



St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

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

Monthly Newsletter – Friday 17th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another academic year, it is hard to believe how quickly the time has flown. St Joseph's continues to be a truly special place to learn and work, thanks to the strong sense of community we share. Together, we strive to ensure that our pupils are safe, happy and able to flourish.

This spirit of togetherness is especially evident during our charity events, where your generosity through donations of gifts, money and, of course, cakes never goes unnoticed. It is always a pleasure to welcome so many of you into school to support these occasions. Thank you for your continued support and involvement.

This week, we have been saying farewell to our wonderful Year 8 pupils. They have truly embraced school life, making the most of the many opportunities available at St Joseph's, from school trips and sporting events to clubs, music and, of course, our recent production of *Oliver!* It has been a privilege to watch them grow and develop, and we wish each of them every success and happiness in the future.

We have also enjoyed a busy and exciting final week, including:

- Year 8 Awards Evening
- School trips throughout the week
- Year 8 Leavers' Mass at St Mary's today

While some may imagine schools begin to slow down at this time of year, the reality is quite the opposite. The end of term is one of the busiest periods in the school calendar, and I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff for their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment throughout the year. I am also deeply grateful to our governors, parish priests and Trust colleagues for their invaluable support.

This summer, we will also be saying farewell to several valued members of staff:

- Mrs Dotchin
- Mr Roberts
- Miss A Bell

They will be greatly missed, and we wish them all the very best for the future.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs E. Stansfield as our new SENDCO. Mrs Stansfield will be working across both St Mary's and St Joseph's. In addition, Mr Wright will be taking over from Mr Roberts as our Pastoral Lead.

We have also recently received our Key Stage 2 SATs results, and the outcomes are extremely positive. This success reflects the dedication, resilience and hard work of our Year 6 pupils, supported so effectively by Mr Hudson throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the strong foundations they have built as they prepare for the next stage of their education.

Finally, to all our pupils, thank you. School life is not always easy, but your resilience, kindness and enthusiasm make St Joseph's the vibrant and welcoming place it is. Whether you are someone who always gives your best, someone who greets others with a smile, or someone who quietly perseveres through challenges, you are a valued and important part of our school family.

I wish you all a restful, enjoyable and well-deserved summer break. Thank you once again for your continued support throughout the year. I look forward to welcoming many of you back in September for another successful year at St Joseph's.

Warmest regards,

Mr N Wood

Headteacher

Art:

Year 8 Paper Mache Creations

Over the past few weeks, Year 8 students have been transforming plastic containers into amazing paper mache creations. Using their imagination and artistic skills, they have produced a collection of impressive and colourful works of art. We are delighted to share some of their fantastic creations with you.



Sport:

Sports Week:

Our pupils got to experience a range of different activities from golf with Anth from Swing Stars 🏌️, to cricket with Ella from Northumberland Cricket 🏏, to badminton with Karen and Ellen from Northumberland County Badminton 🏸 to archery with Tynedale Archers 🏹, our pupils have certainly been kept active over the past couple of weeks!

Sports Day:

The competition was fierce but in the end the scores were as follows:

Oswald – 2394

Cuthbert – 1849

Congratulations to Oswald House on their victory. As you can see, Mrs Dotchin and House Captain Olivia, were very proud to accept the trophy on behalf of Oswald House. 🏆





Celebration of Sport:

Our Y5 pupils took part in a range of activities at Gateshead Stadium as part of the Trust's Celebration of Sport.



Salto – Uniform Deadline:

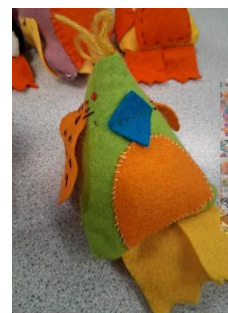
The deadline date for this years' uniform issue is **SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2026**. All orders that are placed before the deadline will have an extended returns and exchange policy until the start of the new school term in September.

Please take a look at our school's dedicated uniform page on the Salto website (link below)

<https://www.saltouk.com/school-uniforms/st-josephs-r-c-middle-school-hexham/>

Food/Textiles

It's been a busy few weeks finishing off projects and completing some one-off lessons for pupils not on trips or in different groups for sports week. Some of our fun creations are below including emoji keyrings, wool tassels, bags, fish, sock monsters, lavender scented owl hangers, bird buddies and fabric printing of eco club tshirt designs.



Weardale:

Year 5 had a wonderful time at Weardale Adventure Centre. Gorge walking, crate stacking, Canoeing and high ropes challenged our pupils who demonstrated a great attitude to trying new things. We are sure that they and the staff will catch up on their sleep over the summer holidays!!



Robinwood

Between the 8th and 10th of July, Year 6 pupils set off to Alston to spend three days at Robinwood Activity Centre. The heat was intense, but we were blessed with some beautiful weather and returned with some great memories. Pupils soared down the zipwire, traversed the climbing wall, took a leap of faith on the trapeze, and even fended off those naughty little squirrels squirting them as they navigated the nightline blindfolded. The pupils were a credit to themselves and the school: their behaviour was exceptional and their determination to push themselves was incredible to see. Well done Year 6!!



Oliver!

As the heat soared, fears around the health and safety of cast, crew and audience became too real to ignore. The first performance was cancelled with the view that it could be rearranged, but we were hopeful that the Friday performance could still go ahead. Then Friday hit, with more intense heat our fears were fuelled once again – another cancelled performance. Frantic minds quickly scoured the calendar to find alternative dates, for the show must go on!

And what a show it was.

Thankfully, cast, staff and parents rallied around and two alternative dates were set. With ten days between their last rehearsal and the first performance – and after many of the cast had been on a school residential for four days – the pupils set to the stage to give two outstanding performances. The talent on display was simply inspiring, and everyone involved in the school felt immense pride and fortune to be associated with such a committed and resilient group of young people. Thank you so much to all the staff that supported this spectacle, from arranging to pick up pupils from rehearsals, to donating props and costume and it really was a team effort. Well done to all those involved!!



Young Carers

Did you know we are a charity and we are very grateful of any donations received. St Joseph's Middle School in Hexham has had two bake sales to raise money for our young carers service by donating funds to us and purchasing a new chair/table set for the young carers area in their school. Thank you so much! We are very grateful. The money will be used to provide a young carer activity of the pupil's choice in the Hexham area.



DfE Great British Summer Savings:

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

Upcoming Events at a Glance:

Date	Activity
Tuesday 1 st September	Teacher Training Day
Wednesday 2 nd September	School reopens at 8.40am

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we enter this summer season, we thank You for the break and the opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends.

We ask for Your guidance in our activities and for Your protection over us as we travel and spend time outdoors.

May this summer be filled with joy, laughter, and cherished memories.

Amen

God bless,

N. A. Wood

Mr N Wood

