Beamish Trip – Class 2 - 3<sup>rd</sup> October



Class 2 will be visiting Beamish Museum as part of their history topic. More details will be in the next update.

### Oriental Museum – Class 3 – 4<sup>th</sup> October

Class 3 will be visiting Durham's Oriental Museum as part of their history topic. More details will be in the next update.

### Reading Plus

Our KS2 children, (years 3-6) are now using the Reading Plus program to help become better readers. Reading Plus helps children develop the skills they need to be skilled readers and lifelong learners. The children seem to love it so please encourage them to read at home. Through regular Reading Plus practise, reading will become easier, and comprehension will increase. The children can engage with Reading Plus outside of school on a computer or any tablet with internet access. [Log in by clicking here](#). Our school code is: **rpstjos34**

### Parent Governor

We are looking for a parent to represent our school on the local governing committee. If you think this may be you, please contact the school office by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

### Year of the Eucharist

The Diocese has declared this year to be the Year of the Eucharist. The aim of the year is to deepen the children's love and understanding of Jesus in the Mass and in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Each month we will celebrate a different theme and focus on a different part of the mass. In September, our focus is on receiving the Body of Christ.



### St Joseph's Savings Club

To encourage children and adults to save, we have a link for a Savings Club through NE First Credit Union. Every child who joins the Savings Club will receive their own pass book. Please see Mrs Bowron (school office) for an application form. The Credit union also provides help and financial advice for all. If you would like more information visit their website <https://www.nefirstcu.co.uk/>

The saving club will start again on the 16<sup>th</sup> September so books need to be in on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>.

### St Joseph's PTA

St Joseph's PTA (Parent Teacher Association) are looking for new volunteers. All parents are automatically members and you can be involved in any way.

The PTA will be arranging a date to have a meeting in school. The aim is for you to find out more about what they do and how you could help.



If you would like any further information or can help in any way please speak to Natasha Miller, Melanie Lee or Vicky Bell. If you would like to email the group please use this address [stjpta.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:stjpta.secretary@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Dates

I have added some key dates for the rest of

the term in the hope that they give you some advanced warning. Please be aware that they may be subject to change and of course, more dates will be added as the diary fills.



Eva	Iona	Zachary
Lucy M	Alliyah	

### **This Month our Virtue to Live By is: Respect**

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.” Matthew 7:12

You treat others people as you would like to be treated. You treat people with courtesy and kindness not because of who they are or what they have done, but because, like you, they have a God-given dignity. You respect yourself so that you have the confidence to be yourself and not give in to things you know are wrong or not to give in to those who want you to do things you don't want to do. You show respect for creation through your care for nature.

**In our Liturgical prayer and house groups we will be talking and learning about:**

**I respect myself and know I deserve respect from others**

**I treat everyone how I would like to be treated**

**I use good manners**

**I respect and follow school and classroom rules**

**I speak politely to everyone**

**I listen to others**

**I praise others for their good conduct**

**I respect and look after my own and other people's belongings**

**How by living simply helps us to put more trust in God.**



**Dates for this month - STJ****(May be subject to change)**

September	
6 <sup>th</sup>	All Children except Reception return to school
7 <sup>th</sup>	Reception children begin their 1 <sup>st</sup> day of school 9.30 am through main door 3pm leave through main door
8 <sup>th</sup>	Reception enter through main door at 9:30am Collect from main gate at 3:30pm
9 <sup>th</sup>	All children enter through main gate by 8:55am & exit through main gate 3:30pm
16 <sup>th</sup>	International Day of Democracy
20 <sup>th</sup>	Welcome Mass – All welcome to attend 9.15am
20-26 <sup>th</sup>	Recycle week
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Car Free Day – Try to walk to school today if you can
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Open School Prospective Parents 1-3pm
28 <sup>th</sup>	Class 4 trip to Jorvik in York
30 <sup>th</sup>	McMillan Coffee Morning - non uniform, juice, and biscuits
October	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Class 2 trip to Beamish
4 <sup>th</sup>	Class 3 trip to Oriental Museum
6 <sup>th</sup>	Phonics for Parents - 2.15pm
7 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Uniform day for any bottle
10 <sup>th</sup>	Start of collection for Harvest Festival
12 <sup>th</sup>	Walk to school Day
18 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival Mass
19 <sup>th</sup>	Parents afternoon / evening and reports distributed
21 <sup>st</sup>	School breaks up for half term and return on 31 <sup>st</sup> October
31 <sup>st</sup>	Return to school
November	
1 <sup>st</sup>	All Saints Day
4 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Uniform for a selection box
8 <sup>th</sup>	SATs survival for parents 2.15pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	Road Safety Day
9 <sup>th</sup>	Relationships & Sex Education Consultation for Parents 9.15-10.30am
11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day
14 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Friendship/Anti-bullying week
21 <sup>st</sup>	Christ the King – Be a goodie wear a hoodie and donation to YMT
22 <sup>nd</sup>	World Toilet Day
25 <sup>th</sup>	Whole school Panto trip
28 <sup>th</sup>	Reverse Advent calendar begins
December	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Christmas Tree lighting up
6 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Christmas Performance 6pm
7 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Christmas Performance 10am
14 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunches and Christmas Jumpers day (TBC)
16 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Fayre (TBC)
19 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Concert am (TBC)
21 <sup>st</sup>	Christmas celebration/Parties/.Santa Saunter
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Break up for Christmas Holidays
January	
11 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school

Year B Cultural Diversity	School trips			
		Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
	Class 1		Durham Castle 15 <sup>th</sup> March £14 Ballet (Gala) 30 <sup>th</sup> April £12	
	Class 2	Beamish Museum 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct £16	Ballet (Gala) 30 <sup>th</sup> April £12	
	Class 3	Oriental Museum 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct £14		Durham Cathedral 26 <sup>th</sup> June £14
	Class 4	Jorvik Centre – York 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept £22		OAA Residential 24 <sup>th</sup> May £220
	<b>Whole School</b>	<b>Pantomime</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov £14		<b>Beach</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> June £14