



St Joseph's Blackhall January 2024

A huge welcome back to you all, we hope that you enjoyed a very happy Christmas break together with your families and are looking forward to all the exciting opportunities that lie ahead in 2024.

"We show respect, friendship, excellence and care in all we do and say."



Miss Harper



We are delighted to welcome to our school family Miss Harper, who is our new teaching assistant. She is looking forward to working with us and getting to know everyone in the St. Joseph's community.

Bishop's Visit to St. Joseph's



We are delighted to share that on Thursday 25th January, Bishop Stephen will be coming to St. Joseph's school. With this special event taking place, we have asked Bishop Stephen if he would celebrate Mass and he has agreed that he would be happy to do this, **Mass will be 9:15am in church**. Bishop Stephen is looking forward to meeting the children, staff, parents and Parish and we are excited to show him all of the wonderful things that St. Joseph's have to offer.

Learn with your Child- Maths Mornings

Parents are invited to come into school, where will be running a maths morning for parents, that will explore how we teach mathematics in school. The sessions will share ideas on ways to best support your child's learning at home. We will share information, resources we use to support understanding, information on the importance of oracy ('maths talk') and mathematical language, whilst giving an insight into how maths is taught across school. Please drop your children at normal school time and the sessions (about 30 mins) will be held in the school hall from 9 10 am. Parents will enter via the main entrance.

- Tuesday 30th January Year 1 and 2 (Class 2)
- Wednesday 31st January Year 5 and 6 (Class 4)
- Thursday 1st February Year 3 and 4 (Class 3)

We look forward to seeing you there!



Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week takes place this year from 5th -11th February, the theme is "My voice matters!". In school, children will be working on a variety of activities to really understand what it means to 'look after our mental health and wellbeing'.

The aim of Children's Mental Health Week is that all children and young people, whoever they are, and wherever they are in the world, are able to say – and believe - “My Voice Matters”.



Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day takes place in February of each year to raise awareness of a safer and better internet for all, and especially for children and young people.

As part of this annual celebration, we encourage everyone - including children and young people, parents and caregivers, teachers and educators, policymakers, industry and others - to join "Together for a better internet". Save the date for **Safer Internet Day 2024** which will take place on **Tuesday, 6 February 2024**.



Wellbeing Coffee Afternoon

We will be having a Wellbeing Coffee afternoon on **Tuesday 6th February in the school hall at 2:15pm**. All are welcome to join us- more information will follow.



Shrek the Musical

We are delighted to share that our visit to see Shrek the Musical, at Sunderland Empire Theatre, is fast approaching on 7th February. We will be taking all of our children from Reception -Year 6 to see the show. The show will start at 2.30pm and children will be provided with a snack and a drink whilst we are there.

Please note, due to the timing of the show we will not be returning to school until **approximately 5.30pm** we will keep you updated on the day by text message.

We know that many people have paid a little of the cost of the trip each month, since we shared that we were taking the children to the show. If you have not already paid the cost of the visit in full, we ask that you please bring your account up to date by the end of January. **If you have any problems with this please contact Mrs Ashton in confidence.**

We know that the children will have an amazing time and it will be a show to remember!



Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening appointments will take place on **Tuesday 5th March and Monday 11th March**. A link will be sent out to parents for you to choose your preference of date and time. Please note that whilst we will try as much as possible to accommodate your preferences, this may not be possible in all cases.



Ash Wednesday and Lent

Ash Wednesday this year will be on 14th February, which falls during our half term holiday, and sees the beginning of the Season of Lent.

Lent is an important time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's Death and Resurrection at Easter. Lasting for forty days, from Ash Wednesday to the evening of Holy Thursday, the season draws us towards the light of Christ. During this special time in the Church's liturgical year, we will journey towards Easter with an open heart and with a focus preparing ourselves to be the best that we can be.



PE in school

PE Kit

Could parents please ensure children come to school in their correct PE kit on PE days

- Black PE shorts or plain, dark leggings/joggers
- Plain white T shirt
- Trainers
- School sweatshirt

If parents need help with PE kits, please contact the office or Mrs Ashton and we would be very happy to help.

PE Days

- Class 1 have PE on Tuesday and Wednesday
- Class 2 have PE on Monday and Friday (Scout Ed)
- Class 3 have PE on Tuesday and Friday (Scout Ed)
- Class 4 have PE on Monday and Tuesday

Jewellery Reminder

We have noticed an increase in children coming into school wearing earrings and jewellery. Please can we remind you, that for health and safety reasons, pupils must not wear jewellery for school. If pupils wish they can wear a wrist watch for school, however this must not be a watch that has access to messaging, camera etc.

Thank you for your support.

Upcoming Dates

Maths Mornings: 9 am

- Tuesday 30th January Year 1 and 2 (Class 2)
- Wednesday 31st January Year 5 and 6 (Class 4)
- Thursday 1st February Year 3 and 4 (Class 3)

Bishop Stephen's Visit:	Thursday 25th January, Mass at 9:15am in Church
Wellbeing Coffee Afternoon:	Tuesday 6th February 2:15pm
Class 2 Assembly:	Friday 2nd February 9:15am
Class 1 Celebration of the Word (previously Liturgical Prayer):	Friday 9th February 9:15am
Break up for 1/2 term:	Friday 9th February at usual home time
Return to school:	Monday 19th February
Year 3 Assembly:	Thursday 29th February 9.10am
Ash Wednesday:	Wednesday 14th February
Parents' Evening:	Tuesday 5th March and Monday 11th March
Class 1 Mass:	Thursday 7th March 9:15 am
Class 4 Celebration of the Word (previously Liturgical Prayer):	Tuesday 19th March 9:15 am
Class 3 Mass:	Thursday 28th March 9:15 am
Break up for Easter:	Holy Thursday 28th March at lunchtime

Contact Us

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. As always, we seek to make communication between home and school as effective as possible. If you have any queries, or would like to contact school, please see the information below.

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Executive Headteacher -Mrs Ashton

Visit us on the web at <https://www.st-josephsrc-pri.durham.sch.uk/>