

Newsletter 5th June 2026

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful half-term break and had the opportunity to spend some quality time with family and friends. 😊

We are excited to begin the final half-term of this academic year. The next few weeks are always busy and rewarding, with lots of exciting learning opportunities, events and celebrations still to come. We look forward to sharing these with you over the coming weeks.



As always, we encourage all of our children to continue following the **St Joseph's Way** by being **respectful, responsible and ready to learn**, while living out our school mission statement each and every day. ★

 **Year 3 Visit to the Great North Museum**

On Wednesday, our Year 3 children enjoyed a fantastic visit to the Great North Museum. They were excellent ambassadors for our school, demonstrating exemplary behaviour throughout the day. The children engaged enthusiastically with the activities, deepened their knowledge and gained valuable first-hand learning experiences that will support their work in school. We are incredibly proud of them! 🙌🌟

Stay Connected

Please continue to keep an eye on Arbor, our Facebook page, this newsletter and the school diary of events for important updates and information throughout the term.

Attendance and Holidays During Term Time

We have seen a significant increase in the number of requests for holidays during term time. While we understand that families may have reasons for requesting leave, this is a particularly important time of year for all pupils.

During this half-term, children take part in both statutory and non-statutory assessments. These assessments help us to gain a clear understanding of each child's progress, celebrate their achievements and identify any areas for further development as they move into their next year group.

Time away from school at this stage of the year can result in children missing vital learning opportunities and important assessment activities. We therefore ask all families to support us by ensuring children attend school every day and avoid taking holidays during term time wherever possible. **If you do need to take your child out, a Leave of Absence form needs to be filled out 2 weeks before their absence.** 📖✍️

House Points Celebration 🎉

On Friday, children enjoyed an extra playtime and a pack of Haribo to celebrate their fantastic House Point totals and Gold Star achievements from last half-term. 🌟 We are incredibly proud of the effort, determination and positive attitudes shown by all of our pupils. Our House Captains are already busy planning an exciting reward for the winning house at the end of this term. 🙌🏆 With plenty of House Points and Gold Stars still up for grabs, the competition is well and truly on! 💪🏆🌟

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We are always here to listen and provide support where needed.

A reminder that Mass continues each Sunday at **11:00am**. We would love to see as many families as possible joining our parish community. 🙏

Thank you for your continued support. Have a wonderful weekend! 🌻

Best Wishes,

Mrs Urwin

Reminders

Arbor Payments

Please ensure that all outstanding payments on Arbor—including school meals, breakfast club, and wraparound care—are cleared as soon as possible and that accounts remain in credit. **As we approach the end of the academic year, the Trust are closely monitoring all balances.** Any outstanding debt may result in your child needing to bring a packed lunch to school and being unable to access breakfast club or wraparound care services.

We kindly ask all families to check their Arbor accounts regularly and settle any balances promptly. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

- School meals: £2.95 per day/ £14.75 per week
- Breakfast club: £4.00 per day
- Wraparound care: £6.00 per day

If you require any assistance with payments, please contact the school office, who will be happy to help or arrange a payment plan.

Cut-Off Dates for School Uniform 2026

- Order before 21st June – Delivery to school or home before school closes for the summer.
- Order before 19th July – Delivery to school or Home before school returns in September.

Also P.E. t-shirts from emblematic are quite small so you may need to get a bigger size for your child



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 94.99%. Our target is 97%

Nursery: 89.5%

Reception: 93.48%

Year 1: 96.25%

Year 2: 96.67%

Year 3: 96.55%

Year 4: 95.31%

Year 5: 95%

Year 6: 92.86%

Well done to Year 2 who won this week's attendance award!

Head Teachers Award

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

Nursery: Rudy for excellent answers in all lessons

Reception: Marco for showing excellent listening skills.

Year 1: Frankie for following the St Joseph's Way so well this week.

Year 3: Rory for excellent behaviour this week.

Year 5: Thomas for always being so kind and caring.

Star of the Week

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

Nursery: Ellis for super sound work in phonics this week

Reception: Sienna for amazing writing about our story of the week, Billy's Bucket

Year 1: Ivanna for some excellent work comparing continents

Year 2: Freddie Ca for his fantastic explanation how stonehenge was built

Year 3: Jayden for his excellent attitude in every lesson

Year 4: Olivia-Kate for working so hard to improve her rapid recall of times table facts

Year 5: Esme for displaying excellent drama skills

Year 6: Ellen for some fantastic descriptive writing

Awards of the week

Captain's Table: Arron, Keela, Ruby, Frankie, Finlay, Aria, Harriet, Emie

Mission Statement: Ella, Oslo, Harvey, Sienna, Cleo, Elena, Will, Emmanuel

British Values: Effie, Joshua, Cora, Grace W, Mila, Clementine, Harry, Coby

Writer of the week: Tiara, Desmond, Savannah, Eadie, Harvey, Madeline, Layla

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

This week we have loved learning about sea creatures in **Nursery**. We have been reading the story 'Commotion in the Ocean' and have learnt lots of facts about the different animals in the book. We have been working hard on our gross and fine motor skills, practicing moving in different ways like the animals in our book. We have also been practising our cutting skills when making colourful collaged sea creatures.





