

# Newsletter 22nd May 2026

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful final week of term it has been here at St Joseph's. The school has been filled with joy, focus and gratitude as we come to the end of this short but very productive half term. We began the week with a whole-school Celebration of the Word, reflecting on John 17:1–11. On the night of His arrest, Jesus lifted His eyes in prayer, fully focused on the Father's will. In our final Eastertide assembly, the children took part in a game about *distractions*, helping them understand how challenging it can be to stay focused. They were invited to lift their eyes to God in prayer — just as Jesus did — asking for guidance to stay on His path. We also continued to pray to Mary, Our Lady, seeking her courage and protection during this month of May. ✨

👨👩👧 **Parent Workshop**

On Monday, we held a Parent Workshop about the Zones of Regulation. We know that attendance at these sessions has been low recently, and we completely understand that many parents are working and cannot take time off. I will continue to do my best to schedule workshops alongside school events where possible, though this will depend on the availability of the teams delivering them.

### **Safeguarding Reminder**

We have noticed an increase in holidays being taken during term time. Please remember that a Leave of Absence form must be completed before any planned absence. It is essential that parents provide the full address and details of where they will be staying whilst away. Unfortunately, holidays will be unauthorised. This is an important safeguarding requirement to ensure we can support and protect all children effectively. We kindly ask families to be honest and transparent with this information, as inaccurate details can place the school in a very difficult position.

### **Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:**

- Mrs Urwin (Headteacher)
- Miss Ryan (Deputy Headteacher)
- Mr Haveron (Senior Leader)
- Mrs Cowan (Business Manager)

If you ever have any safeguarding concerns, no matter how small they may seem, please contact us immediately. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

### **Attendance**

Attendance letters have been sent out this week. Attendance is a priority, and we continue to work closely with families to ensure every child is in school and on time every day. Strong attendance supports learning, wellbeing and long-term success. We also celebrated those children who have 100% attendance so far this year 🎉 Their commitment is inspiring, and we are genuinely enthused by the children's growing excitement and pride around attendance. I also want to reassure families that we fully understand when children are genuinely unwell, or when there is an outbreak of illnesses such as chickenpox. In these cases, keeping children at home is the right and responsible decision.

### **Learning & Achievements has been a brilliant end to the term:**

Year 6 SATs are now complete — well done to all our pupils for their resilience and determination. Progress across the school has been phenomenal. We are incredibly proud of the children's efforts, attitudes and love of learning. 🌈📚

## House Points

Congratulations to Green Team and Blue Team for winning last term's house points and gold stars! They enjoyed their well-earned extra playtime today.

This term's winners were Red Team for Gold stars and Yellow Team for house points 

Mass continues this Sunday at 11am. All families are warmly invited.

We hope you all enjoy a restful and happy half term.

**Please note: School is closed on Monday 1st June for staff training. We reopen on Tuesday 2nd June.**

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Have a wonderful break! 

Best wishes,

Mrs Urwin

Headteacher



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 92.96%. Our target is 97%**

**Nursery:** 95.2%

**Reception:** 90.87%

**Year 1:** 98.67%

**Year 2:** 94%

**Year 3:** 91.72%

**Year 4:** 96.67%

**Year 5:** 92.8%

**Year 6:** 83.57%

**Well done to Year 1 who won this week's attendance award!**

## Head Teachers Award

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

**Nursery:** Isaac for being a superstar and following the St Joseph's Way!

**Reception:** Brody for always being so kind and caring.

**Year 1:** Ivanna for always being so polite to Mrs Urwin

**Year 3:** Eadie for always following the St Joseph's Way

**Year 6:** Kacie-Leigh for having a wonderful attitude to learning.

## Star of the Week

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

**Nursery:** Charlie for being ready to learn and enthusiastic during carpet time sessions

**Reception:** Archie for doing an AMAZING job when independently writing a sentence about a bee

**Year 1:** Kaveh for excellent reading in phonics this week

**Year 2:** Grace p for her excellent explanation in maths this week

**Year 3:** Noah for excellent participation and enthusiasm in all lessons

**Year 4:** Thomas for having an excellent attitude to writing this week

**Year 5:** Rose for excellent writing with Jabberwocky poem

**Year 6:** Freya for some excellent persuasive writing

## Awards of the week

**Captain's Table:** Isaac, Brody, Sadie, Noah, Emie, Florence, Dominic, Kacie-Leigh

**Mission Statement:** Ellis, Taylor, Armina, Daisy, Frances, Harley-Kate, Jude, Ethan

**British Values:** Rudy, Imogen, Derek, Jesse, Aria-May, Charity, Kamran, Grace

**Writer of the week:** Alfie D, Ivanna, Jenson, Francesca, Thea, Molly, Poppy

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

The children in **Early Years** have been learning about Islam. They explored a Qur'an, discovering that it is a special holy book that Muslims treat with great respect.

