



St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

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

Monthly Newsletter – Friday 6th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week, I had the privilege of leading our school's ski trip to Obertauern, Austria. It was an extremely busy and rewarding week, with five full days on the slopes alongside a packed schedule of evening activities. These included swimming, ice skating, mini golf and even an exhilarating Alpine roller coaster. We were blessed with four days of glorious sunshine, preceded by one memorable day skiing in continuous snowfall. The students approached every challenge with enthusiasm and great spirit, and it was a pleasure to see them grow in confidence throughout the week. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the staff who accompanied me; their support and dedication helped make the trip such an enjoyable and memorable experience for our students. Photographs from the visit can be found later in the newsletter.

This month, we also received confirmation that we are now officially recognised as a feeder school for Queen Elizabeth High School. This development formalises the strong and positive relationship that already exists between our two schools and represents an important milestone for our community.

Mr. N. A. Wood

Headteacher

Class Masses:

Our next class mass will be for 80 on Tuesday 17th March at 11:15 in the school chapel. Parents and carers are invited to join us for their child's mass. Afterwards, the children will enjoy a lunch of pizza and chips in their classroom which will kindly be provided by our PTA. Our visitors are also welcome to join us in the classroom for a tea or coffee while the pupils eat their lunch.

World Book Day:

Blind Book Swap - Pupils wrapped a book from home and wrote a little information on the front saying why they enjoyed the book. From this information, other pupils decided whether it was a book that they may enjoy too. We did this last year, and the children really enjoyed it and couldn't wait to do it again today.

Bookmark Competition - Pupils were asked to design a bookmark that incorporated our school logo. We had some amazing entries and it was extremely hard to choose the winners from the beautiful designs. However, after much deliberation the winners were:

Y5 - Skylar

Y6 - Amelia

Y7 - Selma

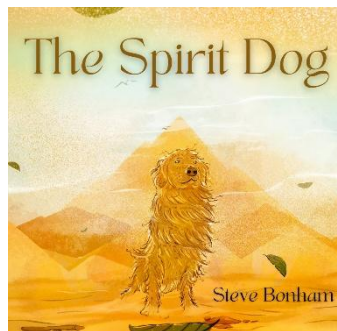
Y8 – Briannon

The overall winner is Amelia Y6. Well done everyone!



Y5 Visit to Hexham Library:

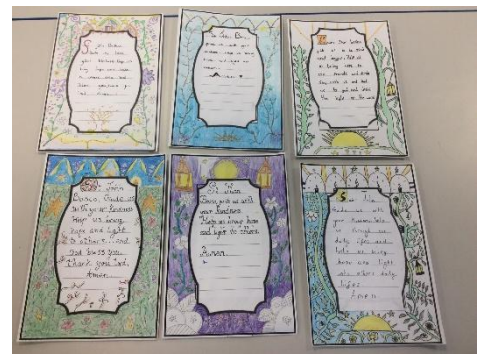
On Tuesday morning, our Year 5 pupils visited Hexham Library for a special performance. The event was based on the children's book, *The Spirit Dog* by Steve Bonham. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the live performance that brings a much-loved book vividly to life through storytelling, music and shared imagination. Year 5 were particularly enthusiastic about joining in with the musical elements, especially when playing percussion!



Arts Week:

Our Arts Week was based around the Victorian era, and teachers planned and delivered all lessons to include elements inspired by that time period. For example, in RE the pupils created calligraphy prayers with Victorian-style borders. In textiles, they explored the contrast between the practical, durable fabrics worn by the working class and the colourful, opulent fashions favoured by the wealthy. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the week and gained a rich understanding of what life was like during the Victorian era.





Music:

Northumberland Music – please see below

Following the success of our Music Workshop Day last year, we are delighted to announce that the event is returning for 2026!

Taking place on Saturday the 28th of March and this time to be held at **Ponteland High School**, our workshop offers a fun and inspiring day designed especially for children who enjoy music and want to build confidence while playing or singing alongside others.

"Great opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills, enjoy celebrating their talents together and making lovely memories."

"It was absolutely BRILLIANT!"

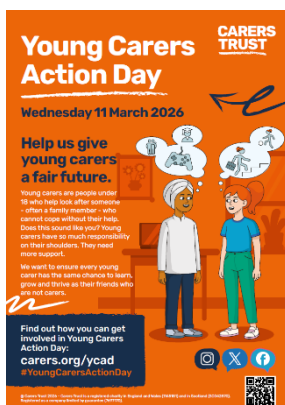
Feedback from Rockin' & Reeling Workshop March 2025

Key details

- Date: Saturday 28th of March 2026
- Venue Address: Ponteland High School, The Crescent, Callerton Lane, Ponteland, NE20 9EG
- Start time: 10:30am
- Concert for parents: 3:00pm arrival with a 3:15pm start
- End time: 4:00pm
- Location: Ponteland High School
- Ages: 7 - 18 (sessions grouped by age and experience)
- Cost: £15.00 per child
 - £12.50 for Northumberland Music ensemble members
 - Subsidised places are available for those who need them



Young Carers Day: Wednesday 11th March



Ski Trip 2026:

Here are a few photographs from our amazing ski trip. Please see our school Facebook page for lots more.



Extra-Curricular Clubs:

The extra-curricular timetable for the Spring Term can be found on the school website

PTA

The PTA are low on volunteers if you would like to be a part of the PTA, please contact Eleanor Stoves
Tel: 01434 605124. We would love to see you at our events and maybe share new ideas.

Upcoming Events at a Glance:

Date	Activity
Tuesday 17 th March	80 Class Mass 11.15am
Thursday 2 nd April	School closes at 15.15 for Easter Holiday
Monday 20 th April	School reopens 08.40

Our Prayer

A special Lenten fast

Give up harsh words: use generous ones.

Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.

Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.

Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.

Give up worrying: take up trust in God.

Give up complaining: value what you have.

Give up stress: take up prayer.

Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.

Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.

Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.

Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.

Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.

Amen.

God bless,

N. A. Wood

Mr N Wood

