St. Joseph's Weekly News

Friday 4th September 2026

ATTENDANCE AWARD
YEAR 2 96.7%

Loving God, thank you for bringing us through the storms of last year. We thank you for the hope you offer us as we face the days ahead. We trust in your love and mercy to carry us through. Help us to see and pursue the opportunities you have placed in front of us in the new school year
Amen

Dear Parents,
I hope you have had a wonderful holiday. It is always a time of togetherness and hopefully happiness and fun. While I know that 6 weeks is a long time, it is the memories we create that last a lot longer.
This term is an exciting one filled with many opportunities and events for our children and families. We welcome a community at St Joseph's as we cannot work alone. Parents are welcome to join us for all celebrations, assemblies, masses and events. We really do encourage this not only to support your children but to be a part of our school. Please continue to read our weekly newsletter for updates. If you want to offer support in anyway, including reading etc please contact the office.

Have a lovely weekend Mrs Moseley

Attendance & Lates

There will be a greater focus on attendance and lates this year. We always pride ourselves in outstanding attendance but since Covid we are seeing many families taking holidays out of term time, long weekends and prolonged sickness. This effects children's progress and can cause increased anxiety as they are missing out. While I understand at times there are extenuating circumstances, I know that you want the very best for your children and will continue to support excellent attendance and punctuality. Gates will close promptly at 8.50am, children are late at that time. It causes great frustrations for parents signing children in so I know this will also be of paramount importance to you.

Beginning of year mass

We know that we have properly started our new school year when we have had the first Mass of the term. We will be holding our first Mass of the term on Thursday 11th September. It would be lovely to see as many parents as possible to attend this lovely celebration mass.

Meet the teacher

On Monday 14th September we have our KS1 meet the teacher session at 3pm and on Tuesday 15th September we have our KS2 meet the teachers. We hope that all parents are able to attend these session as they are great opportunity to meet the class teacher and learn about your child's curriculum for this year.

Parent Reading

We are seeking enthusiastic parent volunteers to join our reading programme and share the joy of literature with our pupils. As a parent reader, you will have the opportunity to engage with students, fostering their love for reading and improving their literacy skills. We welcome you to participate at a time that suits your schedule. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please do not hesitate to speak to Miss Entwisle or visit the school office. Your involvement can make a significant difference in our children's educational journey. Thank you for your support!

Clubs

All school clubs will commence from Monday 14th September. If your child has a place in a club you will have been informed via Arbor next week.

PTA

Will be holding their AGM in the next few weeks, please look out for information in the next few weeks.

REMINDERS:

Parking

Parents/visitors to our school are kindly reminded:

- Be considerate of road markings and neighbours when parking near our school.
- do not park or stop on yellow lines or zigzags.
- do not ignore road markings.
- do not park over driveways.
- do not cause increased danger for road users.
- do not be abusive or rude to the local residents or other members of the community.

Scooters

Please be reminded that scooters and bikes are not to be ridden on school premises.
Please disembark at the school gate and walk/wheel the scooter/bike from the school gate and leave them in the designated bike/scooter area next to the library.
As always, we thank you for your continued support.

- Please remember those healthy items for packed lunches.
- Children are NOT to play on the Adventure Trail or in the access road outside the Royal Avenue gate, as this vehicular gate is in constant use.
- St Joseph's is an 'Allergy Aware School'

AUTUMN TERM 1

Week	Date-	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	31ST August		INSET DAY	SCHOOL OPENS		
2	7th Sep					Beginning of term Mass
3	14th Sept	Meet the teacher KS1 @3PM	Meet the teacher KS2 @3PM			
4	21st Sept				YEAR 5 CUFFLEY CAMP	YEAR 5 CUFFLEY CAMP Year 3 prayer service 2:45pm
5	28th Sept	Week of events for St Francis feast day			Chaplaincy Teams Welcome Liturgy	
6	5th Oct	St Francis of Assisi Feast day celebrations & Mass				BUDDY ASSEMBLY
	12th Oct	NATIONAL SPANISH DAY				BUDDY ASSEMBLY
	19th Oct		NURSERY & RECEPTION OPEN AFTERNOON 2PM			
HALF TERM – Monday 26th October 2026 until Tuesday 3rd November – School returns Wednesday 4th November						

