



The Little Way -11 October 2024

Dear parents/carers

Last week saw us celebrate St. Teresa's Feast Day on Tuesday 1 October. Children learned about our patron saint on the day and in the afternoon we celebrated Mass together in church. Thank you to Father Jonathon for taking the time to be part of our day.

On the 22 October, our school will be welcoming Bishop Stephen for a visit to the school. He will meet all children, as well as take part in a Celebration of the Word with Year 4-6. We look forward to welcoming him into school in the morning, before he visits St. Alban's late morning and then St. Laurence's in the afternoon.

Children from Year 1 to Year 6 enjoyed an assembly put on by the music tutors at Front Row Music. More information will be going out to parents/carers about that today.

Some parents might have noticed that we have a new mini bus, more information on that below.

Next Friday October 18, there will be an exhibition of children's art work from a recent project. More information on that can be found below, as well as links to a sneak peak from two year groups' efforts.

Links have been shared to some of the work that is shared on our website.

Well done to Year 6, who have won the chance to go and see the Theatre Royal's Christmas production of 'The Little Mermaid.' Lots to celebrate in a busy first autumn term!

Many thanks

Mr. Turner

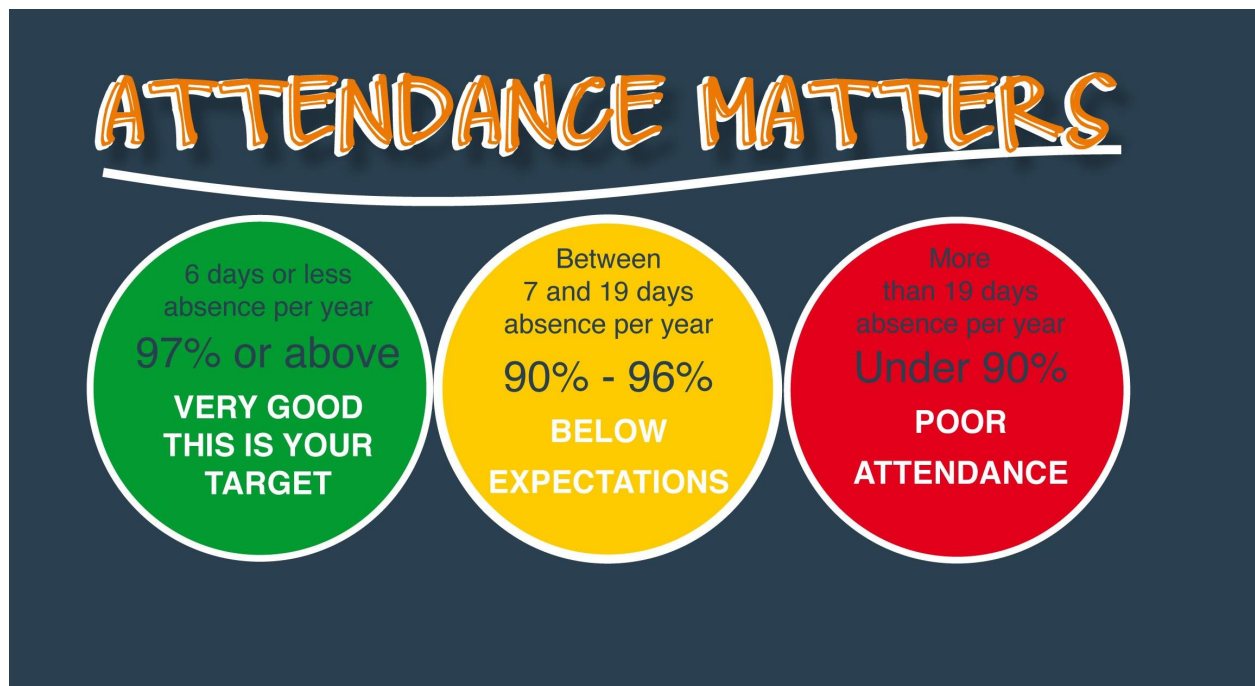
(Head Teacher)

Please find further information on:

- Attendance

- Online safety
- School mini bus
- School car park
- Take One Picture exhibition
- Achievements
- Children's Cancer Run Awards
- Curriculum updates
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Attendance



As a school, we have an attendance target of 96%. Our whole school attendance has been consistently above this since the start of the year -thank you to all parents/carers in your part in ensuring your child/ren's good attendance and punctuality.

