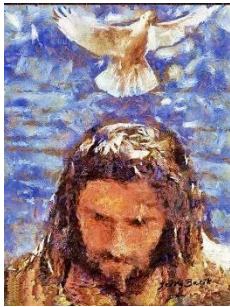


## January 2023

### Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

In Sunday's reading we listened to how Jesus was baptised by John in the waters of the river Jordan. The gospel account of the Baptism of Jesus **serves as a reminder to us that we, too, have been baptised and thereby have committed ourselves to live as Jesus would want us to live.**



Our newsletters are uploaded onto our school website and our Facebook page. If a paper copy is preferred, please let the office know and a paper copy will be given to the eldest pupil in the family to take home.

### Happy New Year!

We would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all of us at Our Lady of the Rosary to wish you all a Happy New Year and, although a distant memory, we hope you had a lovely Christmas. Looking back at last year it was lovely to see so many of you at our Christmas Celebrations, the Christmas Fayre, the Christmas Concert, the Foundation Stage / KS1 Nativity and our Nursery Nativity. All of your lovely comments were very much appreciated by myself and the staff, so again, thank you.

A big thank you to Fr Sean for celebrating a wonderful Christmas Mass with us. It was lovely to celebrate this time with Parishioners, families, our children who behaved so well, the readers who clearly shared the message of Christmas, beautiful singing and the small tableau from some of our Reception children. The message that Christmas is more than just Santa Claus, bright lights and presents and that we are celebrating the birth of Jesus and the coming of God into the world through Jesus Christ was evident. Many parishioners shared words of appreciation and thanked our staff which was lovely.

Mrs Graham Mrs Sutherland



### Attendance Matters!

Not such good news - currently we have a number of children whose attendance is below 96% which is obviously a concern. Please do not be offended if you receive letters from us, it is our duty to track attendance and keep you informed. Government departments track school attendance figures. It is considered that attendance of 90% or below is **persistent absence** which will be closely monitored by school staff. Failing to improve on this 90% can lead to prosecution, which school want to help families avoid. Please read carefully today's separate attendance letter with further information about how together we can make improvements to attendance.

Likewise, it really is important that we work together to ensure the children arrive to school on time - please do remember arriving late is unsettling for the children and learning does start the minute the children walk through the door.

First lesson of the day is either Phonics, Maths or English so regularly arriving late means your child is missing out on vital education. The equivalent of being 10 minutes late every day, equals 7 whole days over a year. Every second counts!

Remember Great Attendance leads to Great Progress and this is what we all want for all our children!

### Dates for your diary for the month of January:

- **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January Y4 Miss Howells class liturgy**  
9:05am. Please come if you can! Chance to visit your child's classroom and see what they are doing in class.
- **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January Coffee morning**  
Doors open at 8:45am Please come along if you can for a cuppa and a chat!
- **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 9:15-10:15**  
British Values session for Parents/Carers and children. Focus on tolerance and respect for different cultures and religions. Short assembly (led by children across school) followed by a parent/children workshop for Years Reception-Year 6.  
More details to follow!



# Spring 1 After School Clubs



Each club will be from 3.15pm to 4.15pm. They will run for 5 weeks.

The cost per child will be £2 per session to be paid in advance on Parent Pay.

The clubs will be launched on Parent Pay and places will be given on a first come, first served basis.

The clubs will start from the week beginning 16th January.



Club Name	Day of the Week	Year Group Available to
Cooking Club	Monday	Year 4, 5 and 6
Science Club	Monday	Year 2 and 3
Design and Technology Club	Monday	Year 2, 3 and 4
Cheerleading	Monday	Year 1, 2 and 3
Dance Club / Clubbercise	Thursday	Reception, Year 1 to 6



Please note that all outstanding payments on Parent Pay will need to be discussed with the office before your child is able to sign up to an after school club.



The school has been asked to share the following message:

We are aware of parking issues in the vicinity of your school, with a number of parents dropping off/picking up on the parking restrictions, and vehicles parking on the grassed areas.

We are undertaking additional parking enforcement in the area to help address these safety concerns, with regular police presence.

It is vital parents/carers park in a safe and legal manner when dropping off and collecting children.

Kind regards,

Parking Services  
Regeneration, Economy and Growth  
Durham County Council



## BABY AND TODDLERS GROUP

EVERY TUESDAY 1pm-3pm

INFANT HALL

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

We look forward to welcoming you. Come along to play, have a cuppa and a chat!

Please note all are welcome-you do not have to have a child attending Our Lady of the Rosary School

No charge!

Here is a link to the local offer if you need any SEND support:

[Special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\) and our Local Offer - Durham County Council](#)