

# Newsletter 13th February 2026

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Work hard, love tenderly, walk humbly: trusting in God

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

Despite the wet weather, we've managed to pack a great deal into this week at St Joseph's! We began the week with a beautiful **Celebration of the Word** focusing on Jesus' teaching about the disciples being the *salt of the earth*—and how each of us is called to bring flavour, kindness, and goodness into the world through our actions.

Throughout the week, children also enjoyed:

**Police Assembly** A very informative session where the children learned about keeping themselves safe, making good choices, and understanding the role of the police within our community.

**E-Safety Workshop for Parents**

Thank you to the parents who attended. Keeping children safe online is an ever-growing challenge, and we appreciate your commitment to working with us to ensure our pupils are protected.

### **Year 2 Celebration of the Word**

Well done to Year 2 for leading a thoughtful and reflective Celebration of the Word linked to Children's Mental Health Week. They shared the message beautifully and represented their class wonderfully.

### **Valentine's Disco**

A huge thank you to everyone involved in organising the disco. The children had a fabulous time, and it was lovely to see so many happy faces.

### **House Points and Gold Star Awards**

This week we announced our winners:

- **House Point Winners:** *Green Team*
- **Gold Star Winners:** *Green Team*

A huge well done to both teams! You will receive a special award next week. We are incredibly proud of all our pupils for following **The St Joseph's Way**—showing kindness, respect, and working hard every day.

**Attendance** Good attendance is vital for every child's learning, progress, and overall wellbeing. Children who attend school regularly are more settled, make stronger friendships, and achieve better academically. Even a small amount of missed time can quickly add up and have a significant impact on their education. We continue to monitor attendance very closely to ensure that every child has the best possible chance of success. Please continue to support us by ensuring your child is in school **every day and on time**. Your partnership really does make a difference.

Mass continues this Sunday at **11am**. We hope to see many of our families there. Have a wonderful weekend,

Best wishes,

Mrs Urwin

Key reminders for next Week:

- Ash Wednesday Celebration of the Word Wednesday 18th 11 15 am - Everyone welcome!
- Thursday 19th - Year 1 Celebration of The Word 2 45pm

- Friday 20th - February Half-Term

## Reminders

### School Office & Wraparound Information

#### *School Office Hours:*

- **Monday – Thursday:** 8:00am – 4:00pm
- **Friday:** 8:00am – 3:30pm
- If your child attends **after-school wraparound care (and is still their from 4:00pm–5:30pm)**, please telephone **07823 815101** on arrival. A member of staff will bring your child to the door.

### Reporting a Child's absence

Please remember to report your child's absence to the school **by 8:45am** each morning. This is vital for **safeguarding reasons**. If a child has not arrived and we have not received a message, we must follow our safeguarding procedures to ensure they are safe, which may include contacting you or other emergency contacts.

To report an absence, please telephone **01207 232624** and:

- **Press 1** to leave an absence message, or
- **Press 3** to speak to a member of the school office.

When reporting an absence, please **do not** say "they are feeling poorly" or "they are not feeling well"

We need to know the **specific reason** for the absence so that we can accurately monitor illnesses and infections within school.

Thank you for your support in keeping our children safe and well.

### Parking around school

We kindly ask all families to be mindful when parking around the school (Thorneyholme Terrace), particularly during busy drop-off and pick-up times. Please ensure that driveways, access points and residential entrances are kept clear at all times.

It is essential that emergency vehicles, residents and other road users are able to get in and out safely and without obstruction. Your consideration helps us maintain a safe environment for our children, our neighbours and the wider community.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

### Sickness Reminder

If your child has **any episode of sickness or diarrhoea**, they **must remain off school for 48 hours** from their **last episode**.

This helps reduce the spread of illness and keeps everyone in school healthy.

### **Wraparound care**

- A polite reminder Breakfast club is from 7:40am and children need to be in by 8:15am at the latest for breakfast.
- Wraparound care finishes at 5:30pm, a late charge may apply if you are late on multiple occasions.
- All children must be booked into both Breakfast club and wraparound care via Arbor and this must be paid for in advance of the session

### **Spare Uniform**

We would be grateful if you have any spare tights/socks/underwear you would donate these to school. We have a very limited supply and during this bad weather children may need a change of clothes. If your child does borrow from school can you please return them once cleaned.

