



# St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

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

## Monthly Newsletter – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our students have been full of energy and enthusiasm for school this this half term. They continue to make us proud and make fantastic contributions to school life. We have students representing the school in sporting events, robotics competitions and planning and helping deliver our class masses. We also have a wide selection of school clubs that have been fantastically well supported.

After half term there will be some changes to the school timetable. This is due to St Joseph's supporting another school in our trust for a short time. These changes mainly affect year 7 and 8. The changes are available to see via the Arbor App.

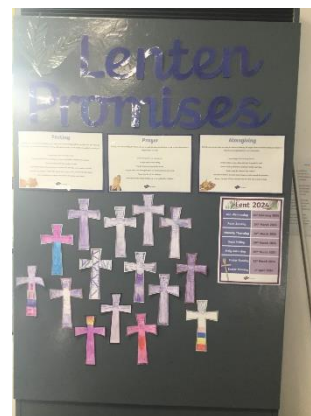
Thank you for your continued support and I hope you have an enjoyable half term.

Mr N A Wood

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

### **Lent**

We are now in the liturgical season of Lent, a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation for Easter. Our prayer spaces around school have been updated to reflect this special time in the Church's year. Pupils have also written Lenten promises, focusing on one of the traditions of Lent, that they will aim to keep for the next 40 days.



On Wednesday, we held a whole school service to mark the beginning of Lent. Fr Paul led us in prayer and distributed ashes to pupils and staff. Thank you to the readers who read beautifully. St Joseph's were in good singing voice; singing 'Christ be our Light' was a wonderful way to conclude our service.

### Year of Prayer

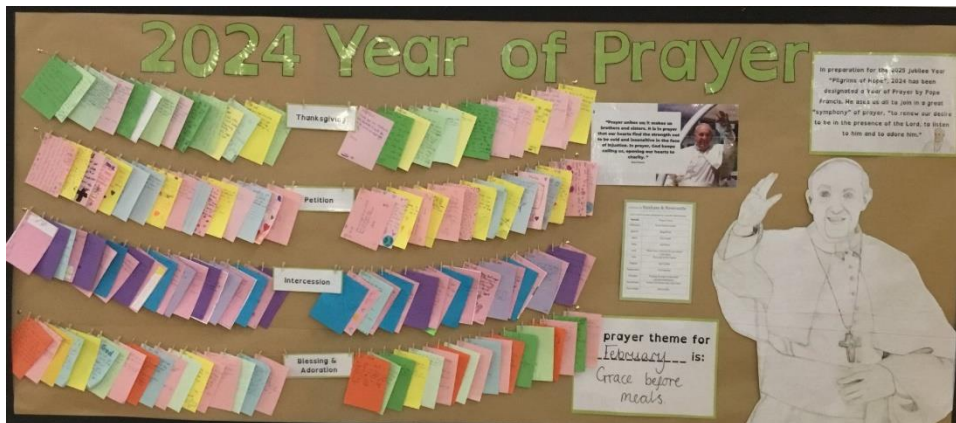
2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. During pastoral prayer time, pupils wrote prayers which are now on display in our school hall.

Year 5- Prayers of Thanksgiving: expressing gratitude to God for his gifts and blessings.

Year 6- Prayers of Petition: asking for what we need, including forgiveness, guidance, protection, etc.

Year 7 - Prayers of Intercession: asking for what others need, such as healing, salvation, peace, etc.

Year 8 - Prayers of Blessing and Adoration: praising and honouring God for who he is and what he has done.

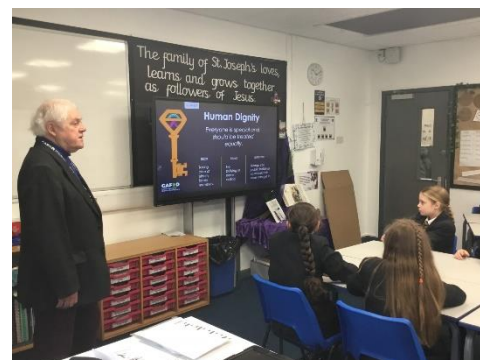


Thank you to the children who also wrote a prayer for the Bishop Wilkinson Trust 'Year of Prayer' Exhibition. There were some very thoughtful and heartfelt prayers submitted.



