



Contact us

Head Teacher: Joanna Bircham

Office Manager: Michelle Tate
Office Admin: Kate Bentley

Safeguarding: Joanna
Bircham, Joe Haws and Sarah
Robson

Email: info@stjh.bwcet.com

Tel: 01207 545972

IMPORTANT! ACTION NEEDED

**Please check your
child's Arbor account
to ensure contact
information is up to
date (mobiles/emails
etc) and also that
consents are correct.
Thank you.**

Welcome Back!

We've had a lovely week in school with all pupils both new and returning. We have welcomed our new starters and their families. Our Reception pupils have got off to a flying start and seem very happy to come to St. Joseph's. We also welcome four new pupils to our other year groups. Thank you for sending the children to school on time and looking so smart in their uniforms and school shoes.

Please remember we have an open door policy for any issues you have. Please catch me at the gate or ring the office for an appointment. I will be teaching in Year 5 /6 from Monday to Thursday until 10.30 but will get back to you after that if it's not a problem I can solve quickly at the gate.

Ms Bircham

NURSERY PLANS

Our nursery plans are still on hold as we wait to hear about our move to the BWCET Trust which has been held up due to our PFI/ shared school site. Our EYFS class is now completely set up to take Nursery pupils as well as Reception pupils so hopefully we will be able to extend our provision soon. We will keep you posted! In the meantime our small Reception cohort have a fabulous classroom and teacher all to themselves 😊

Open Afternoon

We are having an open afternoon in early October for all prospective parents to look around school. Mrs Robson and staff will be on hand to show you our lovely Reception class and will have a few Autumn activities planned in our Reception classroom. We will contact you with the date as soon as it is set.

Friends of St. Joseph's

The Friends of St. Joseph's raise lots of funds for school including £400 per class per year towards school trips which are now ridiculously expensive. The Friends are a very welcoming group of parents who would love to have more volunteers. If any new or existing parents are interested in joining them, please contact the school office.

A little
something
to remember

Communication

Our website <https://stjosephshighfield.bwcet.com/> has all statutory and curriculum information and we also have our **St. Joseph's Highfield Facebook page** which will keep you updated on day-to-day learning and activities in school.

We use our Arbor Parent app both as a payment system and a messaging system, so please sign up for this as soon as possible if you are new to school. Our new reception parents will also receive an email from Arbor (our school communication app. Please ensure your sign up when email is received).

Clubs

We are again planning a full range of clubs this year. Please lookout for a clubs letter which should be ready early next week, once we have finalised a few dates.

Jewellery

Thank you for sending your children to school today without jewellery. Watches are permitted but must be removed for PE. Pupils who have had their ears pierced over the holidays need to cover the earrings with plasters and remove them as soon as possible.

PE kit

We ask that children bring in PE kit to keep in school, they will need white t-shirt, navy shorts, joggers and trainers/plimsoles. Please label all items with your child's name. Kit could be kept in a drawstring bag which will be stored on their peg/ in locker. Kit will be sent home each half term for washing. PE days are a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



Swimming

Swimming will continue for some Year 5's and we will be starting a small group of Year 4's. These groups will be switched at Easter to give pupils the opportunity to maximise their time in the pool and hopefully make quick progress in this important life skill. A letter has been prepared for all Year 4 parents and the parents of those pupils in Year 5 who are continuing. This explains more and should be with you this week.

Out of School Wrap Around Club

Helping Hands OOSC runs from 7.30am – school starts and after school until 6pm. Morning club costs £ including breakfast and after school club costs £ including tea. These costs can be greatly subsidised by universal credit or tax free payments. Pupils play outdoors a lot and get to mix with friends so it is a great social experience as well as childcare. Please see Mrs Tate in the office for further details.



Important school and term dates on following pages.....

Universal Free School Meals

Every child in Reception class, Year 1 and 2 is still eligible for a free school meal under the universal free school meals scheme. **This offer has no bearing on the existing free school meals provision.** If, because of your family income you believe your child may be eligible, please see Mrs Tate. Many families in receipt of **universal credit** are now eligible. (This also includes pupils who are adopted from care, no matter what the parent's income.) Pupils who are entitled to free school meals receive special funding through school for the whole period in which they are on free school meals and for 6 years afterwards, which can help with school trips and educational support, so it really is worth applying for it even when your child is already receiving a free school meal through the universal scheme. You can apply on line [Free school meals - Gateshead Council](#)

School Meals from Year 3 onwards

Once your child is in Year 3 school meals must be paid for; the current cost of a school meal is £3 per day for children from Year 3. This is payable on Arbor.

Holiday absence

A reminder that, in the coming academic year, school will refer unauthorised holiday absences to the Local Authority, who may impose a penalty notice.

- The first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.

Please note this penalty notice is issued per child and per parent.

Attendance

We are required to keep detailed records of pupil attendance and distinguish between authorised and unauthorised attendance. It is vital that parents keep us informed about their child's absence. Please contact the school by 8.40am if your child is anticipated to be late or absent for any reason. If the school is not contacted, we will ring parents to ensure the child is safe at home.