### **Outstanding Payments**

Any outstanding payments on ARBOR (school meals/ breakfast club/ wrap around care) **must be cleared and kept in credit**. If anyone has any problems with making payments, please contact the school office to discuss further. The Trust are looking very closely at all outstanding payments and non-payment of outstanding debt may result in your child having to bring a packed lunch to school and being unable to access breakfast club/wraparound care.



As you know, attendance is hugely important, and we report attendance on a weekly/ monthly/ termly basis. We monitor attendance/lateness very closely in school and will raise any concerns with parents/carers on an individual basis. If you have any concerns with regards to your child's attendance/lateness, please contact us as soon as possible so we can work together to resolve any issues.

**This week's attendance is 96.32%. Our target is 97%**

**Nursery: 97.83%**

**Reception: 91.74%**

**Year 1:** 96.9%

**Year 2:** 98%

**Year 3:** 95.86%

**Year 4:** 96.36%

**Year 5:** 93.7%

**Year 6:** 99.29%

**Well done to Year 6 who won this week's attendance award!**

## Head Teachers Award

**The following children have received a Head Teachers Award this week:**

**Nursery:** Jenson for always being a superstar

**Reception:** Brody for caring for our school environment

**Year 1:** Harvey for outstanding behaviour in school

**year 3:** Harry for a really positive attitude to school this week

**Year 5:** Emily L for always being so polite and kind

## Star of the Week

**The following children have received a Star of the Week certificate this week:**

**Nursery:** Rudy for being so enthusiastic and keen to learn new things

**Reception:** Archie for amazing Fred Talk when reading in phonics

**Year 1:** Arabella for excellent work about the Chinese Empress Wu Zetian in History

**Year 2:** Daisy for always following the St Joseph's Way and being a wonderful friend

**Year 3:** Ollie for writing an excellent diary entry from the point of view of the boy in 'The stone Age Boy'

**Year 4:** Elena for excellent contributions to lessons throughout the week

**Year 5:** Thomas for excellent work with decimals

**Year 6:** Teeannah for some excellent work in arithmetic this week

## Awards of the week

**Captain's Table:** Isaac, Marco, Alice, Sienna, Isla, Harvey, Aria, Alfie

**Mission Statement:** Isabella, Harper, Ivanna, Chester, Nori, Izzy R, Leyla, Kacie-Leigh

**British Values:** Maeve, Imogen, Freddie, Lewis, Harry, Hayden, Dominic, Shyla-Mae

**Writer of the week:** Taylor, Armina, Theo, Reid, Izzy A, Alice, Poppy

Please see below what our children have been getting up to this week in school

When celebrating Children's Mental Health Week, Children in **EYFS** enjoyed a carousel of activities linked to the theme 'This is my Place'. We shared the much-loved story Giraffes Can't Dance, thinking about Gerald the Giraffe and how he found the courage to express himself. Inspired by the story, the children enjoyed expressing themselves through dance, moving just like Gerald—freely, proudly, and in their own unique ways! Children also completed a creative collage activity, where the children explored the idea of belonging. They created wonderful pictures showing how and where they feel they belong—at home, in school, with friends, or with family. They thoroughly enjoyed their walk around school, reminding ourselves that this is our place too. Along the way, we stopped at different areas and chatted to each other, sharing some of our favourite things, from toys and pets to colours, superheroes, and special memories.

And to end our day on the happiest of notes...🌈 We danced in the rain!

There were big smiles, splashes, giggles, and plenty of joyful movement as the children celebrated the simple fun of being together in the moment.





We've had a wonderful and busy week in **Year 1**, filled with learning, creativity and lots of enthusiasm from the children. Here's a glimpse of what we've been up to. In PE this half term, the children have been developing their gymnastics skills. They have been practising- Balancing on different body parts, performing simple sequences, exploring shapes such as tuck, star, and straight. We've been so impressed with their focus, teamwork and growing control in movement! To celebrate Children's Mental Health Week, Year 1 took part in a carousel of wellbeing activities all linked to the theme 'My Place'. The children engaged beautifully and showed great awareness of how to look after themselves and one another. In English, we have been reading *Tree* and using the story to develop rich new vocabulary. We explored descriptive words linked to weather, nature, and seasonal changes. This vocabulary work is also helping us build links with our current Geography unit. The children loved connecting what they read in *Tree* to real-life seasonal changes! Well done Year 1.





