



# Spring First Half Term

## 2020

Christmas seems a distant memory but I would still like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support given to us in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Staff and children provided us with many opportunities to share in the true meaning of Christmas. Those of us fortunate enough to see our Nursery children perform their very first nativity and our Reception and Year One children retell the Christmas Story with their performances of 'The Sleepy Shepherd' were amazed by the joy and excitement of our children as they shared the Christmas message with us. Parents and parishioners joined with us on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at Our Lady's Church as children from Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 led us in a fantastic Carol Service and the term ended with a wonderful Sing Along Coffee Morning.

### Mass and Liturgies

Liturgies and class masses have been arranged for this term. Please check the **days** for each Liturgy as we have a range of Liturgy days.

Date	Class leading	Time	Location
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 6 Liturgy	9am	School Hall
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Year 3 Mass	9.30am	Our Lady's Church
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	FAMILY MASS	11am	Our Lady's Church
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Year 5 Liturgy	9am	School Hall
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 4 Mass	9.30am	Our Lady's Church
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 2 Liturgy	9am	School Hall
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 5 leading Ash Wednesday Mass	9.30am	Our Lady's Church
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 1 LENT Liturgy	9am	In class
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 LENT Liturgy	9am	In class
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 Liturgy Feast of St Joseph, Husband of Mary	9am	In class
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception Liturgy	9am	School Hall
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 LENT Liturgy	9am	In class
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	FAMILY MASS	11am	Our Lady's Church
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Year 6 leading Stations of the Cross for KS2	9.30am	Our Lady's Church

### Music Tuition

Small group music tuition takes place every Monday afternoon with Mr Potts for those children wishing to learn to play the guitar and Mrs Barton-Grey teaches violin to all of Year 2 as part of our wider opportunities music programme. Places on the RockSteady Music program are available via their website <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>

### **Mathletics and Spellodrome**

The ICT room is available on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime from 12-12.20 with Mrs Tate for any KS2 child who wishes to practice their spellings, go on LEXIA or complete maths tasks.

### **World Book Day & Bookfair**

As in previous years we are celebrating our love of literature by dressing up as different book characters. This year the date is **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**. We are pleased to welcome back Image Theatre to share with us the story of Robin Hood on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**. We will be holding our annual Book Fair opening **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March** - more information will follow from Mrs Lawton.

### **Home Reading**

Please continue to read with your child at home every night. Yellow reading record books must be signed and returned for your child to change books. It is no secret, those children who read at home each night go on to the greatest successes. Please supervise your child accessing our online resources such as Mathletics, Spellodrome, Times Tables Rock Stars and LEXIA as part of their homework routine.

### **Lent**

As part of our Lenten prayers, some classes are planning to lead Liturgy within their class. This intimate prayerful liturgy will take place in the classroom, during Lent. Parents, grandparents and carers are warmly invited to attend the classroom liturgy.

The dates and classes are as follows

Year 1 Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Year 4 Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Year 2 Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Year 3 Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Reception will lead their first whole school Liturgy on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

Year 5 will start our Lent preparations by leading Ash Wednesday Mass on 26<sup>th</sup> March

Year 6 will help us reflect on the journey of the cross through Stations of the Cross on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

*All dates correct at time of going to print.*

### **Mobile phones**

We are well aware as your child gets older there may be a need for them to have their mobile phone before or after school. Our school's mobile phone policy is available on our website and includes a permission slip for mobile phones to be brought to school. Please read before allowing your child to bring their mobile phone as it explains the procedure for safe storage.

### **Safer Internet Day 2020**

Safer Internet Day will take place on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February**, and this year the theme is 'Together for a better internet'. Each class will be completing activities throughout the day to learn more and remind ourselves about this very important subject. To support parents, there will be an information session after school - time to be confirmed. [www.saferinternetday.org](http://www.saferinternetday.org).

### **Parents' Evening**

This year our parents' evenings will run from 3.30pm on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>** and **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>** of **February**. Letters to book your appointment will be sent out nearer the time.

### **Bikeability**

The children from Year 5 will complete their Bikeability program from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Bikeability is government-recognised, practical and professional cycling training program, which is designed to teach the children to be safer, more skilled and more confident cyclists once they've taken part. Miss Cutter will be sending out a more detailed letter closer to the time to let parents know what the children will need to take part in the program.

### **Tempest**

Our school photographer will be in school on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March** to take family group, siblings and individual photographs. Doors will open at 8 am for families with a child not at St Joseph's -all other sibling groups will be taken during the school day.

### **Facebook**

We are very proud of our Facebook page! We use it to celebrate all that is happening in school. We share class and whole school achievements and successes, as well as keeping you up to date on activities and events. In line with our Social Media Policy (which can be found on our website) parents are asked to raise questions, queries, concerns or complaints directly with the school rather than use our Facebook page.

 [www.facebook.com/stjosephswashington](http://www.facebook.com/stjosephswashington)

### **Operation Encompass -The Next Steps.**

Our school works closely with Northumbria police on their strategy to break the cycle of Domestic Abuse through education and support. Alongside sessions with our Year 5 pupils exploring healthy relationships, friendships and emotions we also run an early morning drop-in session where parents or children can talk about issues they may have around relationships and Domestic Abuse. Our next informal drop-in session is **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 8.30am in the library.**

### **Year of the Word - The God Who Speaks**

This year we are celebrating the Year of the Word in conjunction with the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other. The Year of the Word launches at St Joseph's on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January** with a whole school collective worship led by Mr O'Keeffe. Our hall Liturgy table will reflect The Year of the Word, the children will learn the official Year of the Word prayer as well as participate in monthly Liturgies.

### **Watches**

We have noticed a number of children wearing watches/fitbits which have the facility to take photographs. These watches are not permitted in school.

## Dates for your diary

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January - Year of the Word - The God who Speaks launch  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January - French transition session in school Year 6  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January - Year 6 whole school Liturgy  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January - Year 5 Forest School afternoon  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January - Year 3 Mass at Our Lady's  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January - Year 5 Operation Encompass  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January - FAMILY MASS 11am Our Lady's  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January - French transition session in school Year 6  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January - Science transition session at St Robert's Year 6  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January - Year 5 debate at St Robert's  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January - Year 5 whole school Liturgy  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February - Year 4 Forest School afternoon  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February - Sportability Bowling  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February - Year 4 Mass at Our Lady's  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February - Year 1 Dance Festival at St Robert's  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February - Top Table Tuesday  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February - SAFER INTERNET DAY  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Parents' Evening  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Parents' Evening  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Year 2 whole school Liturgy  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February - Half Term  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Year 5 lead parish Ash Wednesday Mass Our Lady's  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Year 3 Forest School afternoon  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Year 1 Lent Liturgy in class  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March - World Book dressing-up day  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March - Image Musical Theatre - Robin Hood  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March - Scholastic Book Fair in school  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March - Sport's Relief fundraising day  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Year 4 Lent Liturgy in class  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March - Year 5 Bikeability  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March - Year 2 Liturgy in class  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March - School Photographer in school  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March - Year 4 Handball competition at St Robert's  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March - Reception whole school Liturgy  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Year 1 Forest School afternoon  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Year 3 Lent Liturgy in class  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March - FAMILY MASS 11am Our Lady's  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Year 2 Forest School  
Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March - Top Table Tuesday  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April - RockSteady Spring Concert  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Year 6 leading Stations of the Cross Our Lady's

*All dates and times correct at time of publication*