

# Newsletter 6th February 2026

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

It's been another exciting week here at St Joseph's. Despite the dark days and wet weather, our children have remained positive, engaged and full of enthusiasm. Classrooms have been buzzing with learning, and it's been wonderful to see pupils supporting one another and enjoying time with their peers.

Our wonderful Peer Mentors have once again led a range of lunchtime sessions, including Lego Therapy, Chat & Chill and mindfulness colouring. These sessions continue to have a really positive impact on pupils' wellbeing, friendships and emotional regulation. We are so proud of the maturity and kindness our Peer Mentors show each day.

A huge thank you to Year 3 for leading us in a beautiful Celebration of the Word, centred around the New Year of St Francis. The children reflected thoughtfully on how we can continue to live sustainably as part of our Live Simply Award journey. Thank you to all our parents and grandparents for attending.


Our after-school clubs remain full of energy and creativity. It has also been lovely to see children working so hard in preparation for Phonics, the MTC Check, and SATS. Their dedication and perseverance are already shining through.


We will be hosting an E-Safety Workshop for parents on Wednesday 11th February from 2pm to 3pm.

Please come along to find out how to support your child at home, keep them safe online and promote healthy digital habits. Your involvement makes a huge difference.

Next week is **Children's Mental Health Week**, and this year's theme is "*This is My Place.*" To celebrate this, children are invited to wear non-uniform on Wednesday 11th February. We encourage them to choose an outfit that makes them feel comfortable, confident and truly themselves — whether that's cosy clothes, cultural dress, favourite colours, or something wonderfully unique. Let's celebrate what makes each of us special!

Our **Valentine's Disco** will take place next Friday (3 30pm-4 30pm). Please book your child's place on Arbor. It promises to be a fun event filled with dancing, music and smiles.

 **World Book Day Celebrations!** We are already getting excited for **World Book Day on Thursday 5th March!** To celebrate our love of reading, children are welcome to **dress up as a book character if they wish** (completely optional) or simply **bring along a favourite book to share.**

We will have lots of reading-themed activities throughout the day, and every child will receive their **World Book Day book voucher** to enjoy.  **50p Book Sale – Week Beginning 2nd March** To build the excitement even further, we will be holding a **50p Book Sale** all week from **Monday 2nd March**. We have a huge selection of pre-loved books for all ages and interests—perfect for topping up home libraries on a budget!

All money raised will go straight back into supporting reading across school and promoting our love of books.

Let's make this a magical week of stories, imagination and reading for pleasure! ✨ 

Attendance is a key priority at St Joseph's and is monitored very closely. It was wonderful to see our whole-school attendance rise above 98% this week — a fantastic achievement that reflects the commitment of our children and families. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring children are in school, on time, every day.

Mass continues this Sunday at 11am. Some of our pupils will be reading during the service, and we thank them warmly for putting their faith into action. Their confidence and reverence are a credit to themselves and our school community.

