



Welcome to our newsletter 20 October 2023

Headteacher Welcome

Thank you all for your continued support this term. It has been a busy seven weeks filled with learning and fun. We have had a very successful OFSTED inspection and it was a real celebration of our successful school. We have celebrated Space Week with the planetarium, had several author visits, 'That History Bloke' has been in school, Year 4 and 5 have had Bikeability, Fr Michael celebrated a New Year Mass, we have had trips to the Great North museum and launched our Latin curriculum in KS2.

I hope you all have a restful half term and that the weather is kind. We look forward to the last eight weeks of term in 2023 being filled with love, learning and joy. Mrs Nealings and the staff team.



Curriculum

This term we have launched our Latin curriculum in KS2. Staff have received training and we are delighted to be part of this project through the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust.

The children are following the Maximus curriculum and have already learnt about the origins of the language, Ancient Greek and Roman influences in our lives today and classical culture in modern day. We are looking forward to learning more about the language throughout the year.



Catholic Life

Each week after whole school Celebration of the Word (Worship), the children are given a mission to act upon. This enables them to live as Christians in our school and local community.



They had a very special mission this term to invite Bishop Stephen to visit our school. They have all been very creative with the invites which we delivered this week. We cannot wait for his visit!

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Ordinary time "People who see you at your best will thank God" Matthew 6:16



Safeguarding

Please do not idle in the car park. Turn off your engine to keep all of our children safe and not expose them to unnecessary fumes. The traffic in our local area can be busy, walking, scooting or cycling to school gives your child a great start to their day.

Online Safety

Please read the attached online safety guide for parents and carers. Do you know that children's internet use has reached an all-time high with 5-15 year olds accessing over 15 hours per week online?

Safe Squad

The children from Year 1 to Year 6 have all been voting for their new Safe Squad representatives. Well done to everyone who has been voted in. Thank you to last year's Safe Squad for all of their work.

Early Years News

Nursery class have settled so well into their new class and routines. They have all made lots of new friends. Miss Salter and Miss Doyle are so impressed with their achievements so far. They can use knives and forks correctly and are becoming more independent! Reception have enjoyed learning about themselves and talking about people in their families. We have recognised seasonal changes that occur in Autumn and have enjoyed the stories, 'We are Going on a Leaf Hunt', 'Leaf Thief' and 'Leaf Man'. The children had a great time exploring forest school, looking for autumn treasures and different coloured leaves.

Key Stage 1 News

Year 1 have loved looking at spirals in Art, creating some beautiful drawings of shells using watercolours and oil pastels. We really enjoyed writing instructions for the Gingerbread Man in English, using imperative verbs to tell him what to do. Year 2 have really enjoyed writing a poem based on the Owl and the Pussy Cat this term. They have enjoyed being scientists whilst investigating the best habitat for bugs and enjoyed learning about Neil Armstrong during Space Week.

Key Stage 2 News

Year 4 had a fantastic trip to the Centre for Life where they explored the different zones, watched an amazing 'Fire and Ice' Science Show and learnt all about the constellations in the Planetarium. They also completed a brilliant 'Discovering Chemistry' workshop where they used real laboratory equipment to test different chemicals, change them from liquid to solid and see what colour flames they made in a Bunsen burner! In their writing sessions this half-term, Year 6 have been building up to writing a horror narrative based on the stimulus, 'Francis Brandywine'. The children have written character descriptions, setting descriptions and built suspense using a range of grammatical features that they have learnt so far, this half-term. The narratives have been gripping!

Faith in Action Award: Pin Award

Year 6 wanted to thank everyone who joined us for our welcome breakfast earlier this half-term. Their next events will be raising money for all those affected by the Gaza-Israeli conflict. In November, Year 6 will be leading a remembrance liturgy for KS2 and for the Year 6 parents.



