



St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

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

Fortnightly Newsletter – Friday 28th January 2022

Statement to Live By:

Open our Hearts and Minds.

Attendance Information

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	7H	7RG	7S	8C	8D	8S
10.01.22	87.6	93.5	76.5	89.6	91.9	95.2	92.6	97.0	94.6	92.2
17.01.22	91.8	94.5	92.6	96.4	91.7	80.7	87.2	90.1	94.1	92.5

Dear Parents and Guardians,

With the weather so mild it has been great to see all year groups accessing the field for extra-curricular clubs this week. At the same time the ground remains soft and I would encourage parents, where possible, to ask pupils to bring a second pair of trainers to school so that we can keep mud levels down in the building.

As you will be aware, from yesterday, face coverings are no longer mandatory in schools. Although community levels in Northumberland are high, they are not rising, therefore the local public health team has informed us that, while the need for caution remains, they are supportive of this change. However, they have also clarified that in specific circumstances such as a school outbreak or high local community levels then they may recommend their reintroduction. This would be on a case by case basis and as a temporary measure.

Given the fact that we have had the highest amount of COVID cases in school this week with many staff absent, we will continue to wear face coverings in communal areas in school. We will monitor the situation as we have been doing and have contingency plans in place should there be an undue increase in cases. Hopefully next week will be our last week of face coverings. There are currently 25 students absent today having tested positive for Covid-19.

Next week, we will begin to explore the dangers of vaping in assembly which will continue within form classes. Nationally, vaping is on the increase amongst teenagers and I would encourage parents to highlight the dangers of this habit to children.

Can I remind parents to let us know, by Sunday 30th January, your thoughts on the forthcoming Y7 trip to 'Snozone' and Y8 trips to both the 'Snozone' and 'Weardale Adventure Centre'. I know this has generated a lot of excitement and we would love to see these experiences happen. A ParentMail form was sent out earlier this week for you to register your interest.

Finally, with Y8 parent consultation evenings fast approaching we are desperate to try and get our new SchoolCloud software off the ground for parents to try, which many of you may have experienced before at other high schools. Dates and times have been sent via ParentMail and we hope to get more details out to parents next week following a few technical problems.

Feast Day: February 1

Patron: of Ireland, dairymaids, cattle, midwives, Irish nuns, and newborn babies

Birth: 451

Death: 525

Saint Brigid was born Brigit, and shares a name with a Celtic goddess from whom many legends and folk customs are associated.

There is much debate over her birth parents, but it is widely believed her mother was Brocca, a Christian baptized by Saint Patrick, and her father was Dubthach, a Leinster chieftain. Brocca was a slave, therefore Brigid was born into slavery.

When Dubthach's wife discovered Brocca was pregnant, she was sold to a Druid landowner. It is not clear if Brocca was unable to produce milk or was not present to care for Brigid, but legend states Brigid vomited any food the druid attempted to feed her, as he was impure, so a white cow with red ears sustained her instead.

Many stories of Brigid's purity followed her childhood. She was unable to keep from feeding the poor and healing them.

One story says Brigid once gave her mother's entire store of butter, that was later replenished after Brigid prayed.

When she was about ten years old, Brigid was returned to her father's home, as he was her legal master. Her charity did not end when she left her mother, and she donated his possessions to anyone who asked.

Eventually, Dubthach became tired of her charitably nature and took her to the king of Leinster, with the intention of selling her. As he spoke to the king, Brigid gave his jewelled sword to a beggar so he could barter it for food for his family. When the king, who was a Christian, saw this, he recognized her heart and convinced Dubthach to grant her freedom by saying, "Her merit before God is greater than ours."

Year of the Eucharist

The Year of the Eucharist has been launched in schools in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. This Year is an opportunity for us to make our Eucharistic journey together, deepening our love for Jesus in the Mass and in the Blessed Sacrament, so as to be strengthened to go out in joyful witness



and compassionate service to our neighbour and to the world. It is so important that our school is part of this wider experience, so that our pupils, students and staff can encounter a new Eucharistic Lord. Father Luke will be coming into school and talking to each class about the Eucharist. We look forward to welcoming him here on Monday 31st January.



Holocaust Assembly:

Mrs Seddon held a special assembly on Thursday as we remember those who lost their lives in WW2 to genocide. The children have a greater understanding of the Holocaust at St Joseph's as they move through KS3 by studying Anne Frank in Y7.

500 words 2022.

