



St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

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

Monthly Newsletter – Friday 3rd February 2023

Statement to Live By:

Be Boastful in the Name of the Lord.

Dear Parents and Carers,

The students returned after the Christmas break full of energy and enthusiasm and they have done really well this half term. They continue to make us proud and make fantastic contributions to school life. Some of those can be found in the rest of the newsletter. Also this month, we have had a fantastic class led assembly delivered by 6H. The assembly was all about peace and how we can all contribute to make the world a more peaceful place. Father Dodds also came into school to celebrate Mass in our newly refurbished chapel with 7M who contributed with readings and also the writing and reading all of the bidding prayers.

I mentioned in the December newsletter that we meant to send out an online questionnaire before Christmas. Unfortunately we have only just sent it out so please accept my apologies and if you haven't received the information, please contact the school office. The questionnaire is designed by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate. This is the organisation that has the responsibility for the inspection of the Catholic Life of the school and the quality of the provision for Religious Education. The aim of this questionnaire is to gather your views on these two areas in preparation for our upcoming inspection and to inform school improvement.

I am pleased to tell you that we raised over £2000 in Charity Donations last term for different events including CAFOD, Wear it Yellow and Macmillan Cancer Support. We could not do this without the ongoing help and support of you all and for this we cannot thank you enough.

Finally just a reminder that we close to pupils for half term on Thursday 16th February and year 8 have parents evening on the 15th February. Further details of the parents evening will follow next week.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr. N. A. Wood
Headteacher

Vex Robotics Competition



On Wednesday the 17th of January, pupils from our Year 7 and 8 Robotics club attended the Vex Robotics Regional Finals held at The Nissan Factory in Sunderland. The team had an amazing day, walking away with three out of the five trophies available to be won. The day started off with driver skills and programming challenges in which the team performed brilliantly. By lunchtime it looked neck and neck between ourselves and another school and the tension in the arena began to grow!

The afternoon saw the team being interviewed by officials from The Reece Foundation and Nissan followed by a teamwork tournament whose winners would move on to the National Finals in Telford. By the end of the day we waited in anticipation for the winners to be announced. First, St Joseph's was called out for winning the driver skills and programming trophy and we were all gobsmacked by the announcement. Quickly afterwards we were called out again, this time for winning the excellence award. The judges had been blown away by the enthusiasm, maturity and knowledge shown by our team and the feedback given about our pupils was incredibly positive. The final trophy of the day was for the teamwork tournament, in which St Joseph's had to work cooperatively with a team from another school. This was the big one, a chance to progress onto the National Finals. Once again, St Joseph's was called out to win first place. An amazing end to a fantastic day and the start of a new journey for the team to lead us to the National Finals at the beginning of April to be held at The Telford International Centre. Wish us luck as the winners get to compete at the World Finals in Houston, Texas.

SVP Youth Group Litter Pick

This afternoon the SVP Youth Group carried out a litter pick in our school grounds. The pupils were passionate about taking action as they noticed that a lot of litter has been blowing around in the wind. Our outdoor space is now looking much improved. A big well done to our volunteers who managed to fill five bags of rubbish!



World Book Day:

We will be celebrating World Book Day at St Joseph's on Thursday 2nd March. There are some exciting activities planned to mark the day. We would like to invite pupils to come to school dressed as a character from one of their favourite books. Any pupils who don't wish to dress up can come to school in normal school uniform.



Planetarium:

John, one of our Y6 pupils, officially opened the planetarium at the Twice Brewed inn with local photographer Wil Cheung.

Please see the link below for more information on the events that take place.

<https://www.twicebrewedinn.co.uk/stargazing>

Queen's Hall Production of Little Manfred

The Queen's Hall are putting on Little Manfred, a family puppet show from the author of War Horse. For special discounted £5 tickets for the Friday night performance (10th February – 6pm) please use the offer code: Manfred5 at the checkout. <https://www.queenshall.co.uk/events/little-manfred>

About the production:

It is the summer of 1966. Charley and her little brother Alex are walking their dog Manfred on the beach when they notice two older men staring out to sea. A chance encounter brings them together. Slowly, Charley and Alex learn of their mother's past, and of the friendships that can be formed in difficult circumstances. In 1945, their farmstead home was a posting for German prisoners of war, and their mother Grace was just a little girl...

