



St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

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

Monthly Newsletter – Friday 1st May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, the consultation on how best to strengthen and secure the future of Catholic education in Hexham closed at noon today. The next step will be the careful consideration of all consultation submissions, followed by the preparation of a summary paper outlining the outcomes, which will be shared with the Board of BWCET. The Board will then meet on 15 May to discuss the way forward. Following this meeting, I will be back in touch to update you on the next steps.

As always, there has been a great deal happening both in school and through our wide range of extracurricular activities. Our pupils continue to embrace all that is on offer, and we remain a vibrant, happy and caring community where everyone feels valued, safe and able to flourish. Thanks to the excellent weather, pupils have also been making fantastic use of our school field, both during lessons and at lunchtime.

We have also begun planning for the 50th anniversary of the opening of our school. This is a very significant milestone, and we will be in touch soon to share our ideas for how we might mark this special occasion. If you have any suggestions or memories you would like to share, please do email the school office.

Finally, many of you will be aware that our Year 6 pupils will be sitting their KS2 SATs during the week commencing 11 May. Year 6 and their teachers have worked extremely hard throughout the year, and I am sure you will join me in wishing them every success during these assessments.

I hope you all enjoy the May Bank Holiday weekend.

Kind regards,

Mr N. A. Wood

Headteacher

Catholic Life News:

We are delighted that we will continue to welcome Fr Paul 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 of class masses:

Year 5 – Date TBC

Each Wednesday morning, our pupils lead Celebration of the Word in their pastoral classes. This is sometime that the children plan, lead and reflect on themselves. Last week, we held a planning session across the whole school

which allowed pupils to plan their times of prayer for the upcoming weeks. We are looking forward to participating in these celebrations over the summer term.



We are currently in the Liturgical season of Eastertide, which encompasses the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. This season is meant to be very different from the solemn focus carried in Lent and the Easter Triduum. Instead, it is meant to be a time of thanksgiving, joy, and feasting. On Friday 15th May, we will welcome our parish priest into school to lead a whole school mass for the Feast of the Ascension.

Music:

🎵 Nate had an amazing Easter, taking part in two residential music courses with the English Symphony Orchestra and the National Children's Orchestra. Long days, new friends, lots of Uno — and fantastic performances on percussion and timpani. We're so proud of his confidence and achievements! 🎵



Art:

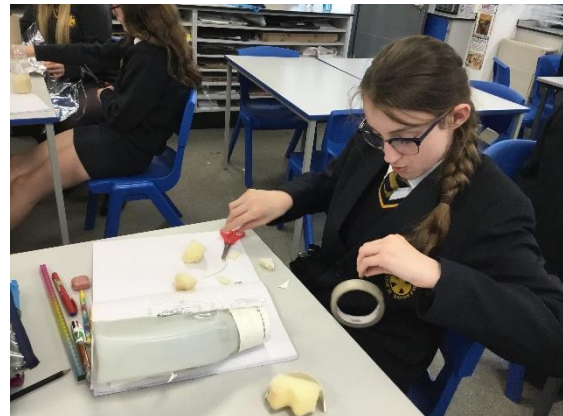
In Year 5 pupils have learnt about the Northern Saints and Illuminated letters. They have used this as inspiration for their own watercolour paintings.



Pupils in Year 7 have just finished their radial prints, based on words such as Love, Joy and Peace.



In Year 8 the final project has begun, with the challenge of turning an ordinary plastic bottle into an animal or bird using sculpture skills.



Sport

Our Y8 girls took part in the indoor cricket festival at Queen Elizabeth High School. The girls made great progress, winning 3 of their 5 games!



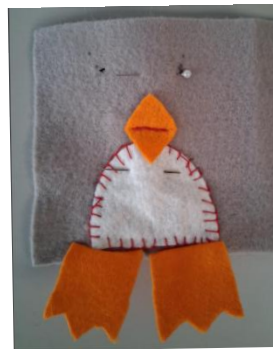
Food/Textiles

Year 5 have been making butter, testing different cheeses and this week learning about where and how fish are reared and caught. This included a taste test of sardines, tuna and mackerel. Not everyone's favourite lesson!

Year 6 have been learning about fabric journeys; looking at the stages of production from natural resources including how silk is harvested, how wool and cotton are prepared and made into yarn. We have also considered how synthetic materials are made and talked about sustainability issues.

Year 7 are nearing the end of their bird buddy project. Some great skills are being shown with fun and creative designs on the way.

Year 8 are in the last stages of making their graphic artist inspired bags.



Oliver!

We are incredibly excited to share that rehearsals for this year's production of *Oliver!* are progressing well. Our staff and pupils are working exceptionally hard, and there is a great deal happening behind the scenes to bring the production to life.

The performances will take place on **25th and 26th June**, and further details regarding ticket sales will be shared once finalised.

Extra-Curricular Clubs:

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

Gardening Club:

Spring is definitely on its way! We got our hands dirty planting cress and even planted some specially for Mrs Forster, ready for some delicious egg and cress sandwiches 🥪😄

Fresh air, sunshine, and growing our own food – what could be better? 🌱💚



Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday

Sir David Attenborough will be turning 100 on 8 May, and we would like to mark this special occasion in school. We will be holding a non-uniform day, with donations given to Glaucoma UK. We have chosen this charity in memory of one of our much-loved science teachers, Mike Seddon, who sadly passed away in October 2025. This charity was very close to his heart. We kindly ask for a £1 donation. Pupils will learn about Sir David Attenborough in an assembly delivered by 7O, followed by Sir David Attenborough-themed activities in the afternoon.

PTA

[St Joseph's RC Middle School PTA - Hexham Fundraising | Easyfundraising](#)

☀️ Summer Fair – Friday 19th June ☀️

🕒 1.30pm – 3.00pm

We're excited to invite you to our Summer Fair! 🎉

There will be rides, a sweet stall, candy floss, a cake stall, and lots of other fun stalls run by the children, who will be coming up with ideas in their form classes.

🍰 Donations Needed 🍰

We would be very grateful for donations for:

Tombola

Hook the Bag

Cakes

Bric-a-Brac

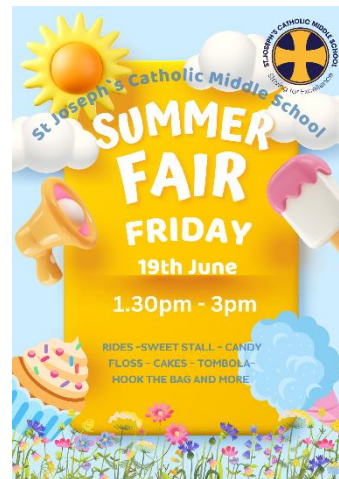
Toys/Games

All donations can be handed into the school office.

Thank you for your continued support — we look forward to seeing you there!



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 |
|--|--|
| Monday 4th May | May Bank Holiday – school closed |
| Monday 11th – Thursday 14th May | Y6 National Tests |
| Monday 18th May | Y5 Parents’ Evening – details to follow |
| Friday 22nd May | School closes 3.15pm for half term |
| Monday 1st June | School reopens 8.40am |
| Friday 19th June | Summer Fair 1.30 - 3.00pm |
| | |

Our Prayer

Lead us in your ways

God of love,
fill us with your grace.
Move us, strengthen and renew us.
Lead us in your ways.

Open our hearts to answer
the demands of others, and
to seek your face in all those
who cry out for justice.

Spirit of God,
prompt us to respond to your love

and seek a glimpse
of your Kingdom here on earth.

Amen.

God bless,

N. A. Wood

Mr N Wood

