

St Joseph's School

6th February 2026 Newsletter



Snowy day fun



**Together we
grow in God's
love, learning
to be the best
we can be.**

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Dear parents and carers,

It has been an exciting few weeks at St Josephs after the Christmas break and there is lots to celebrate about the new calendar year.

Our Year 5 class have begun the Spring term with a spiritual retreat at Kintbury. This was a valuable and reflective experience for the pupils providing further opportunity to deepen their spiritual understanding and their connection with God.

This Wednesday we held our first LIFT session of the year. These sessions offer a great opportunity for children to share the books they are currently reading in class with their parents and carers, it was so nice to see the children sharing their learning and stories they enjoy.

On Sunday 1st February, the Diocese marked Racial Justice Sunday. Throughout the week, pupils have been supported in understanding the meaning of racial justice and reflecting on how we treat others. We reminded the children that God made everyone and that God loves every person, guiding us to be kind, fair, and respectful to all.

Martin Maloney
Headteacher



Upcoming date for the diary!

February

- ❖ 9th Year 5 Bikeability week
- ❖ 11th Desk portrait photos
- ❖ 11th Parent consultations 3:30pm - 6pm
- ❖ 12th Parent consultations 3:30pm - 7pm
- ❖ 13th End of half term pick up at 3:15pm
- ❖ 16th – 20th February End of term holiday
- ❖ 23rd -25th Year 6 residential trip

March

- ❖ 2nd Start of book week
 - ❖ 2nd Dance festival performance at Sele School 6pm - 8:30pm
 - ❖ 4th LIFT Reading session 9am - 9:15am
 - ❖ 5th World book day
 - ❖ 9th Start of British Science week (Trust schools to collaborate)
 - ❖ 16th Assessment week
 - ❖ 19th Year 5 and 6 girls district Football at Presdales School
 - ❖ 23rd Trust charity week
 - ❖ 26th KS2 Choir concert 9:30am - 10am
 - ❖ 27th End of term pick up at 1:15pm
- Please see the last news bulletin or here <https://tinyurl.com/3h4hr6ff> for the whole year calendar

A note from the SENCo – Miss Mayes

Please see the links for workshops, coffee mornings etc that are happening in the local area.

Have a lovely half term

Rachel Mayes -SENCo

Click here for a full version of the DSPL3 newsletter with active links:

<https://tinyurl.com/3sss35>

DSPL3 Delivering Special Provision Locally

Spring 1 Newsletter for Parents/Carers

DSPL3 Website and Facebook page

- The DSPL3 Website and Facebook page are now live.
- Please click here to view the [website](#)
- Please click here to view the [Facebook page](#)

Workshops, Courses and Training

Please click here to view [workshops, courses and training](#) available for this academic year.

DSPL Feedback Survey

- Please complete a short survey to help the Local Authority understand the impact of the work and support of DSPL3 in your area (you may need to copy/paste this into your browser)
- <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/87231/>

DSPL3 SEND Coffee Mornings

- 18th March 10-11:30am – St Catherines School, Ware
- 20th May 10-11:30am – St Michaels School, Bishops Stortford
- 15th July 10-11:30am – Buntingford First School, Buntingford

Beezee Healthy Families Programme

- Beezee has developed a unique programme supporting parents and carers of children aged 0-5 to build skills, explore healthy meals and create family routines that support a balanced, happy lifestyle.
- To find out more details and book your free place, [click here](#)

Angels Autism and ADHD Support: Weekly online workshop

- Angels are offering a weekly online workshop 10am-12pm every Tuesday during term time.
- [Click here](#) to join
- Angels are also offering one-to-one support. [Click here](#) to book

Useful Links:

- The Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer
- SENDIAS Hertfordshire
- IPSEA (Independent Provider of Special Educational Advice)
- SOS SEND
- Herts Parent Carer Involvement
- EHCP Support
- Children and Young People's Speech & Language Therapy Advice line for parents: 01223 470 880, choose option 3, then option 2 and leave a message.

