



# St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

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

**Monthly Newsletter – Friday 4th November 2022**

## **Statement to Live By:**

### **Saintly Followers**

Dear Parents and Carers,

October has been an exciting month at St Joseph's with our new year 5s enjoying their residential in Weardale and their Welcome Mass which we celebrated at St Mary's. It was a lovely morning in church and it was fantastic to see so many parents, grandparents and other family members there.

Year 7 also visited Warkworth as part of their study of history and they have a visit to a Mosque planned in November as part of their RE curriculum. These trips are an integral part of life at St Joseph's and really enrich the children's education.

We have moved and refurbished the library which opened to the children this month. Our pupil librarians have been doing a fantastic job, both initially organising the books and then working in the library at break and lunch times. This enables all of the children to have the opportunity to have access to a wide range of reading material. Can I please ask that you continue to encourage your child to read as the benefits to them are much wider than just the enjoyment that can be found in a good book.

We have also spent this month moving and refurbishing the school chapel and this will be opening soon. It will be used for small services and masses in school and will be a place of quiet contemplation and prayer that is available for both staff and students.

The first half term in school was very positive with the vast majority of pupils behaving extremely well and working hard in lessons. This is the approach we expect so that we can all enjoy our time in school and students can make fantastic progress academically and in their wider personal development. I am confident that this will continue this half term.

Finally thank you for all of your support last half term and I look forward to seeing you at the events that we have planned and in the run up to Christmas.

Kind regards

Mr. N. A. Wood  
Headteacher

### All Saints Day was on November 1st.

The Feast of All Saints, commemorates all those who have died and are now in Heaven. Each day during pastoral time, the children have reflected upon a Saint.



### Year 7 trip

Our Year 7 pupils will be visiting Al-Azhar Mosque in South Shields. The pupils are very excited. Please ensure your child is in full school uniform and all girls must have a suitable garment of clothing that will cover their hair.

7M - 28/11/22 and 7S 01/12/22

### 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.

### Children in Need 2022:

#### **Bake Sale**

We will be holding a bake sale in school on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November to help support Children in Need. Any cake donations would be greatly appreciated. Pupils can bring any donations and spending money into school on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November and treats will be on sale at break time.



#### **Non-uniform Day**

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November pupils are invited to come to school in non-school uniform. We ask that pupils coming to school in home clothes bring a £1 donation with them on the day.

Thank you for all of your support.

### School Photographs:

The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November. All pupils will need to come to school in full school uniform that day.

### British Youth Sailing:

Congratulations to Theo B (7S) who has been selected for the **North Windsurfer – Regional Training Group** .

Theo's selection for this RYA activity recognises his potential to progress within British Youth Sailing, with the aim of progressing to UK Youth Squads. Theo has been selected based on performance and commitment to a programme of training and competition over a period. Well done Theo!



### Football tournaments:

Well done to all of the Y5 boys and Y5 and Y6 girls who represented the school at the football tournaments at Highfield Middle School this week. Photos of the squads will be added to the next newsletter as the weather on the nights was extremely wet and windy!

## Sports Clubs

Our lunchtime sports clubs have been really well attended since they started in mid September. If your child would like to attend a club it is never too late to start! All they need to do is arrive at school in their PE uniform and turn up after they have had their lunch. A list of the activities are in the table below.

Day	Lunchtime Activity	After school
Monday		
Tuesday	Y7/8 Rugby	
Wednesday	Y5/6 Football	
Thursday	Y5/6 Tag Rugby	Table tennis
Friday	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 October. Well done to all pupils!

### October Sports Superstars

5M – Briannon  
5S – Zach  
6D – Ruby C  
6H – Mollie  
7M – Xander  
7S – Raine  
8C – Geoff  
8D – Rupert  
8W – Darcie



### **Christmas Angel Art Competition**

As you know Angels are very important messengers in the Christmas story and they are also hugely popular as Christmas decorations and on Christmas cards.

Pupils are invited to create a 2d or 3d angel at home.

- \* 2d angels should be on A4 paper. You can draw, paint, collage, print or use digital software to create a 2d angel.
- \* 3d angels can be made of anything you like – paper mache, string, kitchen roll, clothes' pegs, fabric, wire. It's up to you.....
- \* There will be prizes for the most amazing angels in each Key Stage.
- \* If you need inspiration, ideas sheets are available from the art room.
- \* Bring your angels into school by Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December.
- \* Our Angels will be displayed in school.



### **SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION - OPERATION ENCOMPASS**

Our school is involved in a joint operation with Northumbria Police and Northumberland County Council's Children's Services. This scheme is known as 'Operation Encompass'.

Operation Encompass has been established to help schools provide in-school support to children who have been present at, exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incident.

We know that children can be significantly harmed, physically and/or emotionally, during these situations, and that it also negatively affects their learning and behaviour in class.

Therefore, as part of the Operation Encompass procedure, and to help mitigate the resulting negative impact, the school will now receive a confidential phone call or email from Northumbria Police before 9am the morning after a child or young person has been witness to, or involved in, any reported domestic abuse incident. Here at St. Joseph's Catholic Middle School, we have a dedicated and child focussed Safeguarding Team. They are specially trained to effectively use the information the Police share, in confidence, and enable the school to provide the right support to any child and their family.

We always endeavour to offer the best support possible to our pupils and believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

More information can be found at <https://www.operationencompass.org> . However, if you have any concerns or questions regarding Operation Encompass, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Simpson (Designated Safeguarding Lead), and he will be happy to discuss this with you.

#### **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:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>14th - 18th November</b>	<b>Road Safety Awareness Week</b>
<b>Friday 18th November</b>	<b>8D Class Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>School Photographer</b>
<b>Monday 28th November</b>	<b>7M trip to Mosque</b>
<b>Tuesday 29th November</b>	<b>Y5 &amp; Y6 Flu Vaccinations</b>
<b>Thursday 1st December</b>	<b>7S trip to Mosque</b>
<b>Friday 2nd December</b>	<b>6H Class Mass</b>
<b>Friday 9th December</b>	<b>Christmas Fair 1.30 - 3.00pm - Details to follow</b>
<b>Friday 16th December</b>	<b>Christmas Disco - 7 - 8.30pm</b>
<b>Monday 19th December</b>	<b>Cinema Trip - Details to follow</b>
<b>Tuesday 20th December</b>	<b>Y7 &amp; Y8 Flu Vaccinations Winter Concert 6.30 - Details to follow</b>
<b>Thursday 22nd December</b>	<b>Whole School Carol Service - Details to follow School closes for Christmas holiday</b>

**PTA News:**

**Disco Dates:**

Friday 16th December 2022 7.00 - 8.30pm £3.00 entry

Friday 10th February 2023 7.00 - 8.30pm £3.00 entry

Friday 14th July 2023 7.00 - 8.30pm £3.00 entry

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.

**Christmas Fair:**

Friday 9th December 2022 1.30 - 3.00pm - please send into school any donations of cuddly toys, gift bags, bric a brac , toys or games and books week beginning Monday 28th November 2022. If you are able to help out at the Christmas Fair please contact Eleanor Stoves Tel: 01434 605124.

**Prayer for the week**

Saints of God, please come to my aide. Pray for me and bring to me the grace I need to live a holy life in imitation of your own lives. All saints of God, pray for us. Jesus, I trust in you - Amen

God bless

Mr N Wood

