



Caring for each other as we live, learn and grow in God's love.

# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

## DIARY DATES

**Weekly Mass: Sacred Heart and St John Bosco Church - 9:30am every Sunday. All are welcome.**

### **History week next week**

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - Expert history visitors for Year 1,2,3,4,5,6.

**Friday 23rd May** - Year 1 Celebration of the word assembly 9:15am in the school hall

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June** - Year 5&6 trip to Roker Beach

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June** - Year 5 residential trip to Emmaus Youth Village

**Week commencing Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June** - Sports Week

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June** - Sports Day

**#Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** - Year 6 trip to the music festival at YMT (youth village)

### **PE Days 2024-25**

Nursery / Reception: Monday

Year 1: Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 2: Tuesday & Thursday

Year 3: Tuesday & Friday (swimming)

Year 4: Tuesday & Friday

Year 5: Monday & Thursday

Year 6: Monday

## Attendance

Reception	96.17%
Year 1	95.96%
Year 2	89.26%
Year 3	93.7%
Year 4	96.62%
Year 5	95.47%
Year 6	97.62%

As of September, no holidays will be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any holiday over 5 days will also be subject to a referral for a penalty notice. Lateness and absences must now be closely monitored too. There have been a number of children being collected early - please note that we are required to see a letter, email or text as proof of appointments.



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## WELL DONE YEAR 6!

Congratulations to our wonderful Year 6 children for completing their SATs this week! We are incredibly proud of how hard you have worked and how much progress you have made over the years. All of you have arrived to school on time with enthusiasm and maturity. Although this has been a challenging week, and a challenging set of papers, you have responded with resilience and character – so, thank you!

Remember, no matter the outcome, we know how you have pushed yourself to do your best and that's what counts.





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## GARDENING CLUB DONATIONS

Our green fingered gardening club would really appreciate any donations of good quality gardening equipment.

We are determined to make our school even more beautiful and full of colour!

What we need:

- trowels for digging
- compost
- wildflower seeds
- plants, shrubs, flowers
- gardening gloves
- watering cans
- plant pots / planters



**WE NEED  
YOUR HELP**





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## OTHER NEWS

### Roker Beach Trip

Year 5 & 6 are due to be going to Roker Beach on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June. So far, only 20 out of 55 children have been paid for. The cost is £7 per child to cover the cost of the buses. Unfortunately, if we do not receive enough funds to cover the costs, we may need to cancel the trip.



### Message from the office

Monies owed:

School dinners £681  
Breakfast Club £223

Please settle any outstanding balances ASAP.  
Thanks.

Reminder

We break up for half term on  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May for one week.



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## STARS OF THE WEEK



**TT Rockstars**



**Sport stars**



**Stars of the week**



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## SAFEGUARDING

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!

If incidents involving children from our school are taking place in the local community, please report your concerns to **Together for Children**.

- To report a child safeguarding concern (0 to 17 years old) contact Together for Children on **0191 5617007** (available 8.30am to 5:15pm Monday – Thursday, 8.30am to 4.45pm Friday).
- Out of hours duty safeguarding officer: **0191 5205552**
- **For serious incidents, we would always advise contacting the police directly, 999 or 101 for non-emergencies**
- **Gentoo Housing co-ordinator for North Sunderland 07734597810**

**Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility**



### Our Safeguarding Children Process



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## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SEARCH ENGINES

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Search engines are an integral part of everyday life – with Google alone processing around 100,000 searches every second. Search engines use algorithms to predict which results will be useful to us, though this can expose children to inappropriate content, misinformation and even scams. This guide explains the risks associated with search engines and offers practical advice to help safeguard young users online.

### MANIPULATED SEARCH RESULTS

Although search engines take site reputation into account, trustworthiness isn't the main factor. Instead, they use algorithms that can be gamed via tactics like search engine optimisation (SEO), which is big business. As a result, users may encounter misleading content and low-quality commercial products that appear more credible than they actually are.

### MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

Search engines index billions of web pages – and not all of them are factual or safe. Children might stumble across false information or even deliberate disinformation, especially when searching for trending topics or controversial issues.

### ENGINES BEYOND GOOGLE

Even if Google's SafeSearch is enabled, children may use lesser-known search engines that don't have similar protections. Some of these alternatives are less effective at blocking unsavoury content – sometimes by design – making it easier for children to encounter harmful or explicit material. Parental controls may also struggle to detect and block these sites.

### FUNNY JOKES

### ILLEGAL CONTENT CAN SURFACE

Search engines are designed to retrieve content based on keywords – not to judge whether that content is lawful. As a result, even illegal or harmful material can appear in search results. Children might assume that anything found through search engines must be safe, just because they're so widely used. This misunderstanding can lead to accidental exposure to seriously inappropriate content.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EXPOSURE

Although parental controls like Google's SafeSearch exist, they aren't foolproof, and search engines may bypass them. Young users may still see inappropriate images or content, especially in image searches, even though they may not be able to click on the results. Some niche search engines lack even basic filtering, posing further risks.

### UNRELIABLE AI SUMMARIES

Some search engines now offer AI-generated answers at the top of results. While these can be helpful as webpage summaries, they're not always accurate. There have been instances where AI summaries have presented false or even dangerous information, reinforcing the need for critical thinking.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While no parental controls tool is perfect, this software can help reduce the likelihood of inappropriate content appearing in search results. Use tools like Google Family Link to set search restrictions and monitor your child's browsing activity.

### QUESTION AI-GENERATED CONTENT

While AI content is generated quickly and often appears legitimate, teach children that, just because an AI summary is well presented, it doesn't mean it's accurate. Encourage them to review the sources behind AI summaries and check the information with reputable sites or fact-checkers.

### IDENTIFY AND AVOID ADVERTS

One of the ways search engines generate revenue is by showing adverts to their users. Sponsored search results are labelled, but they're not always easy to spot and can sometimes be malicious. Show your child how to distinguish between paid ads and organic search results – explain why some ads might be misleading or unsafe.

### PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Encourage children to question the motivation behind online content and develop critical thinking, as not all sites can be trusted. Some deliberately misinform users in order to sell products or promote misinformation. Developing a critical mindset is one of the best defences against these tactics.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.





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## 'SENSORY TOYS / SQUISHYS'

We wanted to remind everyone about our expectations regarding toys in school. While we understand that toys can be a source of comfort and fun for children, we kindly ask that they are not brought into school.

We have seen an increase of children bringing in 'squishy toys' and teddies. This is leading to bigger and more expensive toys being brought in.

There are several reasons for this request to leave toys at home. Firstly, toys can be a distraction during lessons, making it difficult for students to focus on their work. We want to ensure that all children have the best possible learning environment, free from unnecessary distractions. Secondly, toys can sometimes lead to disagreements or conflicts among children, which can disrupt the harmony of the classroom and playground. By keeping toys at home, we can help maintain a positive and inclusive atmosphere for all.

Additionally, there is always the risk of toys getting lost or damaged, which can cause distress for the children. We want to avoid any upset and ensure that personal belongings are kept safe.

**We understand that some children with special educational needs may require sensory toys to help them regulate. If this is the case, it should be agreed with the school SENDCo, Mrs Gray, and written into the child's support plan.**

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

