



MARCH 2018

# NEWSLETTER

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# Attendance

SEP 17 TO MAR 18		
Class	%	Lates
Nursery	82.9	15
Reception	94.4	53
Year 1	93.3	54
Year 2	96.1	70
Year 3	96.8	36
Year 4	95.1	37
Year 5	95.3	62
Year 6	95.4	13

Our current overall attendance is **95%**



Well done to Years 2 and 3 for attendance above our target of 96%

The first Grand Draw for good attendance will take place on Friday 13 April at Celebration Assembly.



## Attendance and Punctuality

We want children to attend school every day on time so as not to miss out on the many and exciting learning opportunities for children here at St. Joseph's.

All children who have achieved the school attendance target of 96% for the half term, 19 February to 29 March, will have their names entered into the draw to win a £25 gift voucher.

and particularly to reduce 'persistent absenteeism', (those children whose attendance falls below the minimum expected of 90%).

We are working very hard to improve our attendance and punctuality, and because of your support and understanding of how important good attendance is, our attendance, up to 15 December, was in line with national average. 😊

We will also be announcing the class with the best attendance for this half term... which class will it be? Start planning your whole class treat now if you think yours is the winner!

### Reporting an Absence

If your child is not able to attend school, the school office must be informed as to the reason why. This allows the absence to be authorised. We have the answering service for you to leave a message by calling the usual number on 0191 2739063 and selecting option 1. You also have the option to email us at [absence@stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk](mailto:absence@stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk)

However, since then it has dipped and our overall attendance at 95% is now just below our target of 96% 😞

Let's make an excellent start to the new summer term with all our children achieving the school attendance target of 96% for the half term beginning Monday 9 April until Friday 25 May.

**WE CAN DO THIS!**

### 100% Attendance

Well done to the many children who achieve 100% attendance each week. Children with 100% attendance have been entered into a prize draw at Celebration Assembly each week to win a £5 book voucher

We are pleased to have Mrs J Gerkin working with us from 26 March as Attendance Officer for St. Joseph's. Mrs Gerkin will be working with Miss Mathews and Mrs Hepple to improve overall school attendance

Thank you for continuing to use the school's answerphone service to report a pupil absence. This saves important parent/office time. However, please ensure you speak slowly and clearly, stating child's name, class and reason for absence.

### School Matters!



## Celebration of Holy Week

Throughout the season of Lent all children and staff have been involved in a range of prayer activities including Liturgy and Worship. All children will visit 'Stations of the Cross' in our Prayer Garden on Wednesday 28 March. These are wonderful opportunities for all members of our school community to remember and reflect on the Easter Story. Please take time to talk to your child about the Easter Story so that they can share these experiences with you.

## School Mass 20 March 2018

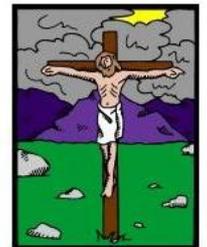
We celebrated Mass in school on Tuesday 20 March, 2018 to remember our patron saint, St Joseph. This was a beautiful celebration; the children's responses, reading and singing as always made us very proud of them all.

## Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Children preparing for First Holy Communion celebrated the sacrament of First Reconciliation on Thursday 22 March. Please pray for the children and families at this special time.

## Easter Services 2018

- ✠ Holy Thursday 7.00pm  
at English Martyrs, Stamfordham Road
- ✠ Good Friday 3.00pm  
at St Bede's, Whickham View
- ✠ Holy Saturday 7.00pm  
at St Michael's, Westmorland Road
- ✠ Easter Sunday  
9.30am at St. Bede's  
11.00am at St. Michael's



## Road Safety Workshop

Road Safety Workshops were delivered in school to all children in Early Years and KS1 on Wed 21 March.

## Visits and Visitors

We have had a number of visits and visitors this term. The positive feedback from such events confirms our children are wonderful ambassadors for St Joseph's. Please remember to check out our website for more information and photographs or download our free app Parent Hub to keep up to date with what's going on in school.

4 children from Year 5 participated in a Maths Challenge at St. Cuthbert's Catholic High School along with teams from the other feeder primary schools. We finished 6 out of 14 – in the top half! A good result!

22 children from KS2 are looking forward to taking part in the Newcastle Dance Festival at the City Hall on Tuesday 27 March. Judging from their great performances at Cheerleading Club, they are sure to impress the audience with their moves!

## SATS (Year 2 & Year 6)



The national tests for pupils in Year 6 will take place week beginning **Monday 14 May, 2018** (Tests in English and Maths are timetabled each day of this week). It is very important that **all** Year 6 children are in school every day this week.

The SATs in Year 2 will take place throughout the month of May.

Good attendance and punctuality are extremely important at this time.

## Open Evening - 27/28 March 2018

Please take this opportunity to meet with the class teacher to discuss your child's progress. Children make the best possible progress when home and school work together. Please take the time to complete and return the feedback form to your child's class teacher. Your feedback and support are greatly appreciated.

## Contact Numbers



Please ensure the school office has the correct contact details for your child. Unfortunately, we are still finding that, when a child is poorly, we cannot contact some parents.

**It is extremely important that we have up to date numbers for all emergency contacts.**



## Parent Hub App

We ask where possible that parents download the Parent Hub app (see instructions attached). You will require wifi connection/mobile data to receive messages/photographs/newsletters etc. We have only had 33% of parents sign up to this free app which allows school to send messages to parents free of charge. Please help us to save costs and also keep you updated on the wonderful things happening in school.



## Easter Eggs-travaganza



A huge thank you to the Friends and Family of St Joseph's for organising our 'Easter Eggs-travaganza' which will take place on **Friday 23 March 2018**. There is no doubt the event will be a great success, enjoyed by all, and will raise another fantastic sum of money. Thank you for your generous support



## Reading



Our celebration of World Book Day was a great success as always with everyone participating with great enthusiasm.

We are very fortunate to have a number of adult volunteers who come into school to support the children to practise their reading.

As Miss Dixon said when we launched our '100 million million minutes' reading challenge, **reading is the gateway to all learning.**

Please take the time to enjoy reading together with your child... little and often is best. If you would like any support or tips on how best to support your child with reading and homework, please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher.

## Road Safety

Please take notice of the parking banner and show consideration for the safety of all. Thank you

## Holidays

Please find attached the school terms and holidays for 2018 -2019, which have been agreed by Governors.

## Easter Holiday

School will be closed

**Friday 30 March to Friday 6 April 2018.**

We reopen

**Monday 9 April at 8.55am**  
(8.10am for Breakfast Club)

## Nut Allergies



We have several children in school who have severe nut allergies. We have therefore made the decision to ban all nuts in school. Please ensure that your child does not bring any nuts or nut products into school in their packed lunch or for a snack. This also means **we cannot accept birthday cakes or birthday treats**. We appreciate your support with this issue.

## School Website

[www.stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk](http://www.stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk)

On our school website you will find links to our uniform supplier by clicking on the **UNIFORM** tab, you will also find a direct link to school money by clicking on the **SCHOOL MONEY** tab. Our news letters can be found in the **NEWS** tab as well as within in the **Information for Parents** tab along with lots of other useful documents and information such as **Off Site Visits**, **After School Clubs**, **Curriculum Information**, our **School Meal Menu** and much, much more. Why not have a browse.....



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
has been rated - GOOD



"Pupils enjoy their learning, want to succeed and are proud of their school."



Living, Learning and Loving  
together with Christ.

