



## ST JAMES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEBBURN

Newsletter End of Year 2024

Dear Families,

Wow what a busy half term we have had at St James! It has been fantastic to experience so many wonderful things with all of our children and families IN OUR SCHOOL BUILDING! 🎈

### Things to Celebrate

#### **Trips**

Our children have all enjoyed their special trips during the term. They have all worked so hard and have deserved a little treat! Thank you to all of the staff involved in organising these days out of school. It's quite a marathon to ensure all risk assessments and consents are complete and a lot of hard work does go on behind the scenes to allow our children to enjoy time away from school. The behaviour during our organised trips this term has been no less than exemplary and I would like to congratulate our children on setting a wonderful example. Well done!

#### **Welcome home parade**

Our welcome home parade was a HUGE success. Our children looked wonderful in their bright and bold colours and enjoyed walking with their friends and families. We really MADE SOME NOISE for our homecoming!

Our carnival raised **£1110** for our School Fund; this is so important for all of our children and means that we can continue to subsidise lovely activities throughout the terms to offer enrichment opportunities for all. We can't thank everyone enough This was a true celebration of our togetherness.

#### **First Holy Communion**

Our Year 4 children celebrated their First Holy Communion this term. It was wonderful to see our children make this important step on their spiritual journey; we hope they continue to flourish within their church family. Thank you to Mrs Conroy and Mrs Hudson for their support and organisation to make this day as special as it was.

#### **Assessments**

We have been astounded with the results from our assessments all around school. The hard work and preparation that our children have put in during the past year despite the disruption they have faced is incredible. You have been an inspiration to everyone in our school community especially to our younger children. **We are very proud of each and every one of you.**

Please turn over

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Bishop Chadwick  
Catholic Education Trust



We're working  
towards Artsmark  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



## CAFOD

St James have taken part in so many fundraising events this year to raise money for CAFOD. CAFOD is The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. We are so proud to contribute to the global aid efforts that CAFOD provide to those less fortunate throughout the world. Thank you for your support.

## What we've been up to...

We have enjoyed taking part in lots of events organised by the Sports Network alongside Mr Monaghan this term. This is a great way for your child to have fun and interact with children from other schools in South Tyneside. These events are always exciting and inclusive and support children to learn new technical, tactical, physical, and mental skill. This is something we will continue into the next academic year.

Our Mini Vinnies have taken part in a huge range of activities this year. Mini Vinnies gives 7-11 year olds the chance to be part of the St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Society England and Wales. The SVP is an organisation dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms. Mini Vinnies meet to pray, discuss and support however they can to help make a difference in their community. Our Mini Vinnies group meet every Wednesday in school. This year we have raised money for CAFOD through various sales most recently our ice-pop sale. The Mini Vinnies have supported our local care homes by visiting residents and taking part in Arts and Craft activities. We have also worked with the local authority to promote various campaigns like 'happy at home' and 'warm spaces'. We will continue our wonderful work into the next academic year.

Some of our older children took part in the Dance Festival this year. This event includes dancers from many schools in South Tyneside. We represented St James magnificently and I'm sure all of those in attendance will agree that we celebrated the importance of dance with our spectacular performance. Well done to Mrs Hayden and to the children who showed such determination and commitment.

Our school nursing team have visited school to talk with our Year 5 and Year 6 children about the changes in their bodies and how to navigate these changes. These sessions are invaluable and help our children ask questions and receive information in a safe and supportive environment. The behaviour of our children during these sessions was excellent and they represented St James as very mature young people.

## Reminders

### **Parking and driving around school**

It is important as a school community that we continue to be respectful of our local residents. There have been many occasions this year where we have received complaints of issues concerning parking. A reminder that it is important to drive safely and slowly around school. Small children are harder to see and we must keep everyone safe. Please keep this in mind when bringing children to and from school.

### **Uniform**

A reminder that all children should be in full school uniform. This includes sensible black shoes, NOT TRAINERS, unless there is a specific need which has been discussed with school. We do not allow patterned, dyed or shaved haircuts, jewellery or nail varnish.

Please get in touch with the school office if we can be of any help with uniform at all. We gratefully accept donations of uniform and often have spare to hand around. We are proud to be eco warriors and poverty proof so we hold a uniform recycling event at the end of each term where parents and carers can pick up good quality uniform for free.

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## Attendance

The government expect each pupil in the UK to have at least 95% attendance throughout the year. Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust aim for 97%. It is so important to us that our children are in school. At St James we celebrate our great attendance every term, all children who have 100% attendance during the term will receive a certificate and a prize. We understand that children do get ill from time to time which is why there is a chance to achieve these attendance awards EVERY term.

## School Updates

You should all have now received your child's school report and been informed of the staffing structure for the next academic year. A reminder that our new school timings from September are 8:55am – 3:25pm. Please remember that at the end of each full term (Christmas, Easter and Summer) children will be dismissed at 1:15pm in line with our Trust schools.

## Holidays

We cannot authorise holiday unless the circumstances are exceptional. Fines are now issued to anyone who removes their child from school to go on holiday in line with Government Guidance. Each case will be shared with the LEA. It is very important that children are in school during assessment periods May – June. Everyone should have received the new list of term dates which will be helpful when organising any holidays.

## Moving Forward

Our Year 6 children have had a fun packed final half term with us. The Leavers Mass and Assembly were a touching celebration of these wonderful children. It was great to see them all having fun together during their "splash afternoon". They have had their moving up days and are looking forward to starting their new journey at their respective comprehensive school. We wish them a fond farewell. They are moving forward with St James roots and are sure to blossom as they grow.

Our youngest children have graduated from Reception Class and were very proud of themselves during their graduation ceremony. There wasn't a dry eye in the house! Thank you to all of the Early Years Team for making this day so special.

## And Finally...

We would like to thank all of the parents and carers for your wonderful gifts and cards. Each year we feel really humbled by your generosity as a school community. These gifts are never expected but are truly and greatly appreciated.

We wish you all a wonderful summer together and hope our children and families have a safe, loving and happy time making memories and having fun!

We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024.

Kindest regards and best wishes

Francesca Heslop  
Headteacher

## Diary Dates

Monday 2nd September INSET DAY

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