It has been a very busy week in **Year 2!** The children took part in a very useful Safer Internet Day workshop, where they attended an assembly and completed activities all about voice assistants—exploring what they are, what they can do, and what they can't do. In music, the children enjoyed listening for the beat and joining in confidently with the lyrics. As part of Children's Mental Health Week, they also took part in a carousel of thoughtful activities designed to help them reflect on their feelings and wellbeing. They finished the week by delivering a wonderful and reflective Celebration of the Word linked to this theme. Well done Year 2, for another fantastic week of learning and growing!





It's been another busy and action-packed week in **Year 3!** They had an exciting morning on Tuesday when they took part in a BBC Live Lesson for Safer Internet Day. The lesson was all about chatbots and how to use them safely and responsibly. In English, they have read the first part of *Stone Age Boy* and they enjoyed discussing how the boy must have felt waking up in a completely different time, surrounded by unfamiliar sights, sounds and people. The class produced some excellent diary entries from the main character's point of view. Children have also worked extremely hard in maths when measuring and calculating perimeter. They have practised measuring the sides of different shapes using rulers.

Once they had measured each side, the class worked on adding the lengths together to find the total perimeter. We also took part in a carousel of activities to promote Children's Mental Health week and reflected on how 'we belong'.

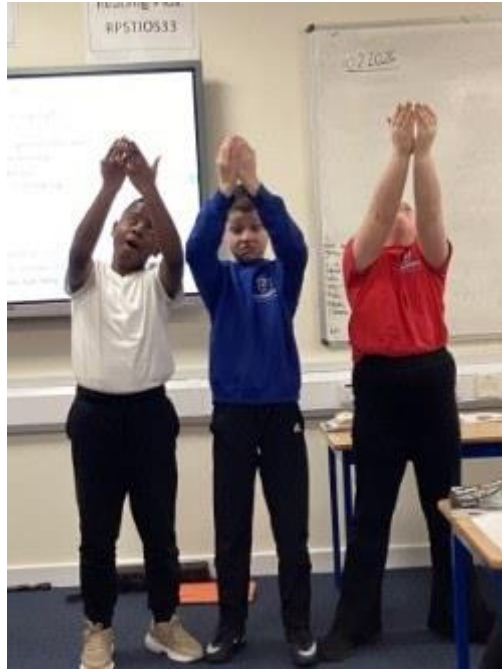


What a busy week we've had in **Year 4!** Children took part in Children's World Mental Health day where we carried out lots of different activities that focused on this year's theme of 'My Place' It was also safer internet day this week and children took part in the BBC's live lesson which focused on the use of artificial intelligence and how it can be used safely. In Maths, children continued to use partitioning to help them carry out division questions and applied this method to reasoning and problem solving. In English children looked at comparative and superlative adjectives used in persuasion. In Science, they carried out experiments that looked at sound vibrations and in History they learned about how the Romans defeated Boudicca's army.











Lots of new knowledge gained in Geography and History this week. We explored Alfred the Great - his legacy and why he was able to defeat the Vikings. In Geography, we looked migration and how it affects individuals in different ways. We completed our RE topic exploring the role of Bishop Stephen within our diocese. Today we are testing parachutes to study the impact of air resistance (mini parachutes, not real - just to be clear!) and then we will compare data using decimals and averages linked to Maths this week. A busy day!



This week, **Year 6** have continued with their hard work and fantastic attitudes. In English, they have finished their class reader 'Kick'. The children really enjoyed this book- particularly learning new Indonesian words and learning about life in Jakarta. They have started a new text- The Highwayman. They have enjoyed exploring the different style of text and have

looked at how its style differs from that of other narratives they have read this year. They enjoyed discussing the themes within the poem and performing it to each other. They had a really successful ukulele lesson this week- working between making single notes and chords. In RE, they have been learning about the Eucharist and the associated scripture. This term's focus in RE is 'Unity' they have looked at elements of the Eucharist which promote unity with each other and with God.