The cast for this production includes serving and veteran military personnel and their family members.

STAYING SAFE ONLINE - CYBER BULLYING

Cyberbullying is repetitive, negative and intentional behaviour that causes harm or upset and is carried out through online communication (such as social media platforms like snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, what's app and TikTok). Cyberbullying can be hard to eradicate since people can conceal their identity with profiles that use avatars and false names. If you think you are being bullied online...

- Tell your mum or dad, big brothers or sisters or a teacher
- Get screenshots of the offending material (or ask your parents to)
- Get information that will help you (and us) to identify the person who is bullying you (name, age, screen names, profile pictures etc.)
- Tell your family anything you might have said too, things you might have said in retaliation or when provoked
- Report the perpetrator (bully) to the reporting part of the social media site they are using then block them person so that they cannot use the same profile to contact you again – your parents or teachers can help you do this
- Don't go on sites that are too old for you
- Don't make friends online with people you do not know – it is really easy to make fake profiles to hide who you are
- If it is another pupil in school, we will make sure that you are safe in school and we will deal with it
- If the perpetrator is someone not known to us we will help you and your family take the next steps

Uniform:

It is expected that all students will wear the correct uniform at all times. At present students are allowed to wear their PE uniform to school on the days that they have PE.

Sports Clubs

On a Thursday after school, we now have at least 30 pupils attending our table tennis club. Pupils have now been placed into leagues which will continue until Easter. If anyone would like to join, please contact the school office.

On Friday 10th February, we will be having our first year group house sporting competition where the Y7s will be competing in a table tennis competition. There will be lots of house points on offer! Other year group house competitions will be taking place over the next couple of weeks.

As school is closed on 17th February, there will be no dance club that afternoon.

Extra Curricular Activities:

Here at St. Joseph's we have a wealth of extracurricular activities that are regular fixtures in the school calendar. We are also looking to develop our extracurricular activities further especially in the STEM, Music and Sports areas. Please find a copy of our current activities below:

Activity	Day/Time
Robotics Club	Every lunchtime/Afterschool Thursday
Art Club	Weds - Thurs lunchtime
Choir	Wednesday afterschool
Orchestra	Thursday morning
Drum Group	Wednesday lunchtime
Rock Band	Friday lunchtime
SVP Youth Group	Monday lunchtime

Sports

Day	Lunchtime Activity	After school
Monday		
Tuesday	Y5 Dodgeball	
Wednesday	Y8 Dodgeball Y5/6 Football	
Thursday	Y7 Dodgeball	Table tennis
Friday	Y6 Dodgeball Y7/8 Football	Dance club



Sporting superstars



The following pupils were nominated by their PE teacher for their hard work in their PE lessons in the month of January. Well done to all pupils!

January Sports Superstars

5M – Briannon

5S – Thora

6D – James B

6H – Mia

7M – Hannah

7S – Isla

8C – Taylor

8D – Emma

8W – Sam

Upcoming Events at a Glance:

Date	Activity
Friday 10th February	Disco 7 - 8.30pm
Tuesday 14th February	Valentine's Cake stall
Wednesday 15th February	Y8 Parents' Consultation Evening (details to follow)
Thursday 16th February	School closes for half term
Friday 17th February	Teacher Training Day
Monday 27th February	School reopens

PTA News

Disco Dates: 10/02/2023

If you are able to help out at any of the discos please can you contact Eleanor Stoves Tel: 01434 605124

A big thank you to all parents who helped out at the last disco.

Tuesday 14th February - Valentine's themed cake stall - please send into school any donations of cakes or biscuits

Dear God,

We ask for a flourishing community, where neighbours learn to love each other and come to know Jesus.

We pray that we can be good stewards of Your love to each one of our neighbours.

We ask that You help us to learn from our community, and it may be a place where peace always prevails.

Amen.

God bless

Mr N Wood

