



# 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> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable summer holiday. The new school year has started very positively with pupils' behaviour and attitude to learning being outstanding. Pupils' attendance and punctuality have also been exceptionally good, and our new year 5 pupils are settling in well. We also welcome Mrs Laws to our school community. She will be teaching French, and we wish her well in her new role.

We are holding an enrichment day on the 20<sup>th</sup> September for all year 4 pupils in the local area to come and experience St Josephs. The focus of the day will be around STEM subjects and the Arts. That will be followed up an open evening on the Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 6:30pm for both parents and students. This evening will involve an introduction from myself and then an opportunity to meet the staff and students of the school. This will involve a tour of the school and demonstrations in classrooms that illustrate the fantastic experience your child would have in different subjects if they joined our school community.

In terms of our expansion, we are still committed to offering Catholic education beyond Year 8 in Hexham, but we are still awaiting feedback on our proposal from the DfE and the regional school's commissioner. As soon as we get that feedback I will be back in touch.

Mr. N. A. Wood  
Headteacher

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

#### **Year 5 Welcome Mass:**

All pupils and staff will be attending mass to welcome our new pupils to our St Joseph's family. The provisional date for the Welcome Mass is Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September in St Mary's Church at 1:30pm, confirmation of this date will be sent out next week. Parents and carers are invited to join our school community to celebrate the beginning of a new academic year.

#### **Prayer Competition:**

We have started our new school year with a competition! All pupils are invited to write a prayer that encompasses everything about our wonderful school. The winning entry will be used by all pupils and staff during times of prayer throughout the school year. Our school mission statement could be used as inspiration for the prayer.

We have received some fantastic prayers so far! All entries should be submitted to Mrs Riches by **Monday 16th September**. There will be a prize for the winning prayer as well as house points for every entry!

#### **Class Masses:**

We are pleased that we will continue to hold a mass in our school chapel for each pastoral class over the year. Our class masses were a great success last year. It is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to gather and worship as a class along with their pastoral teacher, our parish priest and our parents and carers.

Parents and carers are invited to join their child's mass in school. Our visitors are also welcome to stay afterwards for a tea or coffee while the children enjoy their lunch in their classroom.

Autumn Term Class Masses:

6C – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 11:15am

6O- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 11:15am

#### **ARBOR:**

The majority of our communication with parents and carers is done through our MIS Arbor. If you have not yet logged on to Arbor we strongly recommend that you do so as soon as possible so that you do not miss any important information that is sent home. If you have any problems using Arbor, please contact the school office on 01434 605124 or email [parentcontact@sjms.bwcet.com](mailto:parentcontact@sjms.bwcet.com)

#### **Open Evening for Prospective Parents, September 2025:**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 6.30pm

Please click on the link below for the Open Evening flyer.

[Y4 Open Evening Flyer](#)

#### **Y4 Enrichment Day:**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September.

Please click on the link below for the Open Day flyer.

[Y4 Enrichment Day Flyer](#)

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

It is now time for children in year 4 (First to Middle) and year 9 (Middle to High) schools to apply for the next phase of school starting in September 2025.

If you have a child who is due to transfer to either middle or high school, please see the link below  
The Portal is now open and will close at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

[School Admission Portal](#)

#### **Flu Immunisations:**

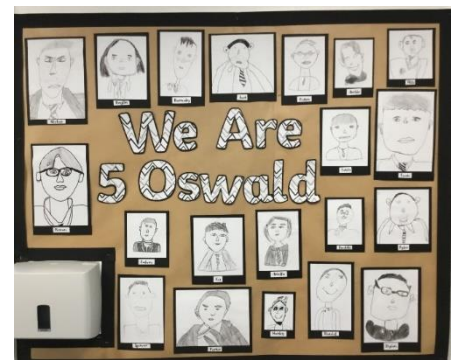
You should have received a form via Arbor, to give consent for your child to receive their nasal flu vaccination. If you have not yet completed the form, please click on the link below.

The school code is NB122369

[Immunisation Portal](#)

#### **Year 5**

Our new Year 5 pupils have had a brilliant start to their time at St Joseph's. They have settled in well and are getting used to middle school routines. Here you can see some of their amazing self-portraits which are on display in their classroom.



As well as learning new rules and routines, Year 5 have also been very busy in their lessons. In RE, Year 5 have been carefully considering their own talents and qualities and you can see some of their fantastic work below. This morning in English, our year 5 pupils used a range of materials to build dams on the school yard. This exciting task is linked to the text we are reading in English this half term, The Dam by David Almond.



### **Extra-Curricular Clubs:**

Please click on the link below to see the extra-curricular activities on offer this term. Pupils do not need to book; they can just turn up to the club.

[Extra-Curricular Clubs](#)

### **Textiles Club:**

A Textiles club will start on Mondays after school from 16<sup>th</sup> September. We will be making small items that will improve skills and could be used as Christmas gifts. Interested students should let Ms Montgomery know as soon as possible so that materials and equipment can be arranged.

Cooking club will return after February half term.

### **PTA**

Road Dahl Day – the children all looked amazing today. Thank you for all the donations the total raised today was £140.20.

A huge thank you to all the pupils and staff who came to school dressed up for the day, you were all fabulous.

Please see our pictures on Facebook.



The next event planned for the children will be the disco in October. There will be a date arranged for the PTA AGM in the near future. In the meantime, if you would like to join our friendly PTA team please contact Eleanor Stoves Tel: 01434 605124.

**Upcoming Events at a Glance:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Y5 Visit to St Mary's Church</b>
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Y4 Enrichment Day</b>
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Open Evening 6.30pm</b>
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September (provisional date)</b>	<b>Y5 Welcome Mass 1.30pm, St Mary's Church</b>
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October</b>	<b>Pastoral Parents' Evening – details to follow</b>
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>6C Class Mass</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b>	<b>Disco 7.00 – 8.30pm</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b>	<b>Christmas Fair 1.30 – 3.00pm</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b>	<b>Disco 7.00 – 8.30pm</b>

## Our Prayer

Dear Lord,

Be with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless our pupils, parents, carers and staff.

Show us how to work together for the good of all. May we share our talents and abilities to the full and grow in knowledge, wisdom and happiness. Give us the grace to become more like Jesus in the ways we think and behave.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God bless,

*N. A. Wood*

Mr N Wood

