



# St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

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

## Monthly Newsletter – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. The end of last term seems like a long time ago now, but we had lots of fantastic activities in the run up to Christmas. These included our Christmas Fayre, Christmas Disco, Carol Service and our Winter concert and I would just like to thank all the staff, pupils and parents who were involved in all these activities and made the end of term such a success.

As we start the new term, I would also like to thank all those parents and carers who support us every day in making sure pupils attend, are punctual, are ready to learn, have completed their homework and have everything they need for school. Thank you also to those parents who either read with or set aside some time every evening for your children to read. There is increasing amounts of research that shows that reading for pleasure has a positive impact on educational outcomes and is good for a young person's mental health.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Mr N A Wood

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

#### **BWCET Prayer Exhibition:**

Pope Francis has requested that 2024 be a year devoted to prayer, in preparation for the Jubilee Year of 2025. Our pupils have been invited to write a prayer which will be part of an exhibition at the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust Headquarters. Thank you to the pupils who have written and submitted their wonderful prayers so far. If any pupils would like to submit a prayer, they can be handed in to Mrs Riches by Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January.

Prayers should take the theme of one of our Trust values:

Develop spirituality	Key virtues: Spirituality and witness
Act with justice, respect and dignity	Key virtues: Respect and honesty
Foster a sense of vocation	Key virtues: Self-belief and service
Promote educational excellence	Key virtues: Confidence and aspiration
Form high aspirations	Key virtues: Resilience and optimism
Celebrate community	Key virtues: Gratitude and joy
Support exceptional leadership	Key virtues: Optimism and generosity

Each submission must be no larger than A4, but can take any form and style. The first name of the author and 'St Joseph's Middle School' should be written on each entry.

### **Class Masses:**

We are delighted that we will continue to welcome our parish priests into school to lead our class masses this term. We would like to invite parents and carers of pupils 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:

- 6O Class Mass – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January
- 7CO Class Mass- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February
- 7C Class Mass- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March

### **Sports:**



Congratulations to Beth (placed 31st) and Martha (placed 47th) from Year 7 who competed at the County Cross Country at Temple Park South Shields on Tuesday 16th January. Both girls did extremely well considering the snow started just before the race and continued throughout.

### **KS3 Robotics Club:**





The KS3 Robotics club attended the VEX Robotics North East Regional Finals at the Nissan Factory on Tuesday. Our team of 8 girls and boys came a very respectable 4<sup>th</sup> in the overall competition and were awarded the judges "best team" trophy. The Judges, who work at Nissan and Reece Engineering, awarded this trophy for excellent robot design, great teamwork and fantastic communication skills. They were very impressed with the exemplary attitude and behaviour of our fantastic pupils - Well done to all involved.

**Food:** If you have any empty lidded jam jars that you can donate, ready for year 5 and 6 making butter, please could they be dropped off to the Food room.

**P.T.A. News**

**Disco Dates**

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.

**Summer Fair:** 14/06/2024

**Upcoming Events at a Glance:**

Date	Activity
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	60 Class Mass
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	7CO Class Mass
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Y7 Parents' Evening – details to follow

**Our Prayer**  
A Prayer for Hope in the New Year

Dear Lord,

As the new year begins,

I look to You for our hope, joy, and peace.

Give me the courage to do all that You ask of me.

Please also make me brave to not do what isn't from You.

Show me how to walk in grace and embrace Your love for me even more.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen.

God bless,

*N. A. Wood*

Mr N Wood

