



St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

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

Fortnightly Newsletter – Friday 11th February 2022

Statement to Live By:

Live it Out

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	7H	7RG	7S	8C	8D	8S
24.01.22	87.0	89.0	89.5	91.1	89.4	74.4	78.5	87.8	88.1	88.9
31.01.22	92.0	96.8	92.9	77.5	94.7	88.0	73.7	97.7	90.9	92.6

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Next week is the end of the first half of the Lenten Term. So far we have had some extreme challenges as a school, mainly related to the Omicron variant of the COVID virus. After an excellent Advent Term we have struggled with high levels of pupil and staff absence which has been unsettling for everyone. The positive news is that we are now coming out of this uncertain period with our lowest levels of COVID in school for a number of weeks and nearly all of our staff fit for work. Currently we only have 2 pupils self-isolating.

All our pupils have reacted so positively to ongoing restrictions in school and putting up with online assemblies and I can confirm that we will be returning to a normal week after half term. Tonight we let our hair down and celebrate with a Valentine's Disco organised by the PTA and Mrs Stoves. The pupils are incredibly excited for the doors to open at 7 pm.

Can I thank those parents who joined us this week on our digital parent consultation platform as we held successful Spring Y8 Parent Consultation Evenings. Both evenings seemed to go without any major problems and we aim to roll this out across the school very soon. Any parents who missed appointments can call the school office and we can arrange a call back.

With the beginning of Lent not far away, Fr Luke has been visiting school on a regular basis to meet with pupils. During Lent, we aim to help others less fortunate than ourselves on a more regular basis. Our SVP Youth are asking everyone to bring in any loose coins you may have around the house to add to our form class Penny Challenge buckets. At the end of term, each class will complete a Penny Challenge in our school hall for The Belauni Street School in Zambia. Last year we raised over £300.00 in pennies.

The Winter Olympics are well under way and we are, as always, pushing pupils to try and take up a sport or join a club at St Joseph's. Please call the office if you would like your child to join a sports club in school or Mr Secker if you would like a link to a local sports club. Sports really do improve an individual's mental health and general fitness, which means they are more likely to learn better at school.

More children and young people are spending additional time on their computers and phones. Of course the internet is a great source for information and education but I wanted to highlight some of the issues and risks which can come with the increased use of time online.

Whether they are using TikTok, Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter or WhatsApp, if you're able to, it is important to speak to your child about the risks online, not posting messages or chatting to someone online in anger or on impulse. Ask them to think before they post anything, as these messages (which could include inappropriate pictures and videos) are almost impossible to take back.

Information is available on the Northumbria Police website to help you have those conversations. The most important thing in this is communication; talk about how to treat others online with respect and what is and isn't appropriate online behaviour.

[\(https://beta.northumbria.police.uk/advice-and-info/parents-and-kids/online-safety-advice-for-parents/\)](https://beta.northumbria.police.uk/advice-and-info/parents-and-kids/online-safety-advice-for-parents/)

Year of The Eucharist

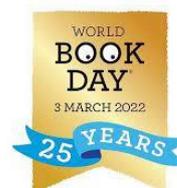
Father Luke has visited all of the classes at St. Joseph's and introduced the Year of the Eucharist to the pupils. It was a great success and one all the pupils enjoyed. We are looking forward to our monthly visits from Father as he gradually reveals the deeper meaning of the Mass and the presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist. The photograph shows Father Luke with 6D.



World Book Day:

On Thursday 3rd March, it is World Book Day, this year will mark 25 years since it began. With that in mind, we have some activities planned for the day, but I would like to encourage as many children to wear costumes linked to a book character. Every child who enters will receive a prize and we will have special prizes for each year group.

In addition, I would like to ask you for help to support our Valentine's Cake Stall on Monday, by donating any cakes for us to sell at break time. The PTA have kindly agreed to donate money in order to purchase new fiction for our school library.



French Fashion Show:

What an afternoon our Y5 pupils had yesterday! 5M and 5S took part in a fashion show as part of their French topic. They were able to use colours and items of clothing to describe what they were wearing. Miss Mooney was very impressed with their spoken French as well as their energetic moves on the catwalk! Bon effort Year 5!



Congratulations:

Huge congratulations to one of our pupils, Ilia 6H.

We received the following from Ilia's ballet teacher, Camilla Reid ARAD RTS.

"Ilia has attained a merit (a silver medal) in her Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Grade 3 Examination and a merit in her RAD Grade 3 Solo Performance Award. This is a considerable achievement even without the disruption to studying and training that Ilia has experienced over the past two years".



Well done Ilia, this is a fantastic achievement.

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.

Children's Mental Health Week:

This week we have celebrated Children's Mental Health week in school. The children have taken part in activities in form time and also during RSE sessions.

These sessions have been based around self-care and children have been given the opportunity to reflect on how to look after their well-being and support their own mental health.

The following is a link to materials which could support your child with their well-being at home.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>



EcoClub in Action

EcoClub enjoyed planting spring bulbs at breaktime in the school grounds. We look forward to seeing the beautiful colours!



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 class collections. Many thanks.

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.

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



A message from DALPB: Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board

As part of the local authority's commitment and that of the wider Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB), we want to share this message:

Ending domestic abuse is everyone's business. You are not alone.

We recognise the importance of engaging with, listening to and learning from people who have experienced and suffered from domestic abuse, and this is central to the work of DALPB. The prevalence and impact of this means that we must encourage everyone to play their part and work together to achieve our vision.

Our vision is:

- Northumberland is a county committed to having a zero-tolerance approach to domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- Everyone matters and for that reason our vision is to make it everyone's business to help prevent and put a stop to domestic abuse and sexual violence in the county.
- We will listen and learn from victims, survivors and their children.
- We will be proactive, provide support and raise awareness in our communities.
- We will seek to change culture.
- Our vision is a vision for all and by working together we can make a difference
- Our vision has focus and I believe by working together we can end domestic abuse and sexual violence in our county.

For more information and support please follow the link below.

nland.uk/domesticabuse

Half Term:

School closes at 3.20pm on Friday 18th February for half term and reopens on Monday 28th February.

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/>

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 11th February 2022	Valentines Disco
Monday 14th February 2022	Valentines Cake Stall

Gospel

Luke 6: 17, 20-26

And coming down with them, he stood in a plain place, and the company of his disciples, and a very great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and the sea coast both of Tyre and Sidon,

And he, lifting up his eyes on his disciples, said: Blessed are ye poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are ye that hunger now: for you shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for you shall laugh. Blessed shall you be when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

Be glad in that day and rejoice; for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For according to these things did their fathers to the prophets.

But woe to you that are rich: for you have your consolation.

Woe to you that are filled: for you shall hunger. Woe to you that now laugh: for you shall mourn and weep.

Woe to you when men shall bless you: for according to these things did their fathers to the false prophets.

God bless



Executive Headteacher

