



# St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

*The family of St. Joseph's loves, learns and grows together as followers of Jesus*

## Monthly Newsletter – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

September was a busy month at St Joseph's. We welcomed lots of prospective parents and year 4 children to our open evening and it was lovely to see so many people there. Our year 8 children came to act as tour guides, with helpers from all year groups and they were fantastic. I have also been showing many prospective parents around during the school day so that they can see the school in action. All the parents who have been around have been impressed with the calm, purposeful atmosphere of our lessons and the politeness of our pupils. If anyone else would like to have a tour, please contact the school office on [info@sjms.bwcet.com](mailto:info@sjms.bwcet.com) and it will be my pleasure to show you around.

We also had a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. It was very well attended and was a lovely morning. Thank you to all those that attended and all those that supported the event by baking cakes. We made an amazing total of over £300.

Thank you also to all the parents and other relatives who attended our year 5 welcome mass. It was a lovely occasion.

Finally, it has been excellent to see that the children have settled back into school life very well. Their behaviour has been outstanding and their attitude to learning has been fantastic.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr. N. A. Wood

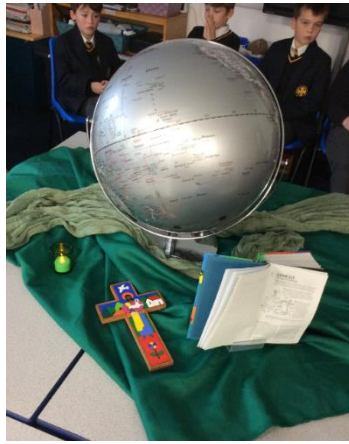
### **Please see the following Catholic Life News:**

Next week, schools across the Bishop Wilkinson Trust will be celebrating Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Si' - Care of our common home'. This will be the focus of our prayer in school and on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October, two of our pupils, along with Mrs Riches, will attend Bishop Wilkinson Headquarters to celebrate Mass with other schools from our Trust.

As October is the month of the Rosary, pupils have been praying this traditional Catholic prayer in their pastoral time over the last couple of weeks. This meditative prayer has given pupils the opportunity to reflect on the ministry and life of Jesus.

Here are some of our Year 5 pupils who planned and lead Celebration of the Word at the end of their first RE topic 'Ourselves'. The pupils lead a creative and thoughtful time of prayer that was based on the Creation story in Genesis.

Our first Class Mass this year will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November with 5O. This will be celebrated in our school chapel at 11:15am. Parents and carers of the pupils in 5O are invited to join us in school for this celebration.



### **Arbor and Arbor Pay:**

As you know, we now use Arbor as our primary method of communication between home and school. If you have not yet accessed Arbor, can you please do so as soon as possible to enable you to receive all communications. At the moment, these will primarily be by email from St Joseph's Catholic Middle School.

However, we are now using Arbor Pay for all payments including lunches and trips etc and you will need to sign into the Arbor App to access the payment portal.

### **NB: Ski Trip 2024 payments should still be made via ParentPay**

If you have any questions or are having trouble accessing Arbor, please email [parentcontact@sjms.bwcet.com](mailto:parentcontact@sjms.bwcet.com) or ring the school office on 01434 605124.

### **Breakfast Club:**

We now have a booking system in place for Breakfast Club. Bookings can be made via the Arbor App.

If you cannot access the Breakfast Club booking system, please email [parentcontact@sjms.bwcet.com](mailto:parentcontact@sjms.bwcet.com)

**Please note: Pupils should not arrive at Breakfast Club until 7.45 as there is no supervision until that time.**

### **Application for Middle and High School:**

It is now time for children in year 4 (First to Middle), year 6 (Primary to Secondary) and year 9 Middle to High) schools to apply for the next phase of school starting in September 2024.

If you have a child who is due to transfer to either middle or high school, please see the link below  
The Portal will open 12<sup>th</sup> September 23 and close at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> October 23.

[https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/en](https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en)

### **Music Evening:**

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, we are holding our Music Evening. Please see the attached poster for all information.

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning:**

Once again, our Macmillan Coffee Morning was a resounding success with the final total raised £331.60. Thank you so much for all your support in whichever way you gave it. We really could not do this without your help.

**MUSIC NIGHT**  
@ ST. JOSEPH'S MIDDLE SCHOOL

**COME ALONG.**  
Find out about our peripatetic music lessons here at St. Joseph's Middle School, meet the staff, get signed up for lessons, and even try an instrument!