Week 1 September attendance = 97.5%

Week 2 September attendance = 98.4%

Week 3 September attendance = 94.9%

Week 4 September attendance = 96.8%

Week 5 October attendance = 96.9%

Sickness bugs can be common-place at this time of year. If your child suffers from sickness or diarrhoea, please ensure they are off school for 48 hours after the last symptoms.

Please do try to keep holidays to the school holidays. Any request for holidays will be unauthorised and your child will miss out on vital education time. The school will not supply work for your child if you choose to take them out of school in term time.

Did you know?

90% attendance sounds good but means that your child misses on average:

- One half day every week.
- Nearly four weeks every school year.
- Over one school year in a school career.

2 weeks holiday in term time every year with no other absences means that your child:

- Can only ever achieve 95% attendance
- Will miss about two terms in a school career

Being just 5 minutes late every day adds up to missing about 3 days of school every year.

Online Safety

Fake news

47% of children aged 5-11 have their own social media profile despite most platforms requiring a minimum age of 13. With so much false information spread through social media, it's important to teach children how to think critically about what they see online.

False information is often called 'fake news', but it's more than that. The two main types of false information are misinformation and disinformation. Misinformation is false information that people share because they think it's true while disinformation is false information that is known to be false and purposely shared. In many cases, disinformation can become misinformation.

If someone purposely shares false information, they usually have a motive for it. This could be to make sales, influence beliefs or get views/page engagement. When others believe the information, they are likely to share and spread it to others who may also believe it. If users don't fact-check what they see, they may continue to spread it unknowingly.

Fake news and misinformation advice hub - Internet Matters¹

¹<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/fake-news-and-misinformation-advice-hub/>

School mini bus



Up until January 2023, the school had two mini buses, which were purchased around 2016. These mini buses had served us well. Allowing the school the luxury of being able to take a whole class out on trips/residentials etc. and keeping the cost down for parents/carers.

Unfortunately, in January 2023, one of our mini buses was stolen and never recovered. We continued to use our second mini bus, but due to a number of issues, this was limited in some circumstances. We could not enter or go through Newcastle city centre, since the introduction of the emissions charge and due to the weight of the bus, only a limited number of staff could drive it. Just before the summer we sold our second mini bus, due to rising usage costs and it not being practical to keep it.

After our first mini bus was stolen, we have been fortunate to have had some fundraisers in an attempt to raise money for a new one. Thank you to those parents, carers, family members and the wider community for your efforts.

Buying a new mini bus would not necessarily have been cost effective, so we are now going down the route of leasing a brand new mini bus. The Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust (BBCET) which we are a part of, have been invaluable in sourcing the best deal for the school.

We are looking forward to the new mini bus being delivered this week. We hope that it will be invaluable to the school and ensure as many children are able to enjoy many different experiences whilst here at St. Teresa's.

The Friends of St. Teresa's are going to support the school in trying to raise money to help us fund the mini bus leasing costs. The school has factored in covering this cost through its own budget, but any help towards this is greatly appreciated. Parents/families can support us in our efforts by attending the various events/activities that we will be putting on over the course of the year, including Halloween Disco, Movie Nights, Christmas Fair, Wreath Making workshop and Summer BBQ etc.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world” – Nelson Mandela.

School car park

Following a recent external health and safety review, it has come to our attention that the school car park is being used before and after school.

Can I please ask parents/visitors not to use the car park before or after school for the health and safety of our children.

Parking in the staff car park before school causes issues for staff members trying to find a parking space for themselves, or for staff needing to leave to go to meetings offsite.

Please do not park in the staff car park around pick-up time, as this is also a safeguarding issue, when children are leaving school.

