

St Joseph's Catholic Primary Monthly Update

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



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[@STJ_UshawMoor](https://twitter.com/STJ_UshawMoor)

The last month has flown over, although it has been short, we've still packed so much into it! It has been wonderful to see our Reception and new children settle into their new school. Thank you to all those who attended our Welcome Mass. It was wonderful to see our new children and families so warmly welcomed into the school community.

Witnessing the Tour of Britain that whizzed past our school on the first day of the school year was amazing for all of us. The children loved the build-up, the singing, the Mexican waving and the race itself. What a way to start the year!

Our school open day was a great success and our newly elected house captains were excellent ambassadors for our school. They provided a guided tour of our school and answered all questions that were put to them with confidence and honesty.



During recycle week we were lucky enough to have had a fantastic assembly presented to us by the recycling team from Durham County Council. We learnt about the importance of recycling and how to use the different recycling bins. As an eco-school we rightly place a high emphasis on the way we treat the world and what we can do to make a difference as part of our everyday lives.



Finally, after the sad news of the Queen's death and funeral we have spent a little time praying and reflecting on her long life filled with service. We hope she rests in peace.

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

House captains

Congratulations to our newly elected house captains and vice captains who were voted into position by their peers on the Day of Democracy.



Mason & William for Raphael House
Lillie & Evan for Michael House
Henry & Jayden for Hosts House
John & Jessica for Gabriel House

Beamish Trip – Class 2 - 3rd October



Class 2 visited Beamish Museum on 3rd October as part of their history topic. They visited the houses and had time to explore. Unfortunately,

they were unable to go down the mine as there was a technical problem. Even so, they had a fantastic time!

Phonics for Parents – 6th October at 2.15pm

We consider reading to be one of the most important skills that our children learn; it is the key that affects all areas of your child's learning and development. Reading starts with phonics. If your child is in Class 1 or 2 come along to Phonics for Parents to gain a deeper understanding of Phonics and how to help your child learn to read. This will take place on Thursday 6th October at 2.15pm at St Joseph's and 9.15 am at OLQM. Please feel free to attend any time. Grandparents are welcome too!

Non-Uniform for a bottle – 7th October

We will be having a non-uniform day on Friday 7th October in preparation for the Christmas Fayre in December. We would appreciate a donation of bottles for the bottle stall. This could be a bottle of alcohol, pop, shampoo etc just as long as it is full and unopened. Thank you in advance for your kindness!

Harvest Festival 17th - 21st Oct

Harvest Festival celebrates the time of year when crops have been gathered from the field and people can reflect on the food that they have. It dates back to ancient Britain when people relied on crops for food and farmers would give thanks for a good harvest.



At school we learn about harvest time, and collect food for those in need in our local community. Whilst we are aware that these are difficult times for everyone if you can help at all in

donating any items during the week we would be extremely grateful. It will all be passed onto our local food bank. Whilst we are grateful for any donations received, this year particularly useful items are:

- Tinned meat (stewing steak, mince, corned beef, hot dogs etc.)
- Instant coffee, dilute orange, instant hot chocolate
- Sugar, spray cooking oil, sage & onion stuffing
- Individual packets of cereal
- Lentil or leek & potato tinned soup
- Tinned rice, custard or large tins of evaporated milk
- Deodorants, shower gel, shampoo, shaving cream
- Large freezer bags, washing powder/tablets

Many thanks in advance for your donations.

Harvest Festival Mass – 18th October 9.30

We will have Mass in Church on Tuesday 18th October to thank God for his harvests and all our blessings. Please come along and support the church and school community.

Parents Afternoon – 19th October 1.10pm-5.30pm

We are offering Parents' Afternoon this term where you will have a chance to speak with your child's teacher. The meetings will be taking place from 1:10pm. You will receive a text soon, once bookings open.



October Half-Term



We will break up for half-term on Friday 21st October and return to school on Monday 31st October

St Bernadette's Relic Tour

In September and October this year,  the relics of St

Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to England, Scotland, and Wales for the very first time. This very special once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes. The relics will be at St Mary's Cathedral on the 1st and 2nd October. If you would like to visit or know any more information, I am attaching a link below. [St Bernadette Relic Tour 2022](#)

Jorvick Visit in York – Class 4 – 4th

November

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.



Primary & Secondary School Places 2023 – 2024

Please note that the deadline for primary school places for the academic year 2023 - 2024 is 15th January 2023. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Applications for secondary school places open on Monday 5 September 2022 and the

closing date for applications is Monday 31 October 2022. To book either a primary or secondary school place follow the link [School places and admissions - Durham County Council](#)

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 24th to the 26th May 2023. The estimated cost is £220 per child. Secure a place by paying a deposit of £30 by Sept 30th payments may be made online from today. As in the past, you may pay in instalments through the School Gateway. If you have any questions at all regarding this matter, please phone the school.