It is important for our pupils to be on time in the morning. Persistent lateness results in pupils missing out on vital information at the start of the day and being disorientated. Furthermore, if your child arrives after the register closes at 9 am, this will be classed as an absence for the whole session.

We monitor attendance very closely and will make a home visit if we are concerned that we have not heard from you during the first morning of absence.

Above all, if your child is happy at school and you set firm expectations for attendance as a parent, excellent attendance usually follows. Please let us know immediately if your child is reluctant to come to school for any reason so that we can work together to get them back on track.

TERM DATES 2025/2026

AUTUMN TERM		
Term	Start Date	Finish Date
Autumn One	Monday 1st September 2025 <i>Children return Tuesday 2nd Sept</i>	Friday 24 th October 2025 <i>Monday 20th October school closed</i>
Half Term	Monday 27 th October 2025	Friday 31 st October 2025
Autumn Two	Monday 3 rd November 2025	Friday 19 th December 2025
Christmas Holiday	Monday 22 nd December 2024	Friday 2 nd January 2026

SPRING TERM		
Term	Start Date	Finish Date
Spring One	Monday 5 th January 2026	Friday 20 th February 2026
Half Term	Monday 23 rd February 2026	Friday 27 th February 2026
Spring Two	Monday 2 nd March 2026	Thursday 2 nd April 2026
Easter Holiday	Friday 3 rd April 2026	Friday 17 th April 2026

SUMMER TERM		
Term	Start Date	Finish Date
Summer One	Monday 20 th April 2026 <i>Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday</i>	Friday 22 nd May 2026
Half Term	Monday 25 th May 2026 <i>Monday 25th May – Bank Holiday</i>	Friday 29 th May 2026
Summer Two	Monday 1 st June 2026 <i>Mon 22nd June School closed</i>	Friday 17 th July 2026
Summer Holiday	Monday 20 th July 2026	Proposed date of return Tuesday 1 st September 2026

Public Holidays:	
Christmas Day	Monday 25 th December 2025
Boxing Day	Tuesday 26 th December 2025
New Year's Day	Monday 1 st January 2026
Good Friday	Friday 3 rd April 2026
Easter Monday	Monday 6 th April 2026
May Day	Monday 4 th May 2026
Spring Bank Holiday	Monday 25 th May 2026
August Bank Holiday	Monday 24 th August 2026

The number of term days shown is 194.

Four days within the above school terms are to be used for Professional Development (PD) days when pupils will not attend.

The new school year will begin on Monday 1st September 2025 for staff and Tuesday 2nd September 2025 for pupils.

St Joseph's Yearly Plan 2025 2026



Date:	Event
September	
1st	Staff training day
2nd	Pupils back at school
3rd	Staff meetings every Wednesday
12th	Swimming starts today for Group A pupils
17th	Year 6 welcome liturgy for new Reception pupils
26 th	Languages Day – Languages open hearts and minds
October	
20th	Staff training day
24th	School closes for half term
November	
3rd	School re-opens
10th	Anti-bullying week in school / Odd socks day
Week of 10th	Parents consultations
14th	Children in Need day
Week of 24 th	SEND reviews
27th	Advent Liturgy Year 1 /2 2.30pm
December	
3rd	Advent Liturgy Year 3 /4 2,30pm
10th	Advent liturgy Year 5/6 8.40am
10th	Nativity KS1 2pm
17 th	KS2 Christmas Performance 2pm
18th	Party day
19th	School closes 1pm
January	
5th	School re-opens for Spring Term
9th	Swimming starts today for group B pupils
February	
10 th	Safer Internet day
18 th	Ash Wednesday celebration of the word
20th	School closes for half term 3pm
March	
2nd	School re-opens
5 th	World Book Day
Week of 9 th	Parent consultations
19 th	St Joseph's Day
Week of 23rd	SEND reviews
25 th March	Big Lent walk

April	
1st	Year 1 /2 Holy Week Celebration of the word 8.40am
1st	Year 3 /4 Lenten Celebration of the word 2.30pm
2nd	Year 5/6 Stations of the cross 2pm
2 nd April	School closes today 3pm
20th	School re-opens for Summer Term
May	
11th	SATs week Year 6
22nd	School closes for half term 3pm
June	
1st	School re-opens
1 st - 12th	Year 4 multiplication check fortnight
8th	Year 1 Phonics Test week
22nd	School closed for occasional day
Week of 29th	SEND Reviews week
July	
13 th July	Reports sent out today
16th	Year 6 leavers' assembly in school 2pm
17th	Year 6 Leavers' mass in church 10am
17th	School closes for Summer 3pm

Notes:

SEND reviews will always be two weeks after parents' consultations. Parents of SEND pupils will be offered a longer appointment for the SEND review so do not need to attend the shorter parental consultation unless requested.