



**Newsbite**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Dear Parent's and Carers,

Last week we had a very busy week and as we enter the beginning of this week, there is just no slowing down!!

Last week we acknowledged the importance of good mental health and how different activities can help us to stay positive and also support others. We celebrated Safer Internet Day, reminding ourselves about how we stay safe, sharing our experiences and strategies of how we can do this.

It is also a good reminder of how we as Parents and Carers can help to keep our children safe too.

There are many websites that we can go to for support and guidance, and I have listed a few here to help:

[Mental Health Statistics UK | Young People | YoungMinds](#)  
[Mental health resources for schools | Place2Be](#)  
[Children's mental health - Every Mind Matters - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)  
[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)  
[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Congratulations also to our year 6 Basketball players who reached the finals. Good luck for your game this week. I am sure that you will do incredibly well while also demonstrating superb sportsmanship.

Thank You also to all the Year 3 Parents who came to celebrate the children's learning with them and to have a chat over lunch; there was definitely a lot of joy in our school hall last week!

I am looking forward to seeing many of you tonight and tomorrow evening, for parent's evenings, as well as on Wednesday, joining together for Ash Wednesday Mass. As a school we will also be celebrating Mardi Gras, dressing in Green, purple and Gold as well as raising funds for our school with a Non-Uniform Day on Friday. May I thank You all for your participation in making our school such a fantastic place to come and learn.

We also were made aware of the sad news that Father John will be retiring. Father John has been a much-loved member of our Catholic school, and we are all very sad that he will no longer be able to visit us here at St Josephs. Father John was a regular visitor to the Staff and Children, and we were always delighted to welcome him into our classrooms. He is going to be greatly missed.

While I am sure that you will agree with me that this is very sad news, I do however wish to share the positive news that Father David Cain will now be looking after St Joseph's Parish and the school, and I am looking forward to working with him. Please do try to come to school to celebrate Mass with us if you can spare the time.

Have a wonderful final week of this half term and I wish you a restful break when it arrives.

God Bless  
Mrs Dedman

## Dates for the Diary

Topic	RE	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12.2.24		Parents' evening  Balance Bikes: EYFS	Parents' evening  Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras Wear Green/ Gold/ Purple	Ash Wednesday Mass 2pm All Welcome		Year 5 swimming  Non-uniform day

Lent 2

Topic	RE	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26.2.24 Fairtrade fortnight				Dr Bike		Year 5 swimming
4.3.24 Fairtrade fortnight					World Book Day	Year 5 swimming Mothers' Day (10 <sup>th</sup> )
11.3.24		National Science week				Year 5 swimming
18.3.24		St Joseph's feast day Mass 2pm All Welcome  Year 3/4 dress rehearsal 9.30am - Children in school to watch	St Joseph's Feast Day	Year 3/4 Easter production 9.30am		Year 4 swimming Non-uniform day World Water Day World Maths Day (23 <sup>rd</sup> )

## Prayer



Charles Darwin - who would become famous for his theories of evolution - was born on 12th February in 1809.

Aged 22, Darwin joined the British explorer ship, HMS Beagle, on their 5-year voyage around the coasts of South America and to other countries. He was a keen observer of how plant and animal life differed in various parts of the world. He realised that plants and animals can change over many generations, adapting and evolving because of their surroundings.

In his "Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection", Charles Darwin says that the young born to any living thing compete for survival against everything around them. He realised (for example) that, at a time of famine, the only leaves not eaten on trees would be high up. Small giraffes would die, but those that were tall enough to reach the leaves would live and would then reproduce, and their young would also be tall. Darwin said that only by adapting to surroundings will species survive.

God our Father, open our eyes that we may sense the wonder and awe in the splendour of all your creation - from the stars that are large and far away, to people and the tiniest creatures near us each day. Help us to become more aware of how every living thing is special and to be treated well. Lead us to respect and value every person as unique and important, made in your image and likeness. We ask this prayer through Jesus, who became a human being because you love our world so much. Amen.

## Attendance at St Joseph's

Class	Class attendance YTD (Before Christmas)	Class Attendance Year to Date 12.01.24	Class Attendance Year to Date 26.01.24	Class Attendance Year to Date 09.02.24	Class Attendance Today
Mrs Bailey	93.4	93.4	93.6	93.1	95.5
Mrs Abel	95.1	94.9	94.8	94.6	96.7
Mr Crewe	94.6	94.7	94.8	94.3	83.3
Mrs Spencer	93.3	93.1	93.2	93.3	93.9
Mr Challoner	95.4	95.1	95.2	95.3	100
Mrs Darby	93.1	93.3	93.1	93.2	85.7
Mrs Stack	95.6	95.1	95.3	94.9	88
Mrs Murray	96.9	96.6	96.4	96.2	92.6
Whole School (This year so far)	93.7	93.9	93.4	93.9	
National Average YTD (Year to Date)	94.6	94.4	94.0	94.2	

### Persistent Absence at St Joseph's

A persistent absent student is defined as a student who has 10% or more absence and who is aged between 5-15 years old.

At Present there are currently **16.7 %** of children at school who are classed as Persistently absent. This equates to **36** children out of 217. In comparison to National Persistnet Absence data which is currently at 18%

**Congratulations everyone - Keep up the hard work on attendance - we are now below the national percentage - Let's see if we can get it below 10%**

To find out what your childs attendance is - Please have a look at your Arbor App or ask in the school office.

**Congratulations Mr Challoner and Your class for 100% attendance today.**



The poster features a red background with white and yellow text. In the top right corner is the NHS logo and the text 'Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland'. The central text reads: 'Measles can have serious and sometimes fatal consequences. Anyone who is not vaccinated can catch it.' In the bottom left, there is an illustration of a woman coughing into her elbow, surrounded by red virus particles. In the bottom right, it says 'Check your status and get vaccinated if needed Visit: <https://bit.ly/LLRmeasles> #StopMeasles'. There are also decorative virus icons in the top left and bottom right corners.

**NHS**  
Leicester, Leicestershire  
and Rutland

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# NSPCC

## Online gaming and keeping children safe

**Do you know your whispers from your skins? Your Fortnite from your EA Sports FC 24?**

As part of the NSPCC Game Safe Festival, we're encouraging parents, carers and those working with children and families to have conversations about online gaming.

**GamCare will be sharing expert advice, and you'll hear directly from young people.**

**Our webinar will help you:**

- understand how young people game online.
- learn about tools and resources that support safe play.
- gain the knowledge you need to keep children safe.



### GAME SAFE FESTIVAL

**7 February 2024, 7pm-8pm, via Zoom. Book your place via this link: [nspcc.org.uk/gamesafe/tickets](https://nspcc.org.uk/gamesafe/tickets)**

**EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR**

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