Key outcomes and highlights from the parent survey

1. A happy, safe and nurturing environment

- Parents repeatedly commented that their children are happy, safe and well cared for.
- Families value the warm, nurturing and welcoming environment.
- Parents recognise the positive relationships between staff and children.
- Children feel a strong sense of belonging and enjoy being part of the St Joseph's community.

2. Dedicated and committed staff

- Parents consistently praised the dedication, professionalism and care shown by staff.
- Teachers were recognised for their commitment to high-quality teaching and children's progress.
- Specific appreciation was shared for the support provided by our wellbeing, nurture, medical and Early Years teams.
- Parents recognise that every member of staff contributes to making St Joseph's a special place.

3. Strong educational standards and progress

- Parents acknowledged the excellent progress their children are making.
- Positive feedback highlighted improvements in reading, writing, grammar and core learning skills.
- Parents recognised the impact of targeted interventions in helping children close gaps in learning.
- High expectations, positive behaviour and the school's Catholic ethos were recognised as strengths.

4. Strong relationships and school community

- Parents described St Joseph's as having a fantastic community.
- Families value the relationships children develop across different year groups.
- Parents appreciate opportunities to share their views and contribute to school life.
- The visibility and approachability of school leadership were positively acknowledged.

5. Communication

- Some parents specifically recognised improvements in communication, including more regular emails and timely reminders.
- Parents appreciate being kept informed about upcoming events and school activities.
- There is an opportunity to continue strengthening communication and opportunities for meaningful dialogue between home and school.

Areas identified for further development

It is important to acknowledge the themes emerging from the constructive feedback and use these to shape future priorities.

Area	What parents would welcome
Communication	Timely notice of events, clearer updates and opportunities to understand children's progress.
Enrichment	A wider range of clubs, particularly for EYFS and KS1, including sport, arts and academic opportunities.
Parent partnership	More opportunities for parent workshops, learning conversations and parent voice.
Wraparound care	Greater availability of breakfast, after-school and holiday provision.

Sport and play	Further sporting opportunities and consideration of enhancing lunchtime provision.
Curriculum	Continued opportunities to extend learning, particularly in Maths, Science and languages.
School organisation	Clearer communication around events, clubs, cancellations and calendar changes.

Healthy Packed Lunch

Suggestions for food to include in a healthy packed lunch

- **At least** one portion of fruit or vegetable every day.
- Meat, fish or other source of non-diary protein (e.g. lentils, beans, soya or hummus), every day
- Oily fish such as pilchards, salmon or tuna
- A starchy food such as bread, pasta, rice noodles, potatoes or other type of cereal every day.
- Dairy food such as milk, cheese, yoghurt, fromage frais or custard.
- Cereal bars rather than cakes or biscuits
- Seeds, crackers and cheese, vegetables or bread sticks with a dip

Drinks

- Water bottles are to be brought into school – water is provided if children run out and need a top up.
- Water bottles are to be brought on school trips – NO other drink.

FUN FRIDAY

Suggestions for food to include **ON A FUN FRIDAY** in a healthy packed lunch.

- Snacks such as crisps
- Chocolate coated biscuits or wafers **or**
- Small cake e.g. fairy cakes, cake bars, muffins **or**
- Small pudding pot e.g. chocolate mousse)

Foods that should not be brought into school (These are foods that we have already asked not to be brought into school)

- Confectionery such as chocolate bars.
- Sweets
- **Nuts or nut products (although they can be healthy there is a very serious risk to other children with allergies).**
- Fizzy drinks or any soft drinks.


MILK
WE ARE AN
ALLERGY
AWARE
SCHOOL