DSPL3 Parent Coffee Morning, 18th March, St Catherines School, Ware, SG12 0AW

10.00 - 11.30

You are invited to a relaxed and supportive coffee morning designed to offer valuable information and networking opportunities. Connect with other parents and carers, Share experiences and gain insights into various topics that matter to you. We offer Practical advice & emotional support Meet and chat with others in a similar situation, Bring any questions or topics you'd like to discuss

Professionals in attendance including Early Years, Outreach, Family Support, Behaviour Support, DSPL, ADD Vance and Angels

We look forward to seeing you there and fostering a strong, supportive community together!

World Book Day 2026

Thursday 5th March is World Book Day! World Book Day is an annual celebration that aims to inspire every child to enjoy the life-changing benefits of reading for fun. To mark this special occasion and our shared love of reading, we have planned a week full of fun and engaging activities designed to inspire children to read more and enjoy writing their own stories.

We will launch the week, with an exciting visit from a real author! We will be welcoming the author Claire Alexander, who will run creative storytelling workshops with every class. Using books that she has written, the children will take part in interactive sessions such as storytelling, character creation, and storyboarding. The workshops are designed to inspire imagination, develop writing skills, and encourage a love of stories across all age groups. **To help us to provide enriching experiences like this in school, we kindly ask for a voluntary donation of £2.50 to help cover the cost of the author visit. Please make payments via Arbor. Thank you for your continued support.**

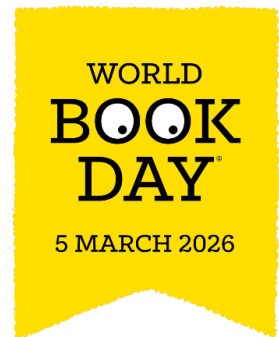
We will also be having the official opening and blessing of our new Library Hub.

The main event will take place on Thursday – World Book Day. On this day, children and staff are invited to dress up as their favourite book character. Please also bring the book your character comes from so it can be shared with others. Throughout the day there will be lots of exciting activities, including our annual costume catwalk, quizzes, online workshops, and much more.

We are really looking forward to a fantastic week celebrating books, reading, and creativity!

Reading Volunteers

We are very fortunate to have some wonderful reading volunteers who come into school once or twice a week to read with the children. We have already noticed a positive impact on the children's reading fluency, confidence and overall ability, and the children really enjoy the opportunity to read with a different adult. We would love to be able to offer this valuable support to every class. If you are able to spare a short amount of time each week to help with reading, please let the school office know. We would also be grateful if you could pass this message on to any grandparents or other community members who may be able to help.



THREE DAY CAMP in which the days will be Tues 17th, Weds 18th & Thurs 19th February
The camps will run from 9-3pm on each day and will be held at...

St Joseph's Primary School
North Rd, Hertford
SG14 2BU



The Camps are for children ages (5-12)
£25 (One Day)
£45 (Two Days)
£60 (Three Days)
SIBLING DISCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE!

07450 402955
www.jhfootballing.com
joe@jhfootballing.com



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF THE PLATFORMS ON THE ADVERTISEMENT!

Take a look at what children of St Joseph's have been up to over the last month:

Year 5

On 12th January, Year 5 took the train into London and visited the British Museum. We went to find out more about ancient Egypt and the people who lived there. We saw lots of sarcophaguses, ornate and plain, mummies, artefacts and even the Rosetta Stone. We attended a talk about mummification and learned about dehydration and why the ancient Egyptians needed to dehydrate their dead. We all had a great day out and learned a lot - a great way to start our topic!



Year 4



Science - In our Science unit this half term we have been studying living things. We had great fun going on a minibeast hunt around the school grounds and were surprised at how many creatures we found. We identified lots of worms, flies, snails, spiders and even a ladybird.

We had a wonderful time at The Sele School for our 'We Build It Better' workshop. We learnt how to use various tools, how to create directions using a compass, used 'Botley' to create codes and made ice cream.



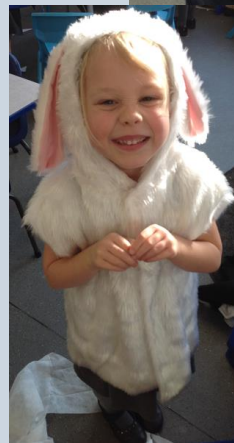
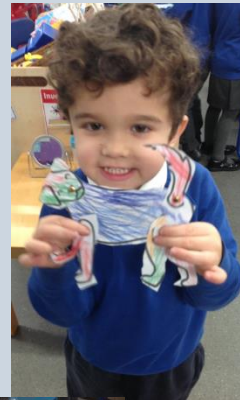
Year 6

Year 6 have truly impressed us with their fantastic pencil cases and sewing skills! The children not only designed their own pencil cases, but also independently created patterns, cut the fabric, and used a range of stitches including back stitch, running stitch, and blanket stitch. Some pupils even added their own decorative details to make their designs extra special. We are incredibly proud of their creativity, independence, and craftsmanship.



