Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome back to a brand new school year filled with hope, growth, and opportunities! We are thrilled to have you and your children back at St Joseph's, and we look forward to another year of learning, community, and spiritual growth.

As we embark on this journey together, we want to extend a warm invitation to a special tradition that we hold dear here at St Joseph's. Starting this **Friday** and continuing **throughout the school year**, we invite you to join us in praying **the Rosary every Friday morning at 8.30am**. Meeting together and praying the Rosary has been an integral part of our school's spiritual heritage, fostering unity and reflection within our school community. I hope to see you there and share in this meaningful tradition that brings our school community closer to God and to one another.

Thank you for entrusting your children's education to us, and for being an integral part of our St Joseph's family. Together, we will make this school year a time of growth, learning, and spiritual enrichment.

May God's blessings be with you and your family throughout this school year.

You can find more information about RE on our website:
https://www.stjosephs-primary.org.uk/RE-Curriculum/

Best wishes,
Miss Ropiak
RE Lead

ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

BEGINNING OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR - MASS
(14 September)
We celebrate with Canon Victor Darlington and Fr TesfaMichael the beginning of the new school year. Everyone welcome, please join us in the school hall at 10:15am.

ALL SAINTS – MASS IN THE SCHOOL HALL
(1 November)
We celebrate the lives of special and ordinary people who have responded to God's invitation to love.

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS)
(2 November)
Today and throughout the rest of November we pray for those who have died.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING
(20 November)

ADVENT
(Begins 30 November)
Advent means 'coming'. We think of the coming of Jesus when he was born but we also think of his promise that he would come again at the end of time. It is a time of waiting and preparing. It is only in the last week of Advent that we focus upon the events to be celebrated at Christmas.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
–MASS IN THE SCHOOL HALL
(8 December)
This feast marks the first stage of the existence of Mary, the mother of Jesus.
She was 'full of grace' from the very beginning and
co-operated with God throughout her life.

CHRISTMAS DAY, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
(25 December)
On this day we begin our celebration of the birth of Christ.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
(30 December)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST JOSEPH'S
AUTUMN TERM 2023 COME AND SEE AT HOME

Here are all the topics that the children at St Joseph's are going to be learning about in Religious Education this Autumn term. I hope you find this helpful.
If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

DOMESTIC CHURCH - FAMILY

Early Years	**MYSELF** - God knows and loves each one
Year 1	**FAMILIES** - God's love and care for every family
Year 2	**BEGINNINGS** - God is present in every beginning
Year 3	**HOMES** - God's vision for every family
Year 4	**PEOPLE** - The family of God in Scripture
Year 5	**OURSELVES** - Created in the image and likeness of God
Year 6	**LOVING** - God who never stops loving

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Make a collage using family photographs of all the significant family members—grandparents, parents, children, aunts, uncles etc. who show God's love.
Write underneath it
"We show God's love to one another."
Include those who have died.

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION - BELONGING

Early Years	**WELCOME** - Baptism: a welcome to God's family
Year 1	**BELONGING** - Baptism: an invitation to belong to God's family
Year 2	**SIGNS AND SYMBOLS** - Signs and symbols in Baptism
Year 3	**PROMISES** - Promises made at Baptism
Year 4	**CALLED** - Confirmation: a call to witness
Year 5	**LIFE CHOICES** - Marriage, commitment and service
Year 6	**VOCATION AND COMMITMENT** - The vocation of priesthood and religious life

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Talk to someone who has been to a Baptism and/or Confirmation about their memories of this celebration.

JUDAISM

Pupils will study various aspects of Judaism for one week. Ask them what they have been learning about.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS - LOVING

Early Years	**BIRTHDAY** - Looking forward to Jesus' birthday
Year 1	**WAITING** - Advent: a time to look forward to Christmas
Year 2	**PREPARATIONS** - Advent: preparing to celebrate Christmas
Year 3	**VISITORS** - waiting for the coming of Jesus
Year 4	**GIFT** - God's gift of love and friendship in Jesus
Year 5	**HOPE** - Advent: waiting in the joyful hope for Jesus, the promised one
Year 6	**EXPECTATIONS** - Jesus born to show God to the world

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Discuss with the children how your family welcomes visitors to your home.
Find out about some Christian symbols for Advent e.g. Advent wreath, calendar, Jesse tree.
Use the CAFOD or Missio websites to get a religious Advent calendar.