



St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

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

Monthly Newsletter – Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin our new academic year, it has been wonderful to see how well the children have settled back into school life, particularly our new Year 5 pupils and the many students who have joined us across other year groups. Their behaviour has been exemplary, and their attitude towards learning has been excellent. We are incredibly proud of the way they have embraced the new term with such enthusiasm, confidence and determination.

This morning, I had the privilege of announcing our new Head Boy and Head Girl, **Oliver and Mahathi**. We are delighted to congratulate them on their appointments and look forward to seeing the positive contribution they will make to school life throughout the year. We are confident they will be outstanding role models for their peers and excellent ambassadors for our school.



We are also pleased to welcome two new members of staff to our school community: **Mr Williamson**, who will be teaching Computing and Mathematics, and **Mr Henderson**, who will be teaching Music and Mathematics. Both bring a wealth of enthusiasm and expertise to their roles, and I am sure you will join me in making them feel very welcome.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to sharing more updates with you and celebrating many more successes throughout the year ahead.

Warm regards,

N.A. Wood

Please see the following Catholic Life News:

St Joseph's 50th Birthday Mass:

On Friday 18th September, our school community will gather at St Mary's Church at 10:00am for a special Celebratory Mass to mark the 50th anniversary of our school. This significant occasion will bring together pupils, staff, governors, families, parishioners and special guests as we give thanks for five decades of faith, learning and achievement. We are particularly honoured to welcome Bishop Stephen, who will join us in celebrating this important milestone in our school's history. Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us for this special celebration.

Welcome Mass

We will be warmly welcoming all pupils who have joined us at St Joseph's this academic year at our Welcome Mass on Thursday 1st October. The mass will be held in the school hall at 1:30pm. Parents and carers are invited to join our school community in prayer and celebration as our new starters begin their journey at St Joseph's.

Education Sunday

This Sunday marks Education Sunday, when we give thanks for the many thousands of teachers, lecturers, academics, support staff, leaders, governors, directors, advisers and others who have found their vocation in Catholic education. During our Celebration of the Word this morning, pupils took the opportunity to say a special thank you to all of our staff for their commitment, care and dedication to supporting the children and young people in our school.

Year 5

The year 5 children have made a fantastic start to their St Joseph's journey! They have demonstrated and upheld our school values and expectations, listening and participating very well during lesson time, building friendships at break and lunchtimes and moving around school in a safe, mature manner.

We look forward to observing the children's achievements and reaching their potential during their time as part of the St Joseph's family.

Year 4 Open Evening:

Our Y4 Open Evening will take place on Wednesday 30th September 6.30pm. This event is specifically for parents and carers of children who will be transferring to Middle School in September 2027. During the Open Evening, Mr Wood will give a short introduction, followed by opportunities to meet our staff and students. You will then be invited to tour the school and visit classrooms, where you can experience first-hand the engaging and inspiring learning environment that awaits your child at St Joseph's.

School Photographs:

The photographer will be in school on Monday 14th September for all pupils. Please ensure that your child is in the correct, full school uniform.

Macmillan Coffee Morning:

Our Macmillan Coffee Morning will take place on **Friday 25th September at 10.30am in the school hall**. This is a very worthwhile cause that is close to many of our hearts, and we would love for you to join us. By coming along and supporting the event, you will help us raise as much money as possible for **Macmillan Cancer Support**, enabling them to continue providing vital care, guidance and support to individuals and families affected by cancer.

We would also be very grateful for any donations of cakes, biscuits or other sweet treats to help make our Coffee Morning a success. Donations can be brought to the school office from Thursday 24th September.

We hope you can join us for a cup of coffee, some delicious treats and the opportunity to support this fantastic charity.

Book Fair:

We are delighted to announce that we will be holding a Scholastic Book Fair at St Joseph's from Monday 28th September to Friday 2nd October. This pop-up celebration of reading puts the very best books directly into children's hands, encouraging a love of reading across our school community. As well as the opportunity to browse and purchase books, pupils will also be able to take part in a range of book-related competitions and activities throughout the week. Further details about how books can be purchased, along with information about the competitions, will be shared in due course.

Art:

Year 7 pupils have kicked things off with a refresher project featuring the elements of art including line, colour, shape, value and texture. They are creating dramatic Dragons' Eyes using oil pastel and watercolour pencils.



Extra-Curricular Clubs:

The extra curricular timetable can now be found on the school website. Pupils do not need to book; they can just turn up to the club. After School Clubs run from 3.15pm – 4.15pm unless otherwise stated.

Creation Club – A mix of environmental and art themed activities with Mrs Thompson – Tuesday Lunchtimes

ARBOR:

We have now been informed that the issues that we have had with the payment system on Arbor have now been resolved. However, it has been recommended that you have the most up to date version of the app from your phones app store.

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. We also ask that you take 10 minutes to check that all the information and consents are correct for your child/children. If you have any problems using Arbor, please contact the school office on 01434 605124 or email parentcontact@sjms.bwcet.com

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 2027.

If you have a child who is due to transfer to either middle or high school, please see the link below
The Portal opens tomorrow, 12th September, and will close at midnight on 31st October 2026.

[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](#)

PTA

Helpers needed for the school disco which will be held on Friday 16th October 2026, 7 – 8.30pm. Please call the school office if you are able to help out on the night.

Easyfundraising:

We are aware that the cost of living has gone up and it is not always easy to ask for donations these days. However, we use easyfundraising and this can generate quite a lot of donations for our PTA. It means you can help us reach our target really easily – simply shop with any of over 8,000 online retailers including Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S, and when you make a purchase, the brand will send us a free donation at no extra cost you. It's as simple as that! Please visit our easyfundraising page by clicking on the link below. Once on there go to find a cause and enter **St Joseph's RC Middle School PTA - Hexham**

By registering, you really can make a difference to our funds especially with Christmas coming up.

[Easy Fundraising Link](#)

Upcoming Events at a Glance:

Date	Activity
Monday 14 th September	School Photographs
Friday 18 th September	50 th Anniversary Mass with Bishop Stephen 10.00am - St Mary's Church
Friday 25 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning and Cake Stall – 10.30am - school hall
Monday 28 th – Friday 2 nd October	Scholastic Book Fair
Wednesday 30 th September	Y4 Open Evening – 6.30pm
Thursday 1 st October	Welcome Mass 1.30pm – St Joseph's School
Wednesday 14 th October	PTA AGM in school – 6.00pm in school
Friday 16 th October	School Disco

Tuesday 20th October	Spooky Cake Stall – details to follow
Friday 4th December	Christmas Fair – details to follow
Friday 11th December	School Disco
Friday 5th February	School Disco
Friday 2nd July	School Disco

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