Reading

We listen to your children read in school and have also invested in Reading Plus for our older children, but we are asking for your support in ensuring your child reads for 10 minutes a day at home, to maximise their reading progress. Reading each day really makes a difference on developing your child's vocabulary, their fluency as well as helping them with ideas in their writing tasks. For our pupils in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2, it is vital that your child brings their reading book and reading record to school every day as staff will read frequently on a 1:1 basis with your child and record in their reading record any words or sounds they are struggling with so you can help them at home. We ask parents to sign and date when you hear your child read at home and make a positive comment.

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**

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 October, our focus is on Mission – We are sent out.



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/>

Journey in Faith

Just as some of our children will be taking their next journey in faith by getting their First Holy Communion if any parents wanted to think about their own faith journey, and the presence of God in their lives, or wanted to discover more about what Catholics believe, then Father David is hoping to start an informal 'Journey in Faith' session shortly. Please contact him if you would like any further information.

Relationships & Sex Education

Last term a lively discussion was held with parents around some aspects of the RSE curriculum that is taught in school. Come along to find out what the teaching of Relationships and Sex actually means for your child and help us make some key decisions – 9th November 9:15am.

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.

October Birthdays



Stephen

Emmie

Aleena

Shaye

Declan

Lukas



Children's Corner

In class 1, Ava told me that she is liking "having new friends and new lessons and she is happy." Ava in Class 1

Declan in Year 3 was "pleased to be back with Mrs Curtis and to be doing history and art." (I think he must be easily pleased!)

In year 2, Lucy stated that she was "enjoying playing and doing PE".

Allyssa liked "learning new things in art and seeing all her friends again."

I will be out and about all next month and I will let you know all about our school.

Roving Reporter
Iona

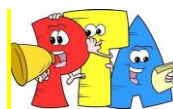
This Month our Virtue to Live By is: Thankfulness

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." (Psalm 106:1)

You show you are grateful for all that you have. You are grateful for all the people you know and all the things that happen around you each day. You grow in wonder about the world and see the world and your life as a gift from God. You accept the gifts you have and use your gifts to benefit others. Being thankful helps you to be generous to others.

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

I can say thank you to God
I take time to appreciate the awe and wonder in God's creation
I show God I am thankful to Him by cherishing the gifts of His creation
I am thankful for all the gifts in me and around me
I count my blessings every day and remember to praise God for them
I know that all I have is a gift from God



NEWS

Halloween Disco



A Halloween disco for the children is to take place at the Catholic Club on 20th October. It will be from 6-8pm and the tickets will be £3. Ticket price included DJ entertainment, a Hot Dog, sweets, and refreshments.



New Tuc Shop

Every Thursday afternoon a Tuc shop will be set up on the school yard as a way to raise some much-needed money. The mix's ups will be priced 20p or 50p. Please help to support the school if you can.

Dates for this month - STJ

(May be subject to change)

October

3 rd	Class 2 trip to Beamish
6 th	Phonics for Parents - 2.15pm <i>or at OLQM at 9:15am</i>
7 th	Non-Uniform day for any bottle
10 th	Start of collection for Harvest Festival
12 th	Walk to school Day
13 th	Playground Leaders Y5
18 th	Harvest Mass All Welcome to St Joseph's Church 9:30am
19 th	Parents Afternoon – Watch for a text arriving to say bookings have opened
24 th	Break up for half term
31 st	Return to school for Autumn 2

November

1 st	All Saints Day
3 rd	Non-Uniform for a selection box
4 th	York Trip Class 4
8 th	SATs survival for parents 2.15pm
8 th	Road Safety Day
9 th	Relationships & Sex Education Consultation for Parents 9.15-10.30am <i>Please attend – if you came to the last session, please spread the word!</i> <i>Repeated at OLQM 16th Nov 9:15am</i>
11 th	Remembrance Day
14 th -18 th	Friendship/Anti-bullying week
21 st	Christ the King – Be a goodie wear a hoodie and donation to YMT
22 nd	World Toilet Day
22 nd	Flu Immunisations – <i>Have you completed your child's online NHS consent?</i>
25 th	Whole school Panto trip
28 th	Reverse Advent calendar begins
29 th	Class 3 trip to Oriental Museum

December

2 nd	Christmas Tree lighting up at The Flass Corner
6 th	Whole School Christmas Performance 6pm
7 th	Whole School Christmas Performance 10am
12 th	Christmas Fun Run
14 th	Christmas Lunches and Christmas Jumpers day (TBC)
16 th	Christmas Fayre (TBC)
19 th	Carol Concert am (TBC)
21 st	Christmas celebration/Parties/.Santa Saunter
22 nd	Break up for Christmas Holidays

January

11 th	Children return to school
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