### CAFOD workshop

Over the past couple of weeks, Mr McGhee has visited St Joseph's to lead CAFOD workshops. In these sessions, pupils considered the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching. This allowed for some brilliant group discussions around how Catholic Social Teaching helps us choose how to act in different situations.



### 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:

6C – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March

7C – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April

### Year 6 DT School Record:

Riley, Jason and Thomas broke a longstanding school record last week. The bridge they designed and built in design technology with Mr Wright withstood 29kg of mass before collapsing. This beats the previous record by over 2kg. Well done to all those involved.



### KS3 Robotics Club:

The Rusty Cogs, our school robotic team, competed in another regional event at Newcastle University last Friday. The team did incredibly well, coming in 6<sup>th</sup> place out of 22 schools. Amazingly they wowed the judges with their enthusiasm, knowledge and skill and won the Judges Special award for the second time this year. Well done to all those involved!



### Art

Firstly, Mrs Thompson and the pupils say a big thank you to the PTA for helping restock the art room with more Inkntense watercolour pencils. These are such good quality and the children love working with them. This little lot cost over £100. We are all very grateful.

We put the pencils to good use by using them in a competition run by Tynedale Hospice, to design a Thank You Card. These designs are by Martha, Ridley and Jason in Year 6.



All the pupils have been involved in creating some new art work connected with our House Saints, St Cuthbert and St Oswald. These photos show some of the pupils making illuminated letters and metallic brass rubbing plates using cardboard and foil.



### **Staffing News:**

Mrs Dotchin will be working at another school within the BWCET each Tuesday and Wednesday from 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Some of the pupils' timetables have changed because of this and they have been given a new timetable today. Mrs Dotchin is still contactable during these times.

### **Attendance Update**

Attendance at school is the single most important aspect of school life, what could be more important than being here! Please see below the current attendance figures for each pastoral, well done to 5 Cuthbert for leading the way with your fantastic attendance so far this year!

<b>Pastoral Class</b>	<b>Attendance to date</b>
5 Cuthbert	95.25%
7 Cuthbert/Oswald	94.47%
6 Cuthbert	94.46%
5 Oswald	94.4%
7 Oswald	94.26%
7 Cuthbert	93.87
8 Oswald	93.73%
6 Oswald	93.37%
8 Cuthbert	93.04%

### **Sports:**

Congratulations to Flynn from Y6 who was our highest placed finisher at the Northumberland Schools KS2 table tennis competition.

### **Dance Club:**

On Friday, the parents of the pupils who attend Dance Club, were invited into school to watch their performance of Revolting Children from the musical Matilda. Well done to everyone involved, it was fantastic!



**SVP:**

Pupils from the SVP at St Joseph`s have supported St Mary`s church SVP today. We have been shopping to Tesco to make donations to the Hexham Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who supported SVP with donations from our school and parish community. 🙏



**P.T.A. News:**

**PTA AGM:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 7pm in St. Joseph's school hall. Everyone welcome

**Mother's Day Stall:** 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Children to bring into school donations for Mother's Day stall and the gifts will be available to buy on the day for £2. Donations to be given to Mrs Stoves who will issue a token.

**Chocolate Tombola:** 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Any chocolate donations would be gratefully received.

**Disco Dates:** 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 more details to follow.

**Upcoming Events at a Glance:**

Date	Activity
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Staff Development Day – school closed to all pupils
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	School reopens 8.40am
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	KS3 Ski Trip to Aprica, Italy

## Our Prayer

*Lord God,*

*During this season of Lent, help me reach out to others, seeing their needs and caring for them.*

*May I love as you love: extravagantly and indiscriminately.*

*May I care as you do: without expectation and without counting the cost.*

*Lead me to a deeper understanding of your compassionate care for others – especially where they are suffering in situations I don't know or understand.*

*Lord, give me the mind of Christ.*

*Amen*

God bless,

*N. A. Wood*

Mr N Wood