Take One Picture exhibition

On Friday 18 October all artwork produced as part of 'Take One Picture' will be displayed on tables and display boards in the hall. This display will be open to classes to celebrate their work as well as parents after school. There will be a brief explanation of how each class responded to the painting and some information on the art they produced in response to 'the Courtyard of a House in Delft'.

We would appreciate it if as many parents/carers could pop in to have a look at their child/ren's art work.

Some more information on some of the children's work can be found on our website:

Year 1 – Take One Picture | St Teresa's Catholic Primary School (stteresasnewcastle.org.uk)²

Take One Picture | St Teresa's Catholic Primary School (stteresasnewcastle.org.uk)³

Achievements



Please do encourage your child/ren to bring in their out of school awards/achievements. We like to celebrate these, as well as in school awards, in Celebration Assembly every other week. Our next assembly is this coming Friday.

Well done to our under-11 boys' football team (pictured), who progressed to the next round of the Bishop's Cup last week. The boys played three matches, drawing the first 0-0, winning the second 1-0 and drawing the third 1-1. Six matches in total this season, with only one defeat so far -well done!

Well done to the children who received their out of school achievements at Celebration Assembly recently (pictured). Adriana and Marissa received medals/trophies for their Irish Dancing. Leo was given a trophy for a player of the match performance in football. Izell and Alexander have achieved swimming certificates for their efforts -good work. Jack received medals for a ju-jitsu competition -a great achievement.

Some children are pictured below having attended the School of Sanctuary Awards last week. Well done and thank you to all who have been part of this process -particularly Miss Kemp for leading on this in school.

²<https://www.stteresasnewcastle.org.uk/year-1/year-1-take-one-picture/>

³<https://www.stteresasnewcastle.org.uk/year-2/take-one-picture-2/>





Children's Cancer Run Awards



On Thursday, Theo and Soren both attended the Children's Cancer Run Awards. Supporting Children's North-East, who fundraise for the RVI and cancer research team at Newcastle University has become even more important to us as a school, as we have seen how cancer can impact children's lives in our own school over the past few years.

Theo has been one of these children and between him and his parents, they have raised vital funds for our local cancer charity.

Every year, as a school, we enter the Children's Cancer Run to show our support to the very important work ongoing to battle and prevent children's cancer.

As a school last academic year, we raised over £1,800 with 28 children and family members joining us as a community at the run.

It would be great to better this next year and raise even more money for Children's North-East. More information will be sent out, but in the meantime, please save the date on Sunday 18 May, as the date for the Children's Cancer Run.



Curriculum updates



Some highlights of our recent curriculum work can be found below, including work on St. Teresa for her feast day, art, science and Spanish:

Reception:

Reception Autumn | St Teresa's Catholic Primary School (stteresasnewcastle.org.uk)⁴

Year 1:

Year 1 – The Feast of St Therese | St Teresa's Catholic Primary School (stteresasnewcastle.org.uk)⁵

Year 2:

Take One Picture | St Teresa's Catholic Primary School (stteresasnewcastle.org.uk)⁶

Year 3:

Year 3 – Shining in a different language | St Teresa's Catholic Primary School (stteresasnewcastle.org.uk)⁷

⁴<https://www.stteresasnewcastle.org.uk/reception/reception-autumn/>

⁵<https://www.stteresasnewcastle.org.uk/year-1/year-1-the-feast-of-st-therese/>

⁶<https://www.stteresasnewcastle.org.uk/year-2/take-one-picture/>

Year 4:

Year 4 Investigating Sound | St Teresa's Catholic Primary School ([stteresasnewcastle.org.uk](https://www.stteresasnewcastle.org.uk))⁸

Year 5:

Y5 Science | St Teresa's Catholic Primary School ([stteresasnewcastle.org.uk](https://www.stteresasnewcastle.org.uk))⁹

Year 6:

Y6 Reading 📖 | St Teresa's Catholic Primary School ([stteresasnewcastle.org.uk](https://www.stteresasnewcastle.org.uk))¹⁰

⁷<https://www.stteresasnewcastle.org.uk/year-3/year-3-shining-in-a-different-language/>

⁸<https://www.stteresasnewcastle.org.uk/year-4/year-4-investigating-sound/>

⁹<https://www.stteresasnewcastle.org.uk/year-5/y5-science/>

¹⁰<https://www.stteresasnewcastle.org.uk/year-6/y6-reading-📖/>

St. Teresa's on social media



Please do give us a follow/like on our various social/communication platforms...