Reception class have been thoroughly enjoying their Story of the Week, Billy's Bucket. We spent some time sharing the story with our Y6 buddies and used chalk to draw some amazing sea creatures. Children worked so hard to make their own bucket with clay, moulding it into the right shape and then using tools to decorate the side with a sea creature, ready for our writing task next week.





We have had another fantastic week of learning in **Year 1**! Here's a look at what we've been exploring across the curriculum. We have been enjoying the beautiful story *The Tale of the Whale* by Karen Swann. The children have been listening carefully and discussing what happens in the story. This week, we focused on predicting what might happen next. The children used clues from the pictures and story to make thoughtful predictions. We were very impressed with their imaginative ideas and reasoning! In History, we have been learning about Queen Elizabeth I. The children discovered how she was an important and influential ruler. We talked about how life was different in Tudor times and looked at how a queen made herself powerful and strong. The children particularly enjoyed learning about how she ruled England! In Geography, we have been exploring continents. We have explored

the different cultures and climates in each continent and have compared some excellent findings. The children are becoming more confident in understanding that the world is made up of different places. In PE, we have been developing our indoor athletics skills. This week we practised: Long jump, side stepping, chest pass. The children worked hard to improve their coordination and control and showed great enthusiasm in all activities. Keep up the great work, Year 1!





Year 2 have had a fantastic first week back and have made a brilliant start across all areas of learning. In maths, the children completed their topic on position and direction before beginning their new unit on time. They explored the minute and hour hands and practised telling the time to the hour and half past using clocks. In English, the children were introduced to their new text, 'Dragon Post'. They thoroughly enjoyed reading the story and began writing their own statements inspired by the book. In Science, the children finished their learning on food chains. They completed the missing parts of a food chain and explored what happens when one part is removed. They learned that all living things depend on one another and that changes can have a significant impact. In geography, the children created informative posters about how everyone can help the environment. They shared ideas such as turning off taps, reducing food waste, and recycling wherever possible. In RE, the children continued their work on Buddhism by making lanterns similar to those used during Wesak, a festival that celebrates the Buddha's birthday. Finally, in history, the children concluded their Stone Age topic by learning about Stonehenge and discussing how historians believe it was built. Well done to the children for another wonderful week of learning!







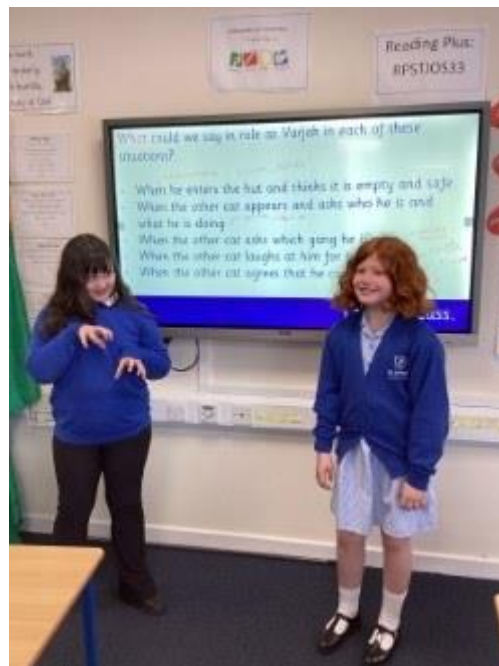


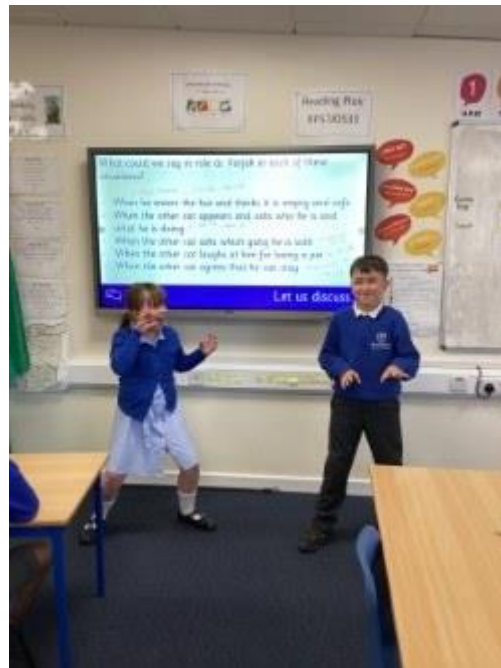
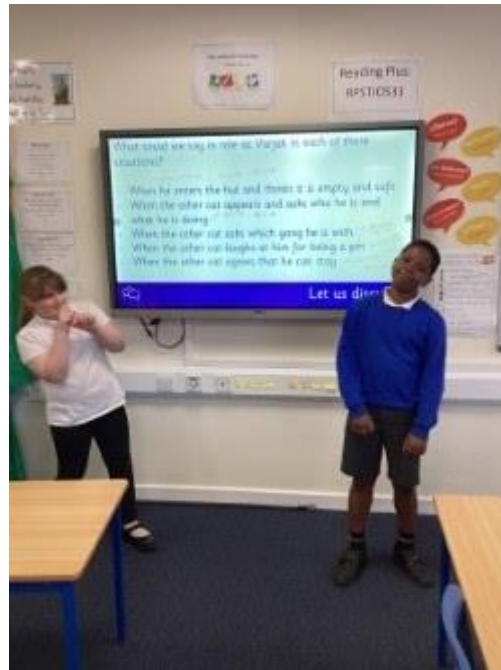
Year 3 have made a great start to their final half term and we have been extremely proud of their positive attitude to learning. In maths, the children have been exploring time and developing their skills in recognising both digital and analogue clocks, as well as learning about am and pm. This week, they have also been learning about the Jewish festival of Shavuot, which was celebrated before the half term break. They listened carefully to the story of how it commemorates the date when God gave the Torah to the Jewish people at