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Attendance

Well done to everyone who has been in school every day this term. Staff will have made families aware if we have concerns regarding your child's attendance and punctuality during parent evening consultations. Traffic can be busy around Gosforth, especially during the winter months, please bear this in mind next term so that we can reduce the number of children who are late. From 8.40am, teachers are reading with children. If your child is late, this will prevent the class teacher listening to your child read and accurately assessing their reading capability. Learning starts from 8.40am so please try and give your child the best start to their day by being on time.

Jewellery and Uniforms

From next half term, as stated in the uniform policy, **no earrings** should be worn in school. Please ensure your child has removed any earrings before we return after the short break. Ties should also be worn in school in KS2. We are currently organising a system to recycle school uniforms. Further information to follow.

New School Website and Communication



We are hoping the new website will be live for the start of term. Some of the content will be removed to make it more accessible for parents. We communicate with parents via the website, email, text messages, telephone calls, sharing calendar dates in advance where possible and social media (Instagram and Facebook). Early Years use Tapestry to communicate with families.

We have been exploring options for Apps to communicate with parents in the future. This is part of our behaviour policy review which we are doing this term. Mrs Binney will be hoping to meet with a selection of parents next half-term. Further information will follow next half-term.

OPAL

The children have really enjoyed lunch times this term. The wheeled zones and new mud kitchen are very popular. The new sand pit should be open to use next half-term. Children should have an old pair of trainers or wellington boots in school, especially as the weather is beginning to change.

The older children have been helpful in modelling play to our younger children, especially as our new Reception class have joined in during lunchtimes. Thank you so much for your continued support with donations of resources and especially for our book swap shed which is proving to be very popular! In the lead up to Christmas, if you are having a clear out, please consider us. We will be focusing on shared activities like board games and imaginative play.



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Celebration of the Word

Thank you to all of the families who have joined the children for their celebration of the word to end their Come and See RE topics. These sessions are planned by the children. We hope you can come and pray with us again next half-term. Text messages are sent out in advance to remind families.

Thank you to Fiona Johnston from St Charles' parish, who comes into school each week to share the Rosary with the children.

Harvest donations

Thank you from the Mini Vinnies for all of your food donations. The new Mini Vinnie enrolment will be next half-term. They will be led by Mrs Clasper and Mrs Hague.

KS2 Carols

Unfortunately, we are no longer able to host this event in Church. Due to our hall capacity, we will now split the key stage into 2 groups. Please refer to the updated diary dates, as some times and dates have changed from previously advertised.



General Notices

There are lots of new babies at St Charles'! Congratulations, to Mr Gray and Mrs Bertenshaw, who have become parents this term. Mr Gray's daughter Elsie (top) was born in September and Mrs Bertenshaw's daughter Annie (bottom) was born in October. Both girls are doing very well!

Mrs Binney, Deputy Head Teacher, has now returned to work on a part-time basis from maternity leave with baby Penny. Mrs Hague will be returning next half-term after the arrival of her son Alfie.

Miss Hamer and Mrs Birkbeck are also expecting new arrivals in Spring term 2024. Congratulations to both families on their wonderful news. We will update Reception families with plans for Mrs Birkbeck's maternity leave next half-term once they have been finalised.

OFSTED

I hope you enjoyed reading our recent report. We have received lots of praise and congratulations, including from the Head of Children's Services in Newcastle, who said it was a joy to read.

It has been lovely for the staff team to have all of their hard work recognised externally. There were so many strengths of our school that are not always commented on during an ungraded inspection. Thank you to the children and the staff for their hard work and for being a privilege to lead and work with.

Clubs

The new list of clubs for next half term has been shared with parents. We hope your child enjoys the range of clubs we offer. OFSTED were extremely impressed by our sporting provision and club offer. If you have any requests for clubs, please do not hesitate to let us know your requests.

PTA

The PTA have lots of events planned. There are St Charles' disco's, a Christmas Fayre and Wreath Making and another quiz night. Please support them when you can. See diary dates for further information.

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