To see children's day-to-day work through the week, follow our St. Teresa's Twitter page¹¹. As this page is currently locked and only for our parents/friends of St. Teresa's, **please email the office with your username** so we can accept your request.

Give our Facebook Page¹² a like/follow to be notified of any key information via this page.

¹¹<https://twitter.com/StTerasasCP>

¹²<https://www.facebook.com/StTerasasCPHeaton>

Dates for diary



Calendar dates can also be found on our website at: School Calendar | St Teresa's Catholic Primary School (stteresasnewcastle.org.uk)¹³

***Please note further dates will be added as/when confirmed/organised and will be in bold**

Tuesday 15 October 4-5.30pm - **Girls' football competition @Jesmond Park Academy**

Thursday 17 October, 9am - **Phonics parents' meeting for Reception and Year 1 parents (in the hall)**

Tuesday 22 October, 8.45am - **Bishop's visit to St. Teresa's Primary School (meeting all children)**

Tuesday 22 October, 4-5.30pm - **Under-11 boys' football league matches @Jesmond Park Academy**

Thursday 24 October, 9.30-10.30am- **Reception 2025/26 school tour**

Thursday 24 October, 4.15-5.15pm - **Rec/Year 1/Year 2 Halloween Disco**

5.30-6.30pm - **Year 3/Year 4/Year 5/Year 6 Halloween Disco**

Friday 25 October, 3.20pm - **break up for October half-term**

Monday 4 November, 8.40am - **back to school after October half-term**

Monday 4 November, all day - Year 5 trip to Jarrow Hall

Tuesday 5 November 9.30-10.30am- **Reception 2025/26 school tour**

¹³https://www.stteresasnewcastle.org.uk/virtual-office/key-information/school-calendar/action~agenda/request_format~json/

Monday 11 November - **odd sock day for Anti-bullying week (children can wear odd socks)**

Monday 11 November, 10am-12pm - Under-11 football at NUF Foundation Competition

Thursday 14 November - **individual and sibling school photos**

Tuesday 19 November, 4-5.30pm - **Under-11 girls' league fixtures @Jesmond Park Academy**

Thursday 21 November, 1.30-2.30am- **Reception 2025/26 school tour**

Friday 22 November, all day - Youth Friday

Monday 25/Tuesday 26 November - **Parents' evenings**

Tuesday 26 November, 4-5.30pm - **Under-11 boys' league fixtures @Jesmond Park Academy**

Tuesday 26 November, 2-4pm - Year 6 visiting Theatre Royal for 'The Little Mermaid'

Friday 29 November - **school closed to all**

Saturday 7 December - Friends of St. Teresa's (PTA) Christmas Bazaar in school (more information to follow)

Monday 9 December - **Reception/Key Stage 1 Nativity (dress rehearsal)**

Tuesday 10/Wednesday 11 December, 9.30am - **Reception/Key Stage 1 Nativity performances for parents**

Wednesday 11 December, 5.30-7pm - **Wreath Making Night for parents/family members and wider community**

Wednesday 11 December, 10.30-11.30am - Choir Singing in the Grainger Market

Thursday 12 December - **Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch**

Thursday 12 December, 3.30-5.15pm - **Christmas movie night for Year 1/2, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6**

Wednesday 18 December, 10am - **Tyne Theatre Christmas Pantomime for whole school**

Thursday 19 December, pm - **Christmas parties (More details will follow)**

Friday 20 December - **Christmas jumpers can be worn today**

Friday 20 December, 2.30pm - **Carols in the Forest School (all welcome)**

Friday 20 December, 3.20pm - **break up for Christmas holidays (return on Tuesday 7 January)**