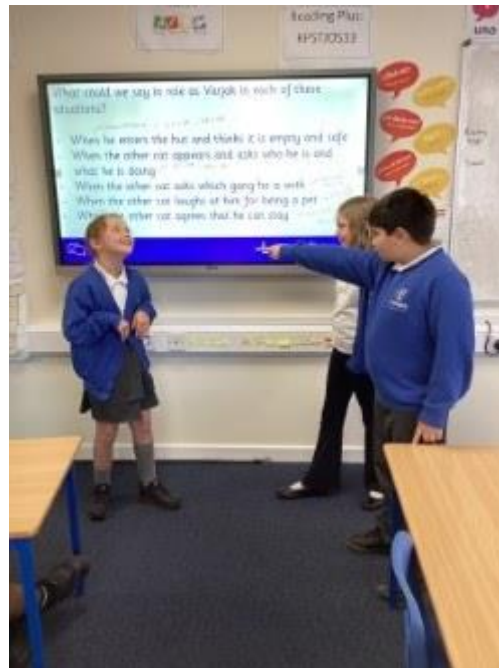
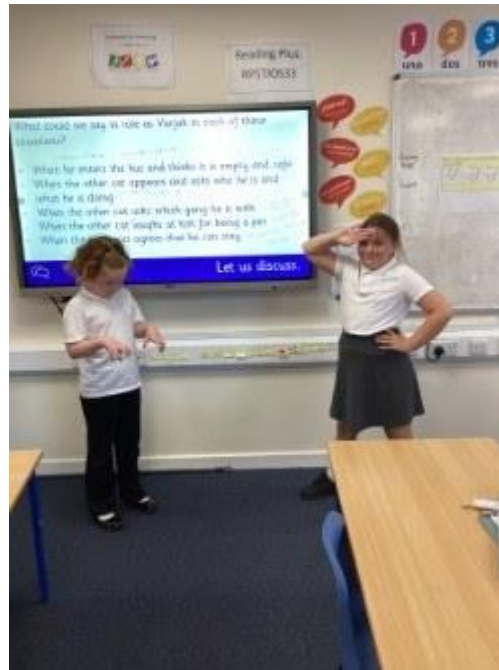
Mount Sinai and they thoroughly enjoyed completing some creative art activities linked to this in class. The highlight of the week was undoubtedly their trip to the Hancock Museum. The children's behaviour was impeccable and we were so impressed with how they threw themselves into every activity. It was a fantastic way to consolidate their learning from their studies on the Greeks and Egyptians as well as their learning about skeletons in Science.



Year 4 have had a busy first week back in school. In maths we have looked at calculating the perimeter of regular polygons. In English we did some role play as characters from Varjak Paw, we focused on dialogue and showing emotions through facial expressions and body language. In PE we started our new topic of Athletics, this week focusing on running techniques. In history we looked at how the religion of Islam began and the early life of Muhammed and in geography we looked at how the Earth is made up of tectonic plates and what happens during an earthquake.







We have started our drama topic in English exploring the work of Shakespeare's, *The Tempest*. To prepare us for this, we acted out a Tudor play with many parts from a street scene. It was great fun and it introduced us to different words from that time. In Maths, we explored decimals and we solved problems with addition and subtraction. In preparation for our BWCET sports visit, we are looking at athletics and the skills needed to improve and succeed. In Science we investigated the great scientists, Ptolemy and Copernicus so that we understood their discoveries of our solar system. A great week - on stage and in class!

Another busy week in **Year 6!** They've been enjoying reading *Pig Heart Boy* in English lessons and have written their own descriptive narratives based on a picture stimulus. In Geography, they have been studying the amazon rainforest, looking in particular at Bolivia. They have

identified the similarities and differences between the life of people in a town called Canaan and their own lives. In art, they have continued their topic on murals. They have looked at different styles of graffiti writing and produced their own graffiti writing using pastels. They've continued to enjoy tennis sessions in PE.