The children also looked at a real prayer mat, noticing its patterns and learning that Muslims use it when they pray. They found out some simple facts, including that Muslims pray five times each day and remove their shoes and wash beforehand.

The children showed curiosity and respect as they learned about different beliefs and traditions.











We have had a fantastic final week in **Year 1** before our May half term break! The children have worked incredibly hard and enjoyed a range of exciting learning activities across the curriculum. Here's what we have been up to: In History, we learned about Henry VIII, one of England's most famous kings. The children discovered that he had six wives and discussed why he is remembered in history. We explored what life was like during Tudor times and wrote the most interesting facts we had read about Henry VIII. In Science, we continued our work on animal diets by learning about sea creatures and what they eat. The children explored different diets, such as carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores, and sorted sea animals into these groups. They particularly enjoyed learning about sharks, dolphins, and turtles! In Art, the children showed fantastic creativity by making junk model sculptures. Using recycled materials, they designed and constructed their own models. We were so impressed with their imaginative ideas and teamwork – from robots to sea creatures, the results were brilliant! In RE, we learned about Islam and the importance of Prophet Muhammad to Muslims. The children explored how Muslims show respect and learned about some key beliefs and practices. The class showed thoughtful discussion and respect throughout the lesson. We are very proud of how hard the children have worked this half term. They have made great progress and should feel proud of their achievements! We hope you all have a wonderful, restful half term break and enjoy spending time together.





The children have had a lovely, busy week and have worked really hard! In PE, the children have been enjoying learning tennis skills. They have been practising how to hold the racket properly and using it to gently dribble a ball, building their control. In English, the children have started a new book called 'The Queen on our Corner', which they have really enjoyed. They have sequenced events in the story and have started to create a plan for a newspaper report.

In maths, the children have started their new topic on position and direction. They have been learning positional language including clockwise and anticlockwise. They enjoyed moving different directions and explaining these to their partner. In History, the children have been learning about Stonehenge and thinking about why it might have been built—even though nobody knows for definite why it was built!

In science, the children have continued learning about food chains and have created their own based on foods they have eaten. In RE, the children enjoyed looking at the Islamic faith. They have learned all about the Wudu (the ritual performed before prayer), family life, and special celebrations, including welcoming a new baby.

Well done, Year 2—you have all done a fantastic job this half term! Have a lovely, well-deserved break 😊









It has been another busy and exciting week in **Year 3**. In PE, the children have been working hard on their athletics skills focusing particularly on hurdles. They have shown great determination and made excellent progress. In English, they have written their own stories inspired by, *The Island of Ghosts*, and we were extremely impressed with how creative and imaginative they were; they thoroughly enjoyed sharing their stories with one another. In RE, we have been learning about Islam and understanding why the mosque is an important place of worship and community. In Art, the children have been studying Amarjeet Nandhra and have enjoyed using patterns, repetition and symmetry to create their own prints inspired by her work. Well done to all of Year 3 for their continued hard work and enthusiasm. We hope you have a restful half term break.





**Year 4** have had a busy last week to this half term. They have continued to work extremely hard on ensuring they know all of their times tables off by heart in preparation for the MTC test after the half term break. They have continued to read *Varjak Paw* in English, focusing on dialogue between characters. In maths they have worked on finding the perimeter of 2D shapes and in RE they have learned about some beliefs and practises in the religion of Islam.







A super last week before half term! We thoroughly enjoyed exploring the poem, 'Jabberwocky' and creating our own nonsense words. We explored elements of myths and legends and linked it with the poem. We thoroughly enjoyed our final session with the Emotional Resilience team - they gave us great ideas to support us in the future. In DT, we started our bridges topic; exploring structure, design and purpose. We are looking forward to making our designs. In History we learnt about life for children in Viking times. In Geography, we explored the ecosystem of the Amazon Rainforest. We very much enjoyed finishing our Treasure Island book by watching the animated version - we compared the characters we imagined with what we saw and acted out some parts.



A very different week for **Year 6** this week. They come out of the other side of their SATs and are now focussing on the challenges which await them this term before their moves to secondary school. They've still been working hard and have produced some excellent writing based on Pig Heart Boy. They have also been working on their own creations in art based on the work of Keith Haring. The most important event of the week was receiving their leavers hoodies!

