

St Joseph's Catholic Primary Monthly Update

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



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(2022-2023)



I cannot believe it is halfway through the term and that we are already in February! In Welsh, February is sometimes known as "y mis bach" which means "little month." This is such a perfect description of February, isn't it?

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

Children's Mental Health Week - (6th-12th February)

Children's Mental Health Week begins on 7th February. The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is Let's Connect. This year's goal is about encouraging people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways. We will be learning and talking about how we can connect healthily and safely with others this week. If you would like more information please follow this link to their website [Children's Mental Health Week \(childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk\)](http://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)



Federation Polar Day – 7th February

The children from Year 2 at both, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs and St Joseph's will join together at St Joseph's to meet a member of a polar expedition team. They will learn how to survive in extreme conditions. They will have the opportunity to ask questions about this expedition and to try some of the equipment and food they took with them. We would like children to attend with warm clothing (tracksuit bottoms) and suitable footwear as part of the day will be outside and they will need to access the grass which may be muddy. However, your child will still be required to wear a school jumper/cardigan.

Safer Internet Day – 8th February

As usual, we will be learning about Online Safety on Wednesday 8th February. The theme is 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'. This year's focus is on asking parents, carers, teachers, government, policymakers, and the wider online safety industry to take time to listen to children and young people and make positive change together. Online Safety is part of our ongoing curriculum teaching and we do not focus on it just on this day. Far from it!



February Half Term

Please be reminded that we break up for February half term on Friday 17th February and return to school on Monday 27th February.

Shrove Tuesday - 21st February

Shrove Tuesday or Pancake day seems to be early this year and is celebrated during half term. I hope you enjoy all your pancakes before the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.



Lent & Ash Wednesday – 22nd February

Ash Wednesday starts the Holy season of Lent. During Lent, we try to follow three things: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. During Lent

we will once again start collecting food for the foodbanks (the children call this Tinny Tuesday), we will also collect 1p, 2p and 5p pieces for the 5p cross. This money will go to the charity Feeding Families which is based in the North-East. I am attaching a link to the charity for your information. [About Us - Feeding Families](#)

Northern Ballet Workshop – Year 1 & 2 – 27th February

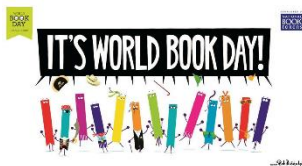
A Northern Ballet dancer will visit our school to work with the children in year 1 and 2. They will enjoy a specialist ballet class linked to The Ugly Ducking which will be performed at the Gala Theatre on 4th & 5th April. Unfortunately, this falls during our Easter break and we will not be able to attend as a school. This workshop is the first part of the children working towards a Discover Art Award.

Little Rescuers First Aid - Year 1 & 5 – 28th February

Our Year 5 and Year 1 children will begin a five-week first aid course after half term. Little Rescuers teaches children the life-saving skills of first aid, taught in a fun and engaging way, through games, music and teamwork. It is fantastic and a life skill we should all know.



World Book Day – 2nd March



Costumes at the ready! Come dressed as any character from a story. World book day's mission is to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own. Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. We want to see more children with a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them. The World Book Day organisation will be providing gift vouchers to ensure that all children can have a book of their own.

Year Five and Six Residential Trip

A two-night stay has been arranged with [Wilderness Safari Camp in the Durham Dales](#) during the week of 22nd May. It offers a wide range of adventurous activities, and your children are sure to create memories they will treasure for years to come. All activities are run by a team of highly qualified and experienced outdoor practitioners. If your child is interested in going, please can you register their interest at the office as cost is dependent on numbers. Deposits of £50 are required for a place by **Thursday 16th February**. 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.

Morning Registration

All children need to be in class by 8.55am for registration and house groups. Our gates open at 8:45am to allow everyone time to get into school safely in a timely manner. During this time children are provided with free bagels and have the opportunity of a soft landing into school ready to begin academic work promptly at 9am. During the time between 8.45-9am, individual pupils are also taken out to read. This is a pivotal time in school so please ensure your child is in on time in order they start their day in a positive manner.