If your child has the 'writing bug', Radio 2 has a writing competition currently underway. Every single story submitted, will be read by a brilliant, book-loving army of librarians and teachers from around the UK. The Reading Agency are on board to shortlist the Top 50, and the competition's panel of best-selling authors return to Radio 2 HQ in early May, to pick three medal winners in two categories: 5 - 9 years old; and 10 - 13 years old. The website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1> has lots of ideas, handy hints and entries from last year's competition to read. Perhaps do a bit of surfing to find out more if your child is interested.

Household Support Fund for Families:

NCC Northumberland Communities Together continue to process referrals and requests for support from the Household Support Fund with £777,278 awarded from 6 October 2021 to 31 December 2021. There have been 20,927 awards made to Northumberland households of which 19,097 were to households with children. A reminder that support is available for families who may be experiencing financial hardship or struggling with the costs for food, fuel or utility bills, particularly relevant as we continue to recover from Storm Arwen. Referrals can be made directly on behalf of a client with their consent, via the form below or by signposting to NCT - 01670 620015 <https://forms.office.com/r/NPELdCQBLU>

EcoClub Request:

Members of EcoClub are holding a **Second Hand School Uniform Sale** at break times and lunchtimes (from 1pm) week beginning **Monday 14th February**. Please could you send any good quality out-grown new-design uniform (clothes and footwear) to school via form classes over the next 2 weeks. Many thanks.

Additional Professional Development Day:

We have a Professional Development day on Friday 4th February. School will be closed to all pupils on this day.

Cross Country:

Congratulations to the 8 KS3 pupils who represented Tynedale at the County Cross Country championships at Temple Park, South Shields on Tuesday 18th January.

We had some wonderful performances and the children were brilliant in their respective races.



Clubs:

All of our clubs have been extremely well attended this half term and with the unseasonably dry weather we have had over recent weeks we have been able to reintroduce the Y5/6 boys and girls football on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes.



Swimming:

Congratulations to the 8 Y6 pupils who passed the third and final part of their KS2 swimming outcomes this week. Our Y6 pupils have made excellent progress this year both in their swimming technique and in the vital skill of self-rescue.

Bishop Wilkinson Portrait Competition:

The Brief:

To produce a portrait of

Bishop Thomas Wilkinson

Bishop of The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, 28 December 1889 to
17 April 1909.

The portrait can be in any two-dimensional media and should be A1 size.

The closing date for entries is

Monday 14 February 2022

The winning artist will receive a £30 voucher and £50 worth of art equipment for their school.

[Photographs of entries should be emailed to brl@bwcet.com by noon on 14th February 2022](mailto:brl@bwcet.com)



Easy Fundraising:

Fundraising is a little difficult at this particular time whilst we're unable to hold events in person. The school is now registered with easyfundraising, so you can raise FREE donations for us when you do your everyday online shopping. All you have to do is find the retailer you want to shop with on the easyfundraising website or App, shop as usual and the retailer will donate to us when you make a purchase – at no extra cost to you.

Sign up for free at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjosephsmiddlepta/>

PTA News:

11th February 2022: Disco 7 - 8.30pm. £3 entry. If you are able to help out at the disco please contact Eleanor Stoves Tel: 01434 605124

14th February 2022: Valentine's Cake Stall. Please bring in donations for the stall on the day. All cakes will be 50p. Thank you.

Upcoming Events at a Glance:

Date	Activity
Friday 4th February	Teacher Training Day - school closed to all pupils
Tuesday 8th February	Y8 Parents' Evening - more details to follow
Thursday 10th February	Y8 Parents' Evening - more details to follow
Friday 11th February 2022	Valentines Disco
Monday 14th February 2022	Valentines Cake Stall

Daily Collective Worship:

In this week's Gospel, the people in Jesus' hometown – Nazareth – struggle to see past His purely human qualities and they assume that He is 'only' the carpenter's son. Their hearts and minds were closed and couldn't recognise Jesus for who He was – the Messiah, the Chosen One. In our form time, this week's prayers help children to recognise that we are called by Jesus to see people as He does – not through superficial, worldly eyes, but with open hearts and minds. We are called to see each person as extraordinary, unique and capable of holiness.

Gospel

Luke 4:21-30

Jesus began speaking in the synagogue, saying: “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”

And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, “Isn’t this the son of Joseph?”

He said to them, “Surely you will quote me this proverb, ‘Physician, cure yourself,’ and say, ‘Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.’”

And he said, “Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place.

Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land.

It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon.

Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”

When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury.

They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong.

But Jesus passed through the midst of them and went away.

God bless



Mr P Naughton