Best wishes,

Mrs Urwin

## 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 95.67%. Our target is 97%**

**Nursery: 92.5%**

**Reception: 98.7%**

**Year 1:** 91.38%

**Year 2:** 97.33%

**Year 3:** 96.9%

**Year 4:** 97.27%

**Year 5:** 94.07%

**Year 6:** 98.57%

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

## Head Teachers Award

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

**Nursery:** Maeve for being respectful and kind

**Reception:** Alfie S for showing kindness and care towards others

**Year 2:** Savannah for managing the Zones of Regulation so well

**Year 3:** Aria-May for consistently showing respect and kindness

**Year 6:** Emie for excellent effort and progress in class

## Star of the Week

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

**Nursery:** Roman for happily taking part in the new activities

**Reception:** Faith for sharing lots of lovely ideas during carpet time and working so hard on her writing

**Year 1:** Ivie for some excellent writing about Voices in the Park

**Year 2:** Jack for his excellent understanding and reasoning in maths

**Year 3:** Ruby for excellent attitude and participation in all lessons

**Year 4:** Freddie S for excellent recall of historical facts in our Roman Britain topic

**Year 5:** Harry for excellent answers with fractions

**Year 6:** Ethan for some excellent descriptive writing using cohesive devices to join sentences

## Awards of the week

**Captain's Table:** Lily, Zeke, Freddie, Mya, Cleo, Isabella, Louie, Isla

**Mission Statement:** Ella, Freddy, Frankie, Grace W, Brody, Aria, Madeline, Martha

**British Values:** Jensen, Alfie S, Kaveh, Freya, Emily, Thea-Pearl, Maisie, Ollie

**Writer of the week:** Oslo, Romee, Finn, AJ, Harley-Kate, Rose, Tia

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

This week in **Nursery**, children have been finding out about which foods are healthy and which are unhealthy, sorting foods accordingly and talking about the things they like to eat. Building on this, **Reception** children have learnt all about having a balanced diet and which foods are good for giving you energy, building your muscles and keeping your bones and teeth strong.

The children thoroughly enjoyed making their own healthy soup, chopping the vegetables themselves and enjoying their tasty treat at snack time!







We have had another exciting week of learning in **Year 1**. In English, the children explored the picture book *Voices in the Park* by Anthony Browne. They: Learned how the same event can be told from different points of view, explored characters' thoughts and feelings, developed their speaking and listening skill, wrote simple sentences focussing on capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. In Maths, the children focused on developing their understanding of addition and subtraction to 20. We used rekenreks and base 10 to support our learning and are tackling our number bonds to 20. Children are being encouraged to recognise these number facts quickly and confidently. In PE, the children took part in gymnastics lessons, where they practiced the bunny hop movement, helping to improve balance and control. The children linked movements together safely to create a short sequence to perform. In RE, the children began a new topic on Meals. They learned about why meals are important to families and communities. They are looking forward to this topic and learning about the Eucharist. Well done Year 1 for another brilliant week.





This week in **Year 2**, the children have been working hard on planning explanation texts linked to their class book 'Queen Victoria's Bathing Machine'. In RHE, they explored the importance of saying sorry when we make a mistake and learning to forgive our friends. In PE, the class began creating dance sequences inspired by different jobs from the time of the Great Fire of London. In computing, they practised taking photographs and discussed how using the correct lighting can make a big difference. During geography, the children learned about extreme weather and the challenges it can create. Well done, Year 2, for another fantastic week of learning!



In English, **Year 3** have begun their new class reader, *The Stone Age Boy*. They thoroughly enjoyed exploring the front cover and blurb to make predictions about what might happen and are excited to start reading the story. They also took part in an exciting investigation in science this week and observed what happens to our pupils when we look at bright and dim light. They noticed that in bright light our pupils become smaller and in dim light our pupils become bigger. Through their observations, they learned how our eyes cleverly adjust to different light conditions to keep our vision clear and safe. Year 3 ended the week leading a thoughtful Celebration of the Word, reflecting on the importance of the Earth and making pledges about the actions they will take to help protect our world. It was lovely to share this special moment with their families.





**Year 4** have had another busy and productive week in school. In maths we have been looking at division and how we can use partitioning to help us divide 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers. In English we have been looking at different persuasive devices such as alliteration, exaggerated adjectives and rhetorical questions, we will be using these techniques to produce an advert for a firework. In music we had another ukelele session where we learned some new chords and began to play some new songs. In PE we continued with our 'Greatest Showman' dance topic, we produced a clown dance using some of the moves a clown might perform in their act and in Science we looked at the digestive system and how our intestines work to absorb nutrients and get rid of waste.











Lots of busy minds in **Year 5** this week. We have further investigated friction in Science and carried out an investigation involving different surfaces. In Spanish, we have been learning about verb tenses which also linked with our English tasks this week. We also wrote a text full of suspense to show a new character find the 'creature' in the garage. In RE, we completed our Mission topic by investigating the role of Bishop Stephen and his 'mission' across our diocese. We explored tricky homophones in this week's spelling session, but we worked hard to remember the definitions to help us. Our Reading Plus scores are progressing so that we can read more words per minute and become fluent readers.

This week, **Year 6** have completed some practise SATS question papers along with their usual curriculum lessons. They have shown what fantastic progress they have made since the last set of papers they did. In History, they have been learning about how the Vikings attacked Alfred at Chippenham and how Alfred responded, defeating Guthrum then agreeing a truce. In art, they have been developing their shading skills and then applying these skills when drawing still life objects. In Geography, they have looked at migration and have used their analytical skills to identify similarities and differences between different migration case studies.