Attendance

Good attendance is key to your child being able to fulfil their potential and make good progress in school. One of the most important ways a parent can support the education of their child and ensure the child's social, emotional and academic development is to ensure they attend every day *and on time*. As you know, this can only be achieved if your child is attending school and has a good level of attendance. 96% attendance is regarded as the minimum acceptable level of attendance. As stated in the last newsletter, we have begun to contact parents whose child/children have weak attendance as we need to understand why your child's attendance is below the national expectation and how this can be improved. As in previous years, no holidays will be authorised and any unauthorised attendance will be referred to

the Local Authority who may issue a fine to each parent who has parental responsibility for the child. We appreciate that there are genuine reasons for absence and we have had conversations with parents in regards to this but we must also address any attendance that falls below expectations in line with DfE and Durham County Council guidelines.

Contact Details

If any of your details have changed recently can we please ask that you contact the school office. This could be a change of address, or a change of phone number or perhaps a change in emergency contact details. We will then update our school records accordingly. We need a minimum of two contacts, for safeguarding purposes, to ensure we can make contact in an emergency. If you wish to change the names of people on the pick-up list, please contact the school office.

St Joseph's Savings Club

To encourage children and adults to save, we have a link for a saving 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/>

Term Dates 2023-24

These are below. **Please note that they differ to Durham County dates as ours are set by the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle.**

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.

Parking

Please remember:

- it is NEVER ok to park on the markings outside school.
- EVERYONE needs to be somewhere and EVERYONE needs to be treated with respect

- Park SAFELY for our children and CONSIDERATELY for our neighbours

This Month our Virtue to Live By is:

Simplicity

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

Definition of Simplicity: By living simply you will come to know what really matters in your life and be less afraid of not having more and more things. When you live simply you don't look out for the next thing to buy or follow. Little by little you realise that you don't need that many things to live a happy life. Living simply gives you time to think of others, do good and care for creation. Living simply helps you put more trust in God.

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

What really matters in life.

How we can give our time to think of others.

How we can do good and care for creation.

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




Michael, Lilly, Esme, Jayden, Joshua,
Travis, Stella

Leighton-River, Lillie, Serena, Caitlin

Dates for this month - STJ

(May be subject to change)

February	
7 th	Polar Federation Day – Class 2
6 th -12 th	Children’s Mental Health Week
8 th	Safer Internet Day
17 th	Children break up for February half-term
21 st	<i>Shrove Tuesday</i>
22 nd	<i>Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent</i>
27 th	Children return for school
27 th	Northern Ballet Workshop – Year 1 & 2
28 th	First Aid sessions begin for Y1 & Y5
March	
2 nd	World Book day – come dressed as your favourite character
7 th	First Aid sessions for Y1 & Y5
14 th	First Aid sessions for Y1 & Y5
21 st	First Aid sessions for Y1 & Y5
27 th	Reception vision screening
28 th	First Aid sessions for Y1 & Y5
31 st	Break up for Easter holiday
April	
17 th	Children return to school
May	
3 rd	Quidditch – KS2
9 th - 12 th	KS2 SATS
15 th – 19 th	KS1 SATS
22 nd – 24 th	Wilderness Camp for Y5 & Y6
26 th	Break up for May half term
June	
5 th	Children return to school
July	
21 st	Break up for Summer holidays

	Open for teaching	Last day of teaching	Half Term	Open for teaching	Last day of teaching
Autumn Term	Wednesday 6 September 2023	Friday 20 October	23– 27 October	Monday 30 October School Closed Monday 27 November	Friday 22 December
Spring Term	Tuesday 9 January 2024	Friday 9 February	12 – 16 February	Monday 19 February	Thursday 28 March
Summer Term	Monday 15 April 2024 School Closed Monday 6 May	Friday 24 May	27 May – 31 May	Monday 3 June School Closed Monday 17 June	Tuesday 23 July 2024