

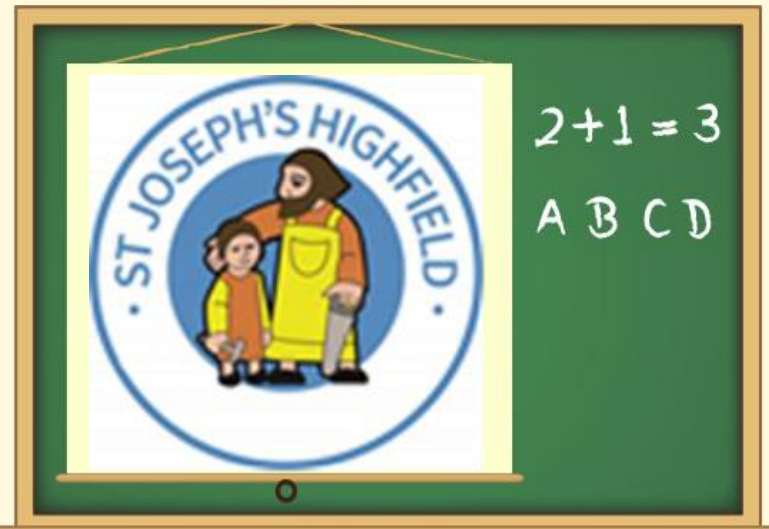
# Highfield St Joseph's Newsletter

Work hard, Love, Learn

A caring environment which is centered on love and respect

Messages from Joanna Bircham,  
Head Teacher

## Summer Term



We've had a lovely week in school enjoying the sunshine though it has been quite hot in some of the classrooms. We've been making full use of our fantastic adventure area for outdoor play and have had the parasols out in the yard. Let's hope it lasts for the long weekend ahead of us!

**Sun Protection – Thank you for sending sun cream and hats into school. There is a consent to complete on Arbor for use of sun creams. Please complete this if you haven't done it yet.**

## Attendance

I gave out a huge pile of 100% attendance certificates for Spring 2 half term yesterday in assembly. All pupils in school also got an extra playtime as well as St Joseph's currently tops the leader board for highest attendance of all Catholic Primary schools in the BWCET Trust area. We are delighted that our pupils are happy and thriving so their attendance is amazing! Well done too to you parents who face the morning challenge of getting your children to school by 8.30.

## Pope Francis

We were very sad to learn of the death of Pope Francis on Easter Monday. Our pupils have been praying for him and many of them had watched some of the funeral on TV. We have learnt a lot about caring for others and the environment through studying Pope Francis's encyclicals Fratelli Tutti and Laudato Si which are all about caring for our common home.



### Visit of Bishop Stephen

We were delighted to have Bishop Stephen visit us in school for the morning before we broke up for Easter. Bishop Stephen joined Year 3 /4 for their celebration of the word and then spent time with our Rights Respecting School Council who asked him some excellent questions. He then spent some time with some of our prayer group members and he showed them his rosary beads which were given to him by St John Paul when he was Pope. The children were so impressed that our Bishop met one of our special House Saints.

## FUNDRAISING

*Our Big Lent Walk raised £110 for*



*Our Easter competitions raised £65 for school funds. Thank you for your support*



### Parking

Thank you for parking outside of the school grounds when dropping off and picking up and for not using our entrances as turning circles. We have cones and double yellow lines now to keep all our families safe.

## Extracurricular Clubs

Starting from next week we have a range of clubs running this term, including Art, Tag Rugby, Running and Games.

Staff give up their own time for these clubs and we provide all the resources including snacks in many of the clubs. We ask for a donation of £1 per club per week to keep clubs running, you can pay on Arbor or cash into school. Thank you.

### Upcoming Dates

#### May

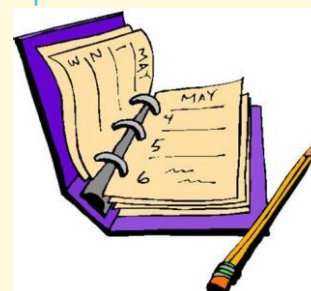
- 5<sup>th</sup> May Bank holiday – school closed
- 12<sup>th</sup> SATS week (Tests don't start until 9am but pupils can come into school from 8am for breakfast if they would like to settle into the school day early.)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Y6 Team Building at St Thomas More
- 20<sup>th</sup> Class photographs
- 23<sup>rd</sup> KS2 Fun Run / School closes for half term.

#### June

- 2<sup>nd</sup> School reopens
- 4-6<sup>th</sup> Year 5/6 Residential to Holy Island
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Y4 Multiplication check
- 9<sup>th</sup> Y1 Phonics test week
- 13<sup>th</sup> KS2 Mass at St Barnabas
- 23<sup>rd</sup> School closed for occasional day

#### July

- 17<sup>th</sup> Y6 leavers assembly 2pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> School closes for summer



### 2025/2026 Term Dates

|             | From                                                                                                                         | To                                  | Half Term                                                     |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Autumn Term | Monday 1 September 2025 (Training Day)<br><b>Children return Tuesday 2 Sept.</b>                                             | Friday 19 December 2025             | 27 October – 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025                    |
| Spring Term | Monday 5 January 2026 (Training Day)<br><b>Children return Tuesday 7 Jan.</b>                                                | Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026 | 23– 27 February 2026                                          |
| Summer Term | Monday 20 April 2026<br><b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May: Bank Holiday</b><br><b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – School Closed</b> | Friday 17 July 2026                 | 25 – 29 May 2026<br>Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May: Bank Holiday |