

Newsletter 9th January 2026

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

Welcome Back!

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed some special time with family and friends.

We were delighted to welcome the children back to school on Tuesday, and they have settled in so well. We are incredibly proud of them and excited for another fantastic term of learning and fun together.

There are lots of exciting opportunities ahead, and we can't wait to share them with you. Let's hope the weather picks up soon so we can enjoy some brighter days!

Attendance matters! We're aiming for excellent attendance this term so that every child can make the most of their learning opportunities. Thank you for supporting us in ensuring your child is in school every day, ready to learn.

Please keep an eye out on **Arbor** and our **Facebook page** for important information and key dates for your diary. The Spring Dates for your diary can be found on the school website.

Mass continues Sunday at 11am and some of our wonderful children will be reading. We thank them for continuing to put their faith into action.

Thank you for your continued support – here's to a brilliant start to 2026!

Best wishes,

Mrs Urwin

Reminders

After school clubs

A reminder, our after school clubs went live on Arbor with week and there are still spaces left, if your child would like to attend please book a space via Arbor.

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.

We have registered with the School of Signs and will be delivering the programme in our sign language after school club





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 97.76%. Our target is 97%

Nursery: 95%

Reception: 97.83%

Year 1: 97.41%

Year 2: 99.17%

Year 3: 99.57%

Year 4: 99.43%

Year 5: 97.22%

Year 6: 93.75%

Well done to Year 3 who won this week's attendance award!

Head Teachers Award

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

Nursery: Zephan for always trying his best in Nursery this week

Reception: Freddy for always being so polite

Year 2: Seb for settling back into school so well

Year 3: Brody for an excellent start to the new term

Year 4: Elena for always being so kind to her peers

Star of the Week

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

Nursery: Isabella for being such a kind and caring friend

Reception: Taylor for amazing effort in phonics this week and working so hard on his handwriting

Year 1: Alice for excellent work in RE about people who are special to her

Year 2: Grace W for her excellent work in History on Queen Victoria

Year 3: Freddie for excellent participation in all lessons

Year 4: Noah for excellent contributions to lessons this week

Year 5: Harriet for excellent answers with our class text

Year 6: Matthew for some excellent work on ratio in maths lessons

Awards of the week

Captain's Table: Maeve, Emmie, Frankie, Frankie, Harry, Eliza, Kamran, Ella B

Mission Statement: Effie, Sienna, Lakelon, Noah, Ruby, Harvey, Isla, Emmanuel

British Values: Lily, Oliver, Romee, Edith, Francesca, Daniel, Emily R, Cade

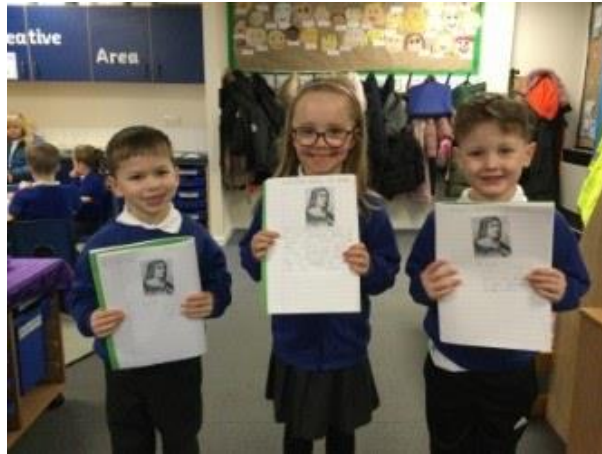
Writer of the week: Ethan, Phoebe, Leon, Tejiri, Harley-Kate, Will, Shyla-Mae

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

This week in **Early Years** we started the new term with a lovely Celebration of the Word. We gathered thinking about our breathing, breathing in God's love and breathing out/blowing away our worries or anything that might be upsetting us. We sang 'Alleluia' and listened to Psalm 118:24. We passed around a sunflower and thought about what makes us happy, the children shared some wonderful examples. We then shared one word that we think about when we are happy and made a wonderful word cloud with the words, displaying it in class as a reminder of all of the things we have to be happy about.







This week, **Year 2** have started the new year off brilliantly with their hard work and enthusiasm. In English, the children were introduced to their exciting new text, 'The Great Explorer'. In maths, they have been continuing their work on 2D shapes, focusing on drawing them accurately and exploring lines of symmetry. Our history lessons have taken us back in time to the Victorian era, where we began learning about the fascinating life of Queen Victoria. In geography, we've been investigating the weather around the world and discussing the important differences between weather and climate. Well done, Year 2, for a wonderful first week back at school! We are so proud of your effort and curiosity—keep it up!

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely break. The children have settled back in brilliantly and have already got stuck into their new class text, *The Iron Man*. They thoroughly enjoyed reading the first chapter and exploring the rich vocabulary used to describe the Iron Man's appearance and character. In maths, the children have begun learning formal methods of multiplication and, in RE, they have started their new topic on journeys. They have enjoyed looking ahead to the year to come and exploring the liturgical year.



In **Year 4** this week the children have settled back into school really well. In English we made predictions about our new class text, *The Firework Maker's daughter*. In history we learned

about Pompeii and the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. We continued our multiplication and division topic in maths and continued to develop our rapid recall of times table facts.







Happy New Year from **Year 5!** We have made a great start this week - exploring our new class text, *Skellig*, has been very popular. They love the new characters, and we are all very intrigued by the plot! We have finished our Anglo-Saxon topic and have moved onto the Viking period - all very interesting. We have started our Migration topic in Geography. We started long multiplication in Maths and found the process interesting. Year 5 are looking forward to the PE swimming sessions on Monday (please remember kits!)



Year 6 have had a great week back after the Christmas break. They have settled in really well to their learning and have already produced some excellent work. In English, they have started their new class novel 'Kick' by Mitch Johnson. This is a book which follows the life of a child working in a factory in Jakarta, Indonesia. They have explored child labour across the world and are planning their own news reports on the topic. In maths, they have been learning about ratio and applying ratio to fractions and percentages. In DT, they have

painted the clay models which they made before Christmas. They designed their own shark heads based on Lorien Stern's shark creations.