



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mr P Brown



Living, Learning  
and Loving  
together with  
Christ

September 2024

**WELCOME:** It has been lovely to see the children return to school this week after the summer. They all look so much bigger! They have made an excellent start in class and have settled remarkably quickly. We will soon have them in the routine of learning and enjoying school.



**OFSTED REPORT:** We have still not received the final, official OFSTED report from our visit in July. Hopefully it will be with us imminently and once we have it, we will make it available to all parents and stakeholders in the school.



ClassDojo

**CLASS DOJO:** Our most effective means of quick communication continues to be through Class Dojo. Please make sure that you have downloaded this and have a link to the school. Remember to switch our notifications back on after the summer!

**CONTACT DETAILS:** All parents must be contactable at all times in case children get sick or have an accident. If you have moved house or changed phone numbers, please let the school know as quickly as possible so that the office staff can update the records accordingly.

**PARENT MEETINGS:** Parents will be invited in this half term to learn about what their children will be taught this year and how to best support them. This will be a short meeting with myself and each class teacher. We hope to see lots of you there and refreshments will be on offer.

The dates are as follows:

Year 6 - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 9.00am

Year 5 Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 9.00am

Year 4 Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 9.00am

Year 3 Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 9.00am

Year 2 Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 9.00am

Year 1 Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 9.00am

Reception and Nursery Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 9.00am

Join Us!

All sessions will last about half an hour.

**PROGRESS AND ATTENDANCE:** Our academic results in Year 6 last year were once again very strong and above the national average in reading, writing and maths. In some cases, well above. A breakdown is below:

|         | St Joseph's<br>Expected<br>Standard | National<br>Expected<br>Standard | St Joseph's<br>Greater Depth | National<br>Greater Depth |
|---------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Reading | 80%                                 | 74%                              | 37%                          | 27%                       |
| Writing | 80%                                 | 72%                              | 27%                          | 18%                       |
| Maths   | 83%                                 | 74%                              | 20%                          | 24%                       |

The children have continued to progress well. As always, this progress is very much linked to strong attendance and good punctuality. If the children are not here - we can't teach them and gaps will emerge in

their learning that are hard to fix as they move through the school. The minimum attendance level we would expect is 90% for each child. We would hope that most achieve 95% or higher. The best way you can support your child is ensuring that they are in every day and on time. As soon as they are in those routines, the better. If your child has a doctor or dentist appointment please notify school and bring them into school until it is time and collect them for their appointment.

Please remember that we have a free breakfast club from 8.00am every morning for children from Year 1 to Year 6. The children must be in by 8.30am at the latest to access this.

**YEAR 6 PLACES:** Year 6 parents should have now received an email from Newcastle City Council about applying for a Secondary school place next year. The deadline for this is 31 October. Please give this due consideration as it is a big decision but do not leave it until the last minute. You will have four choices to place in order of preference from your first choice down to fourth. Our advice is always to fill in all four. If you just fill in one and that school is oversubscribed according to its admissions criteria, then the Council will place your child at the next closest school with availability. This could be anywhere in Newcastle.

Our natural feeder schools are St Cuthbert's and Sacred Heart, both fantastic Catholic schools on our side of the city. I would always encourage parents to apply there. However, it is also worth noting that admission to those schools is not guaranteed if your child has not been baptised as a Catholic at the time of application. This is not to discourage applications but it is important to give a realistic view of the process. Should you need any support in filling out the application or any educational advice, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**STAFF CHANGES:** Ms Iveson has left us over the summer and has been replaced by Miss McDonagh who had previously worked with us on supply. Newcastle City have also informed us that they have appointed a new school crossing patrol officer and they will start on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> of September.

**CLUBS:** end at 4:15 and Cost **£1.50** each



| Date      | Club         | Year    |
|-----------|--------------|---------|
| Monday    | Karate       | 3 4 5 6 |
| Monday    | Ukulele      | 4 5 6   |
| Tuesday   | Football     | 4 5 6   |
| Wednesday | Dance        | 1 2 3   |
| Thursday  | Netball      | 4 5 6   |
| Friday    | Multi-Skills | 3 4 5 6 |

**PACKED LUNCHES:** All children from Reception to Year 2 qualify for a free school lunch. Children will be offered three choices each day and choose this at the start of the school day. Menus are set and are available on request. School lunches are available to all children but need to be paid for from Year 3 to Year 6 unless the children qualify for means tested free school meals (an application for Free School Meals can be made at any time and goes to Newcastle City Council). I would always encourage parents to take up this option to ensure that the children get a balanced meal each day.

We have introduced a coloured band system into school which allows children to choose their lunch each day from the menu. A letter explaining this and copy of the menu was sent home at the end of last term.

Thank you for supporting this while we are in the early days of setting this up. If you want to see a copy of the lunch menu than look on our website.

If parents do choose to give their children a packed lunch, you must ensure that it is of sufficient quality. At times last year we have seen packed lunches of poor quality containing only a packet of biscuits and packet of crisps (for example). Obviously, this is not sufficient to sustain the children through the school day.

**ALLERGIES:** We have a number of children with nut allergies which can be very serious. Please do not send your children into school with nuts as a snack.



**UNIFORM:** We keep our Uniform policy very simple. Cardigans and jumpers are purple and shoes should be black in colour, comfortable and appropriate for school. Leggings and jeans are not part of our school uniform and the children should always have a coat with them. Children can come to school in their PE kits on their appointed day for PE. No jewellery on PE days.

We look forward to working with you and your children in close partnership this year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Brown  
Executive Head

Mrs Rogan  
Head of School