



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.

Friday 6th June - Year 5&6 trip to Roker Beach

Wednesday 11th - Friday 13th June - Year 5 residential trip to Emmaus Youth Village

Friday 13th June - Year 6 leavers photograph

Saturday 14th June - Holy Communion Mass 9:30am at Sacred Heart & St John Bosco Church

Week commencing Monday 16th June - Sports Week

Thursday 19th June - Sports Day

Monday 23rd 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 | 93% |
| Year 1 | 96% |
| Year 2 | 93% |
| Year 3 | 92% |
| Year 4 | 92% |
| Year 5 | 88% |
| Year 6 | 89% |

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.

always check
the website for
the most up
to date
holiday dates



stjohnboscosunderland.org.uk



office@stjohnboscosunderland.org.uk



Proud to be part of
Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust



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

NEWSLETTER

May 2025

HA'WAY THE LADS!

We are hoping and praying for a Sunderland victory tomorrow which will see a return to the Premiership for the first time since 2017. We wish all of families who are travelling to London for the playoff final a safe journey and hope you have a fantastic time making memories!



stjohnboscosunderland.org.uk

office@stjohnboscosunderland.org.uk



Proud to be part of
Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust



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

NEWSLETTER

May 2025

HALF-TERM HOLIDAYS

Well, the holidays have come round quickly haven't they? Enjoy your week off everyone and we'll see you on Monday 2nd June when we return for the final half-term. It won't be long before we're preparing to meet our new teachers and beginning the transition process.



PUNCTUALITY

Why is Punctuality Important? At St John Bosco, we expect all children to arrive on time ready to start the day and to be punctual to all lessons. Arriving on time is a great start to the day, putting your child in the right frame of mind to make the most of the day's learning. Good punctuality is linked to good attendance which we know leads to better outcomes for children and young people.

Arriving on time: • Sets good habits for adult working life. • Maximises educational achievement. • Helps your child develop friendships and relationships. • Boosts your child's confidence and self-esteem.

Arriving late, however: • Puts your child at an immediate disadvantage to other children who have arrived on time. • Potentially put your child at risk • Means your child misses important information at the start of lessons. • Is embarrassing for your child. • Disrupts lessons for other students. • Can damage your child's confidence and self-esteem.





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

NEWSLETTER

May 2025

STARS OF THE WEEK



TT Rockstars



Stars of the week



stjohnboscosunderland.org.uk



office@stjohnboscosunderland.org.uk



Proud to be part of
Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust



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

NEWSLETTER

May 2025

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



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about VIOLENT CONTENT ONLINE

Around 70% of teenagers say they've seen real-life violence on social media in the past year – often from as young as primary school age. Just 6% actively seek it out; most encounter it through group chats or social media algorithms. From fights and pranks to hate speech and graphic media, exposure to violent content online is more widespread – and more harmful – than many adults realise.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MENTAL HEALTH AND TRAUMA

Children and young people report feelings of anxiety, guilt, shame or fear after seeing violent content. For some, these effects may be short term, but for those with existing vulnerabilities or past trauma, the impact can be more severe. Many also feel pressured to 'laugh off' violent content to fit in with friends, even when they find it distressing.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGES

Exposure to online violence can lead to fear and avoidance behaviours – such as skipping school or staying indoors. When children see weapons used in videos, it can heighten their perception that the world is unsafe and, in rare cases, increase the likelihood they'll consider carrying a weapon themselves, such as a knife for protection.

ESCALATION AND PARTICIPATION

Violent videos often go viral quickly. What begins as an online argument can spill into real-world fights – which are sometimes filmed and shared to gain views or status. Some children even admit to sharing or creating violent content themselves to gain attention or boost their reputation.

DESENSITISATION

Older teens may become numb to violent content after years of exposure, admitting they're unlikely to report it. Younger children also tend not to report it – usually because they don't believe anything will be done or because they're afraid of being labelled a 'snitch' by their peers.

HARMFUL IDEOLOGIES

Violent content online may overlap with racist, misogynistic or otherwise extremist ideas. These messages can dehumanise others or glorify violence as a way to gain power, popularity or notoriety. Over time, this can normalise dangerous behaviours and attitudes among impressionable viewers.

DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT

Not all children are affected equally. Those who are excluded from school, marginalised, disabled or neurodivergent are often more vulnerable to the effects of online violence. It's essential to consider wider context – including home life and access to safe spaces – when thinking about potential harm.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SUPPORTIVE SPACES

Many children feel adults are too busy or won't understand their experiences online. Take time to build trust through non-judgemental conversations about what they're seeing. If they don't want to speak to you directly, gently signpost towards trusted services they can turn to for support.

KNOW WHAT'S ILLEGAL

Some violent content is simply upsetting, while other examples may be criminal or a safeguarding matter that needs reporting. Help children understand the difference by staying informed about online laws and social media reporting procedures. A useful resource is reportharmfulcontent.com.

AVOID HARSH RESTRICTIONS

Fear of punishment is a major reason young people stay silent about violent content. Try not to overreact or threaten to take away devices. Instead, reassure children that they can speak openly and that asking for help won't get them into trouble.

UNDERSTAND TECH AND TRAUMA

Older children may already know how to block accounts or avoid triggering content. Help younger or more vulnerable children learn these tools and encourage habits that reduce exposure. Just as importantly, teach techniques that help them process distress – building resilience and emotional literacy for both online and offline life.



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

NEWSLETTER

May 2025

'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.

