ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 13th November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to thank the children who represented the school at the Loftus Town remembrance Parade on Sunday. They did a wonderful job. In school on Wednesday, we held a lovely remembrance service which really helped our children to reflect and remember. Children laid poppies at the school cross in a very poignant moment of prayer.



Odd Socks Day Monday 16th November 2026.



Odd Socks Day 2026 is taking place on Monday 16th November. Odd Socks Day is delivered in partnership with CBeebies and CBBC star Andy Day and his band, Andy and the Odd Socks. The Andy and the Odd Socks team came up with the idea for Odd Socks Day with us in 2017, and we work together every year to deliver the all-inclusive message the event encourages. This year's message is 'Break the Silence' helping children to speak out against unkind behaviour. This marks the start of anti-bullying week in school. All children (and staff) can wear odd socks- the odder the better!!

Anti Bullying Week 2026



From Monday 16 to Friday 20 November, we will mark Anti-Bullying Week at St Joseph's, embracing this year's theme, 'Break the Silence'. Throughout the week, classes will take part in discussions, activities and reflections to help children recognise bullying, understand the importance of speaking up and know how to seek help if they or someone else is being bullied. We will encourage everyone to have the courage to speak out, listen without judgement and support those who may be struggling. Breaking the silence starts with all of us: telling someone we trust, refusing to join in and standing alongside others can make a real difference. To find out more about Anti-Bullying Week, please visit the Anti-Bullying Alliance website Please can I take this opportunity to remind all our parents that if you feel there is any unkind behaviour upsetting your child then please inform the teacher. Our school has a zero tolerance to bullying but are aware that it does happen in every school which is why this week's activities are so important.

Parent Council Meeting:
The next scheduled meeting is **7th December at 9am**.

Children in Distress Christmas Shoebox Appeal A huge thank you

Thank you to everyone who already contributed your kindness is greatly appreciated. We have had just under 30 shoeboxes sent into the school which is brilliant considering the amount of notice we were given to hand them into the charity. Thank you.

Christ be our light, in life, love and learning

Executive Head Teacher: Mr Simon Geaves **Deputy Head Teacher:** Miss Elizabeth Wright
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Part of the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust

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Other notices:
The website has been updated with the latest school menu choices.

Our chosen Christmas Charity Teesside Mind will be hosting a Launch Event on Wednesday watch out for more details.

We will also host Road Safety Assemblies next week. As the evenings draw in and daylight hours shorten, it's especially important to stay alert and safe when walking or cycling. Encourage your child to wear something bright or reflective, or attach a reflective tag to their school bag, so that they can be easily seen by drivers. If they cycle, make sure their lights are working and switched on. When crossing roads, look for the safest places such as zebra or puffin crossings, and always choose well-lit areas so that both pedestrians and drivers can see clearly. A few simple precautions can make a big difference in keeping everyone safe this autumn and winter.

After School Science Club Thursday 3.15-4.15 Year 1 to Year 6
Miss Ogden is running an after-school Science Club starting on Thursday 12th November for 5 weeks. Delighted to report that this club is currently full.



Non-uniform Day
Children can wear non-uniform on **Thursday 26th November** in exchange for some chocolate towards the Christmas Bingo tombola please.

Christmas Bingo
Join us for our festive Christmas Bingo on Thursday 26th November 5.30-7.30pm. Doors open 5pm.
This year we will be offering the following refreshments (to be booked in advance):

- Portion of chips £1.00
- Hot dog and chips meal deal (including a drink) £2.00
- Burger and chips meal deal (including a drink) £2.50



Tickets will be on sale from Monday 9th November until 3pm Monday 23rd November from Miss Ayton.
Please note chips, hot dogs and burgers will not be available to purchase on the night.
We will however have drinks, sweets and a chocolate tombola on the night.

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Christmas Disco



Get your dancing shoes on and join us for our Christmas Disco on Wednesday 9th December 4.30- 5.30pm FS (parents are welcome to stay), 5.45pm KS1/2 (children only).
Tickets will be £1.50 each and go on sale from Monday 30th November until 3pm Wednesday 9th December from Miss Ayton.
Refreshments, tattoos and a teddy tombola will also be available on the night.

Sorry for the Christmas messages but I have been reliably informed that Christmas is now only 42 days away, Ho Ho Ho!

ONLINE PARENTING COURSES – FAMILY LIVES

Being a parent/carer has never been easy. There are no manuals for it, and previous generations may not be able to provide the insight you're looking for. The family unit is more dispersed than ever, with some families existing hundreds of miles from what may be called a 'core unit'. The rapid pace of societal change in the UK rapidly outstrips the knowledge of the immediate past. The result is that many parents/carers may find themselves lost in a maelstrom of contradictory advice. For adults, time has never been more compacted. Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses, to make this challenge a little easier. If interested, please follow this link: https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses. Family Lives offers a confidential and free helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on 0808 800 2222 for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice.

Final Thoughts/Prayers:

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Warmest wishes,

Mr Geaves
Head Teacher

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