**18:30 - 19:30 IN THE MAIN HALL**  
**17TH OCTOBER 2023**

If you are unable to make it, or have any queries, please email:  
[info@sjms.bwcet.com](mailto:info@sjms.bwcet.com)

### **Poppy Appeal:**

From Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October, our pupil leadership team will be selling poppies and poppy merchandise at break time. Prices range from 20p for paper poppies to £1.00 for slap bands and wrist bands. We hope you will help us to support this year's appeal.



### **Sports Clubs:**

Please click on the [link](#) to see which clubs are available. **If your child would like to take part in an after school club, you must complete this form.**

We made the most of the dry weather with KS3 practicing their rugby tackles and Y7 their shooting skills.



Another busy table tennis club attended by pupils from all year groups.





## P.T.A. News

**Disco Dates:** 20/10/2023  
15/12/2023  
09/02/2024  
12/07/2024

If you are available to help on the night, please contact the school office and leave a message for Mrs Stoves

**Christmas Fair:** 08/12/2023  
**Summer Fair:** 14/06/2024

## Upcoming Events at a Glance:

Date	Activity
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	7O + ½ of 7CO to Warkworth Castle
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Disco
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	7C + ½ of 7CO to Warkworth Castle
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Teacher Training Day
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Half Term
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	School Reopens
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Y6 Parents' Evening – details to follow

## UNDER-AGE VAPING

Did you know children now start vaping from as young as ten? There has been a lot in the press lately about the dangers surrounding vapes in young people and the potential health conditions they could face in the future. These vapes are purchased illegally and often filled with THC (Cannabis Liquid). Children using vapes are becoming addicted to nicotine and this can influence their behaviour.

Vapes are easy to hide from parents as they do not leave an odour on your clothes... They can be easily hidden, can be vaped in the bedrooms and practically anywhere, being so difficult to detect. For additional information please see below:



- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-62052286> <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/>
- <https://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/post/vaping-what-uk-parents-need-to-know>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/you-your-body/drugs-alcohol-smoking/smoking/>

## **STAYING SAFE ONLINE - HOW OLD IS YOUR CHILD ONLINE?**

Has your child (or you on their behalf) signed up to access social media/or a game online but have said that they are older than they are so they can have an account? For example, did your 9-year-old join TikTok and put their age as 13, or did you create their account and put your own age? If so, please read some of the implications outlined below that you should think about.

If TikTok thinks your child is 13 when they join but they are in fact 8, then by the time your child reaches 13, the app will think they are 18. This puts your child at risk of viewing content that is not age appropriate and may mean your child will view adverts aimed at adults. In addition, now the app thinks your child is an adult, they will have access to all functionalities (whereas some apps place restrictions on access to under 18s for example to direct messaging).

The following article from OfCOM explains in further detail how to keep your child safe online:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/news-centre/2022/risks-of-children-using-false-ages-on-social-media>

The ParentZone website provides more details on age rating for various app and websites:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings>

## **STAYING SAFE ONLINE – RESPONDING TO ONLINE CHALLENGES:**

Nationally, there are more and more reports of online challenges popping up on social media platforms. While not all pose potential risk, it is important as a parent/carer and guardian to know how to handle an online challenge you may be concerned about.

**What are Online Challenges?** Online challenges are social media trends where people take part in or mimic games, activities or dares. They typically originate on social media platforms like TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram before spreading to other platforms. Some challenges or online trends are reported by the press first. They tend to use the term 'viral', which can give the impression that the challenge or trend is more popular than it actually is.

**Advice for parents.** Talking to your child about online challenges can seem daunting, especially if they don't come to you on their own. Having an honest conversation with your child about their online habits is the best way to clear up confusions.

See link below for more detail.

[https://ineqe.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/OnlineChallengesAdvice\\_INEQE\\_2022-1.pdf](https://ineqe.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/OnlineChallengesAdvice_INEQE_2022-1.pdf)

### **Our Prayer**

This prayer by Pope Francis appeared at the end of his 2015 encyclical Laudato Si'. It is for all who believe in God who is the all-powerful Creator.

**All powerful God,  
you are present in the universe  
and in the smallest of your creatures.  
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.  
Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.  
Fill us with your peace, that we may live  
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.  
O God of the poor,  
help us to rescue the abandoned  
and forgotten of this earth,  
so precious in your eyes.  
Bring healing to our lives,**

that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty,  
not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts  
of those who look only for gain  
at the expense of the poor and the earth.  
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognize that we are profoundly united  
with every creature  
as we journey towards your infinite light.  
We thank you for being with us each day.  
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle,  
for justice, love and peace.

Amen.

God bless,

*N. A. Wood*

Mr N Wood