Reception

In Reception, our topic is all about pets! The children have been sharing photos of their own pets, painting pictures and made a moving pet using split pins for DT week. They have also been enjoying our Vets role play area and in Literacy, we have looked at the books 'The Great Pet Sale', 'Mog and the Vet' and 'Six Dinner Sid'. To finish our topic, we had a visit from Mrs Edwards' dog, Eddy which was very exciting!



Gymnastic Competition

Well done to the Year 3 and 4 girls who took part in LKS2 gymnastic competition. The 1st team won the competition against 8 other schools across Hertford and Ware. A wonderful achievement.



Year 2

Year 2 have been thoroughly enjoying our exciting pirate topic and have completed several pirate-themed projects. One of our favourites was creating old-looking pirate treasure maps and then writing clear instructions explaining how to make them.

We are currently in the middle of creating our own non-fiction books about pirates, and we are loving every part of the process. We have carried out our own research and decided on appropriate subheadings for each page. This week, we have worked hard to create a pirate glossary for the final page of our books. We can't wait to share our finished books with our Year 6 buddies on Pirate Day!



Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed RE this week. We have been learning about the presentation of Jesus at the temple in Jerusalem. We were able to explore more on this special bible story by building the temple with junk modelling and retelling the story.

In science we have been learning more about our senses, the sun was shining on Wednesday so we all enjoyed being outside for the afternoon on a sense's exploration around the school!



Prayer

**Loving God, You are the Father of us all. You created each person with dignity, beauty, and worth. As we gather today, open our hearts to your word, help us to recognise you in one another, and teach us to love not only in words, but in actions. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Nursery

In Nursery Class we joined in with the school D&T week. We talked about the wildlife in our garden and how the birds may be feeling hungry, the children shared their ideas about how we could feed them but also stop the squirrels from eating the food for the birds. We decided to make hanging bird feeders using apples, seeds, twine and multigrain hoops which are still hanging in the nursery garden trees. This was a great opportunity for discussion about how we can look after our wildlife but also got the children thinking and creating, sharing their ideas, and developing their fine motor skills by picking up the seeds and pushing them into the apples.



Gold Book Winners

Well done to all our Gold book winners last week:

YR: Ethan

Y1: Cole

Y2: Meghan

Y3: Greyson

Y4: Amelia

Y5: N/A

Y6: Grace

Winner House

The winner house this week is **Aylesford**

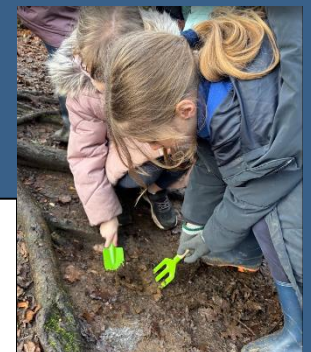
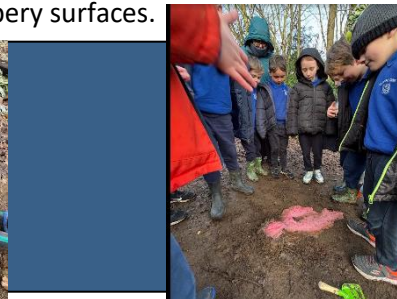
Have a brilliant weekend!

Year 3

Exploring rocks like scientists! Year 3 pupils investigated a range of rocks to discover which were waterproof, which were the most durable, and whether any reacted when tested with acid.



Learning to classify and compare rocks: Year 3 pupils explored different rock types by grouping them based on their properties and comparing features such as texture, including rough and slippery surfaces.



Volcanoes in the woods! During a Forest School session, Year 3 pupils created erupting volcanoes using bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, soap, and food colouring, exploring chemical reactions in a fun, hands-on way.