

St. Joseph's Newsletter

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IMPORTANT: please read the petition on the back of this newsletter. One of our nursery children, Brian Babilola, and his family are asylum seekers here. They have recently been told they must return to Nigeria and an uncertain future. Please support the campaign to keep the family here. If you return the petitions to us we will send them on. We have been told that this has more effect than just one or two arriving at a time.

I am also sending out a letter and petition from English Martyrs about two of their girls who face death if they return to Sri Lanka.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Stations of the cross

Each day this week, Y3/4 are leading us in the Stations of the Cross. These are very prayerful and thought provoking little services, lasting about 10 minutes.

Do come and join us at 9.15 every morning this week.



I hope you have had time to read the Ofsted report which was full of praise for the school. One of our parents called the school 'The hidden gem of Hartlepool'. If you have friends, family or neighbours looking for a good school for their children why not suggest they come and look around St. Joseph's?

Ofsted quotes:

- This is a good school and there are some outstanding features in pupils' personal development and well-being as a result of the excellent care, guidance and support they receive. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is also outstanding because of the school's particularly caring ethos.
- From the time they join the school pupils make good progress and achieve well.
- Teaching and learning are good. Teachers use good strategies to promote positive attitudes to learning, resulting in pupils who are extremely motivated to learn.
- Well qualified teaching assistants provide very good support to pupils in lessons ensuring they make good progress in their work.

HAVE YOU MADE AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER?

Nursery Sessions—extended

From 2010, it will be a requirement that Nursery children be offered 3 hours Nursery Education. We are ahead of the game and offering this to our children from **after Easter**.
Sessions will now be from 8.50 to 11.50 am.

Not only will this give children extra time to learn, it will also help parents who with children in the main school who feel they 'need to be in two places at once'. Nursery children can be left at 8.50 and then parents can be on the school yard in time for the older children to go in with their line.



Notice board:

Most of you will already have spotted the large notice board near to where the Key Stage One children line up. You will find notices about weekly clubs, holidays etc. and the latest letters sent out. Information is for both Key Stages 1 and 2. Nursery information is displayed inside the nursery.

Some parents had let us know that they thought communication could be improved and so we now have the texting service, webpage and the board as well as newsletters. If you have any other ideas, please let us know.

Samba drumming

Years 5 and 6 took part in a Cavalcade at the Headland on Sunday and did magnificently. Their Samba drumming teacher wrote that St. Joseph's children have really surprised him as he didn't expect to see them '**rise to the heights they have**' and '**it's thrilling to see how far they have got in such a short time. I'm really excited as to where we can get by the end of the school year.**'

Well done everyone and thanks to Mr. Mason, Mr. Holmes and Miss Iles for giving up their Sunday afternoon.

Another group of our pupils also took part in a drama—playing the part of monks. Well done to them, as well.

If you would like to see the drummers in action they are putting on a display in school next Friday at 10.50am. If the weather is fine the display will be outside.

Car parking: a few parents have approached me about the car parking in Whitby Street—unfortunately that car park doesn't belong to the school. The PCSOs are aware of the problems with students parking carelessly and not taking care and will be keeping an eye on the situation.

Another parent has asked me to remind parents who are picking children up from clubs in the evening not to come into the car park as children are walking through.



Hospice Chicks are on sale for £1.50

We are still collecting for the Easter egg tombola on Friday.

