



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs B Corbett BEd (Hons), NPQH



School Mission Statement

'To inspire, to learn, to love with God'

This half term we are focusing on being:

Faith-filled and Hopeful

Pupils in a Catholic school are growing to be faith-filled in their beliefs and hopeful for the future.

What does this mean?

Catholic schools help their pupils grow by passing on the living and faith-filled tradition of Jesus Christ; by having persevering faith in the pupils, and by encouraging them in turn, to have faith and hope in others.

25th November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

The weather may have turned cold and wet but the children at St Joseph's continue to make us smile and feel proud each day with their enthusiasm and cheerfulness. I have visited RE lessons this week and been so impressed with the children's hard work and engagement in lessons. Well done!

Thank you for all your generous donations towards our chocolate Bingo at 6.30pm tonight. I look forward to seeing you all there. If you are worried about missing the football don't- we will be showing it on the big screen in the Year 5 classroom.

We have a very busy few weeks ahead on the run up to Christmas. The children are busy preparing for Nativities and the Christingle. The expectation is that all Key stage 2 pupils attend the Christingle on Monday 12th December. Please note the dates of all the events below. We are looking forward to the music concerts in school next Friday morning and the Hednesford light switch on at 6pm in the evening.

Children in Years 4 and 5 will be leading the Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Sunday 11th December at 9.15am. Please do join us if you can. The children will be making Bambinellis (baby Jesus) in school that week. Fr Jeremy would like the children to bring their Bambinellis to Church on the 11th December to have them blessed. Following the Mass there will be a Christmas market in the Church hall. The steel pan band will be entertaining us with some Christmas carols and we will be having a special visit from Father Christmas!

Many thanks to everyone who has completed the recent questionnaires. We are busy analysing them and will share the results of the questionnaires with you in due course. Many thanks for all the wonderful positive comments- it is wonderful to hear how you value the nurturing family atmosphere of our lovely school. We are never complacent and always

looking at ways to improve our school to ensure our children receive the very best education- thank you for your comments and suggestions.

It is with sadness that I announce to you that Mrs Donnelly will be leaving St Joseph's at the end of this term. Mrs Donnelly has worked at St Joseph's since 1999 and taught both of my own children when they were here. We would like to thank her for her dedication and commitment to St Joseph's over so many years. She will certainly be missed by us all but she will always be a part of St Joseph's school family.

Mrs Bennett is also leaving us at the end of this term to take up a new teaching assistant position at another school. We thank Mrs Bennet for all she has done during her time at St Joseph's and we will all miss her but wish her well in her new school.

The season of Advent begins this Sunday. Advent is the season of preparation for the birth of Jesus. The first Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to centre our thoughts on hope. It is a beautiful chance to remember the hope God offers to us all if we trust in Him. As we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' arrival, let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation, hope and joy. We have hope because God is ever faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God.

The children will bring home an Advent Calendar next week. Please put this up at home and refer to it each day throughout Advent. Advent is also a good time to think about going back to Mass if you have not been able to attend for a while.

Heavenly Father, bless all of us this Advent. Fill us with your Spirit and the spirit of Hope so that we may be strengthened in our daily tasks. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

I look forward to seeing you at the chocolate Bingo tonight.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs B Corbett



Easyfundraising

Please register by following the above link to raise money for St Joseph's.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjosephshednesford/>

Flu Vaccinations - Tuesday 29th November

A reminder that the school nurse team will be in school to administer the flu vaccine to those pupils who have not yet received the nasal spray.

Y6 - Chasewater Residential

A reminder that the deposit for Chasewater of £45 is due please by Wednesday 30th November. Please pay via ParentPay.

Parish Links

Bambinelli Mass - Sunday 11th December - 9:15am

The blessing of the Bambinelli (figures of Baby Jesus) is a tradition which began in Rome. Each year on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), the Holy Father invites children to bring figures of the Baby Jesus (Bambinelli) from the family Nativity scene to Mass for a blessing. After the blessing the children are invited to wrap up their baby Jesus and to place him under the Christmas Tree. On Christmas morning the Bambinello is the first Christmas gift to be unwrapped and placed in the family crib.



Pupils in school will be making their own Bambinelli. On Sunday December 11th the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes are going to celebrate this tradition. Fr Jeremy invites the children to attend and bring their Bambinelli (made in school or from home) for blessing.

Pupils in year 4 and 5 will lead the Mass which begins at 9:15am. Following Mass there will be refreshments in the church hall where the school steel band will be performing. Everyone welcome to come along.

Attendance

We congratulate year 5 on their attendance this week - highest in the school at 97.3%. Over the school year to date year 5 are currently in the lead. Well done!

Year Group	Attendance %
Reception	92.1
Year 1	94.4
Year 2	94.2
Year 3	94.9
Year 4	96.4
Year 5	97.3
Year 6	93
Whole School	94.6

Primary School Application Forms

A reminder to nursery parents that application forms for admission to reception class next September must be completed by 15 January 2023. Applications can be made using the online application service, which is available at <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx> and by following the links to 'making an application'



Nativity Plays

Tickets for the nativity plays will be sent home with children next week.

Music Concerts - 2nd December

Everyone is invited to attend our music concerts on Friday 2nd December.
Children in years 1, 2 and 3 will perform between 9:15-10am.
Children in key stage 2 will perform between 10:15-11am



The Winter Mini Challenge for Children is here!

The Reading Agency is thrilled to announce that they are continuing their partnership with Science Museum Group for the Winter Mini Challenge, a reading adventure which encourages children to continue reading over the winter holidays with a free, digital platform offering rewards and prizes for continuing to read.

The Winter Mini Challenge will continue the Gadgeteers theme throughout the winter. Through taking part **online** via the Challenge [website](https://www.wintermini.org.uk), children will be able to join six fictional Gadgeteers. The characters - brought to life by children's writer and illustrator Julian Beresford - use their curiosity and wonder to understand the science behind a whole range of interests, from fashion and technology to cooking and music. With activity ideas and resources from Science Museum Group, the Winter Mini Challenge will help to spark children's curiosity about the world around them, inspiring them through creativity and invention. The setting for the Winter Mini Challenge is a festive party at the Gadgeteers' community centre. When a sudden snowstorm whirls in, can the Gadgeteers use their ingenuity, creativity and curiosity to keep everyone entertained until the weather brightens?

During the school holidays, some children can experience a 'dip' in their reading skills. The Winter Mini Challenge supports this by providing an outlet for children to continue reading for enjoyment outside the classroom.

The Winter Mini Challenge will launch on 1 December and run through until 20 February.

Our Libraries are filled with seasonal and other books for children to borrow over the Christmas holidays and we have lots of great eBooks and eAudios available on the Borrowbox App or via our [eLibrary](#).

Why not check out what we have to offer and [sign your child up for the Winter Mini Challenge online](https://www.wintermini.org.uk)