



St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

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

Fortnightly Newsletter – Friday 16th September 2022

Statement to Live By:

Rejoice!

Attendance Information: Our target for attendance is 98%

Please strive to make every effort to ensure your child gets to school every day to help us achieve our target.

	5M	5S	6D	6H	7M	7S	8C	8D	8W	Overall
WB 5/9/22	100%	100%	98.4%	100%	93.5%	100%	100%	97.1%	94%	98.2%

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year.

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Head Teacher of St Joseph's Catholic Middle School. I am delighted and honoured to have been appointed as the new headteacher and I'm very keen to get to know all our pupils, parents, carers and staff.

From my experience of being a Deputy Headteacher at St Thomas More Catholic school, I know that a successful and happy school depends on all of us working together. St Josephs can only be successful if we all work together to build a strong community that cares for the individual, ensures everyone feels valued and has high aspirations. It is only in this caring community that all of our young people will flourish. I also believe in the importance of a well disciplined, safe, calm and purposeful environment so that everyone is able to learn.

All schools have gone through difficulties in recent years due to the pandemic but as we begin this academic year I am very positive that together we can make 2022 a successful year for St Joseph's Catholic Middle School. I look forward to learning more about the school so that the changes we make in this new chapter are supported by the whole school community.

As parents and carers, you make an important contribution to your children's achievements, and I'm excited to build on the relationship between you and the school for everyone's benefit.

The school will be holding a number of events over the next term, including the Macmillan Coffee Morning, Pastoral Parents' Evening, Open Evening and Y5 Music Evening. I look forward to meeting many of you there. We will endeavour to schedule these events on different days in the hope that as many families as possible will have the opportunity to attend.

We will be in touch with the details shortly.

You're also welcome to contact me at parentcontact@hexhamstjosephs.uk or 01434 605124

Mr N Wood

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Thursday 29th September 2022, we are hosting a Macmillan Coffee morning from 10.30 - 12.00 in the school hall. We would like you, your family and your friends to join us. It will be a fantastic event, to support such a worthy cause.



The children will be able to purchase a homemade cookie and a drink of juice during their morning break, for £1.00. There will also be a raffle.

Any donations of cakes are welcome and can be brought into school on the morning of the event. Please ensure any cake tins, tubs are clearly labelled if you would like them returned.

We look forward to seeing you, your family and your friends there.

Additional Bank Holiday:

In line with government guidelines, Monday 19th September, the date of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's State Funeral, will be a national bank holiday.

Consequently all of our schools in the Trust will be closed for the day. St Joseph's will reopen on Tuesday 20th September.

Open Evening for Prospective Pupils, September 2023

On Tuesday 27th September at 6.30pm, we will be holding our Open Evening for prospective parents and pupils transferring to middle school in September 2023.

Application for Middle and High School

If your child is transferring to either middle or high school in September 2023 then you need to apply for their place before 31st October 2022. Please see the link below

https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

Vacancies:

Teaching Assistant – Level 3 (2 posts)

There will be 2 teaching assistant posts coming up at St Joseph's, please check the BWCET website.

Admin Assistant

It is likely that the postholder for the admin post will be based at St Joseph's Middle School; however, flexibility is required, and there may be times that some of the role may also involve working at St Mary's First School as and when required.

Grade: Grade D, SCP 5/6 (£19,650 - £20,043 pro rata per annum)

Hours: 37 hours per week, Permanent/TTO plus 5 days

<http://bwcet.com/vacancies/>

Closing date: Monday 26 th September 2022

Lunchtime Supervisor:

St. Mary's RC First School requires two Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants. The purpose of the job is to provide supervision to the pupils over lunchtime. With the main duties and responsibilities being the supervision and care of pupils in the dining area and in the playground, and other areas of the school premises during lunchtime alongside some associated ancillary and cleaning duties. We are open to flexible working requests if required. If you are interested or know of anybody else who may be interested please follow this link to the application forms:

<https://bishopwilkinsoncetrust.postingpanda.uk/job/315314>

Closing date: Monday 19th September 2022

Y5 Trip to Weardale:

Our Y5 Weardale residential trip is fast approaching (Wednesday, 5th October - Friday, 7th October) and the children and staff that are going to be attending are becoming very excited!

On Tuesday, 20th September 2022, from 5:30pm - 6:00pm, we will be holding an information evening. The information evening will take place in St. Joseph's school hall.

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.

Y6 swimming:

6H will be starting their swimming lessons on Monday 26th September for 6 weeks at the Wentworth swimming pool. All pupils from 6H will need to bring their swimming costume and towel to school in a named bag. The lessons will be free of charge for all pupils. As 6H have PE lesson 5, they will be expected to come to school in PE uniform.

Sports Clubs

Our lunchtime sports clubs will be starting on Tuesday 20th September and will run up to October half term. If your child would like to take part in any of the clubs listed below then they need to come to school on the day of the club in their PE uniform. We will monitor this over the next few

weeks to ensure that children are not abusing the system and are wearing the appropriate uniform to school.

Day	Lunchtime Activity
Monday	
Tuesday	Y7/8 Netball Y7/8 Rugby
Wednesday	Y5/6 Football
Thursday	Y5/6 Tag Rugby
Friday	Y7/8 Football

FSM - Are You Eligible for Free School Meals?

Many families will now have seen the increase in both utility bills and the cost of the weekly shop. With this in mind can I remind parents that you may be entitled to free school meals.

The criteria is as below:

- Universal Credit with an earnings threshold that does not exceed £7,400
- Income Support
- Income - based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income, as assessed by HMRC that does not exceed £16,190
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Please follow the link below to see if you may be eligible.

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Meals.aspx>

E-SAFETY - How can I introduce a phone in a safe way?

Whether your child already has a phone or they are about to get their first one, explore the parental controls on offer and have a conversation with your child to set up some boundaries around their phone use, for example, who they can give their number to, or where they keep it overnight. Reassure them you want to help them to enjoy using it safely, and that they can talk to you if anything upsets or worries them while using it.

If your child is very young, spend time with them downloading some appropriate apps and games. If your child is older, have a conversation with them about what they like or want to use their phone for, and what apps or games they use. Give them a strategy to use if something goes wrong, for example, turning off the screen and coming to talk to you.

Upcoming Events at a Glance:

Date	Activity
Tuesday 27th September	Open Evening for Prospective Pupils - Sept 2023, 6.30pm
Thursday 29th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning - details to follow
Tuesday 4th October	Pastoral Parents' Evening - details to follow
Wed 5th - Fri 7th October	Y5 Residential trip to Weardale Activity Centre

Prayer for the week is for our recently departed Queen Elizabeth II.



God bless

Mr N Wood

