



St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

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

Monthly Newsletter – Friday 10th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first half term in school was very positive with pupils behaving extremely well, working hard in lessons and enjoying school. This is really rewarding to see and with this approach, students are making fantastic progress academically and in their wider personal development. I am confident that this will continue throughout this year.

Our year 5s enjoyed their Welcome Mass which we celebrated at St Mary's. It was a lovely morning in church, and it was lovely to see so many parents, grandparents and other family members there.

We have launched a wider range of lunch and after school activities for our students this year. These include a range of sporting clubs, a debating society, various music clubs and a robotics club to just pick out a small number. Our program of visits has also already started with year 7 visiting Warkworth as part of their study of history.

As you are also aware we were visited by Ofsted at the end of last half term, and I hope to share the outcome and the final report with yourselves very soon. I am only able to do this once the final report is finalised and published.

Finally thank you for all your support last half term and I look forward to seeing you at the events that we have planned during Advent.

Mr. N. A. Wood

Please see the following Catholic Life News:

We are pleased that, throughout the school year, each pastoral class will celebrate mass in school. We would like to invite parents and carers of pupils in each class to join us in school on the day of your child's class mass. The service will begin in our school chapel at 11:15am and visitors will be invited to join the class afterwards for tea or coffee while our pupils enjoy their lunch.

Upcoming dates:

Monday 20th November – 5O Class Mass

Monday 27th November – 5C Class Mass

Fr Paul, who was ordained as a Priest earlier this year, will be visiting our Year 6 RE classes next week. The pupils are learning about the Sacrament of Ordination and will use this opportunity to interview Fr Paul about his experience of becoming a priest.

We have had a great amount of interest from pupils to become Pastoral and Liturgy Leaders in school. This is something new at St Joseph's where the team will work with some members of staff, as well as our parish priests, to plan and prepare celebrations, masses and times of prayer, throughout the school year. Their first task will be to plan a series of celebrations which will take place throughout the upcoming season of Advent.

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

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

Food lessons: if you have any empty jam jars and lids, please send them in to Ms Montgomery. These will be used in KS2 to make butter.

Anti Bullying Week:

Let`s jump start Anti-bullying Week by wearing odd socks 🧦 on Monday 13th November. Let`s be creative! Different colours, lengths or patterns, the `odder` the better! Don`t forget to send a £1.00 donation in with your child 😊

[#oddssocksday](#) [#AntiBullyingWeek](#)

Remembrance Day

Some of our KS3 pupils who are members of the Army Cadets and Air Cadets planned, prepared and led Celebration of the Word on Friday 10th November. The pupils worked hard to prepare a thoughtful and reflective time of prayer to mark this time of remembrance.



Children In Need:

Throughout this academic year, each pastoral class will be leading a campaign that will reflect the Catholic Life of our school. On Friday 17th November, 5O will be holding a bake sale to raise money for Children in Need. Cakes and sweet treats will be available to buy at breaktime. Any donations of baked goods would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support for this worthy cause.

Even Pudsey Bear came along to help plan 5O's bake sale!



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.**

Sports:

A huge congratulations to Briannon Y6 who has been chosen to represent North and West County Football Team.



Our Y5 and Y6 boy football team played against a very strong Ponteland Primary School team on Tuesday 17th October.



Our new badminton nets arrived this week and were certainly put to good use at the first badminton club of the new half term.

Sports Superstars

Sports Superstars Autumn 1

5C – Oliver
5O – Bodhi
6C – Briannon
6O – Rachel
7C – Owen
7O – Emily
7CO – Lacy
8C – Bea
8O – Robert

Up and Coming Sports Events:

Friday 17th November Y5/6 and Y7/Y8 girls football at Corbridge Middle

Wednesday 22nd November Y5/Y6 and Y7/Y8 boys football at Highfield Middle

Friday 24th November Y5/Y6 and Y7/Y8 girls football at Corbridge Middle

Art:

In Art Club we have made tissue paper poppies to add to our Remembrance Display



Year 7 have painted still life pictures using wax resist and watercolour. Here are some of their masterpieces.





Food:

In tandem with finals week of the Great British Bake Off we will have our very own St Joseph’s Inter-House Bake off competition.

All entries must be in food room by morning pastoral Thursday 30th November, ready for lunch time judging.

Design brief: Create and bake a dish that tells a story and represents your personality, interests or special memories linked to the theme of Autumn. Your product can use bread, pastry or cake.

Success Criteria:

Autumn colours, flavours or shapes are clearly represented.

Product showcases your skills and creativity.

Appearance – presented with finesse, colourful.

Taste – Flavours are clear and complement each other, are not overpowering.

P.T.A. News

Disco Dates: If you are available to help on the night, please contact the school office and leave a message for Mrs Stoves
 15/12/2023
 09/02/2024
 12/07/2024

Christmas Movie Night: 27/11/2023 3.30 - 5.45pm Polar Express – Tickets £5 to include a hot dog, drink and small bag of popcorn. More information to follow. Tickets available from Mrs Stoves

Christmas Fair: 08/12/2023 - Donations needed for fair - cuddly toys, gift bags, tombola items, bric a brac, toys and games.

Class coloured hampers:	5C - Red	7C – Pink
	5O - Purple	7O – Silver and Black
	6C – Orange and Gold	7CO – Blue
	6O - Green	8C – Yellow
		8O - White

Please send donations into school for the class hampers.

Raffle tickets for the hampers will be on sale from Monday 13th November 2023 form Mrs Stoves £1.00 per strip

Summer Fair: 14/06/2024

Upcoming Events at a Glance:

Date	Activity
Monday 13 th November	Odd Socks Day £1.00 donation
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need fundraiser- Bake Sale
Tuesday 21 st November	Y6 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 28 th November	7O and Oswald pupils from 7CO Mosque Trip
Thursday 30 th November	Judging of St Joseph's Inter-House Bake off competition. All entries must be in food room by morning pastoral ready for lunch time judging.
Tuesday 5 th December	7C and Cuthbert pupils from 7CO Mosque Trip Y8 Safety Works – details to follow
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Fair – 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

Our Prayer

The feasts of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on 1st and 2nd along with Remembrance Day on 11th November highlight that this is traditionally the month when we remember and pray for the dead and ask God to bring them to their eternal rest in heaven. At the end of the month, we mark the end of the Liturgical Year with the great Solemnity of Christ the King.

God our loving Father,

During November, the month of the Holy Souls,

Help us to honour those who have died.

Hear us as we pray for loved ones who have moved on from this world to join you in heaven.

**Through our prayers for the Holy Souls may we know that your love
unites all your children, in heaven and on earth, now and forever.**

Amen.

God bless,

N. A. Wood

Mr N Wood

