



Message from Mr Maloney

A warm welcome back! I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break, despite the rather soggy weather. Lent began midway through the holiday, and we are very much focused on this special season here at St Joseph's. It is always a meaningful time in our school calendar, offering opportunities for reflection, prayer and acts of kindness. Before half term, we were also delighted to welcome a special visitor from Mary's Meals, who spoke to the children about the charity's inspiring work supporting some of the poorest communities around the world. The pupils listened beautifully and asked thoughtful questions. Year 6 had a wonderful time on their residential visit to Norfolk this week, although there were certainly lots of very tired faces on Thursday morning! The Year 6 team were incredibly proud of the pupils' behaviour and commented that they represented the school brilliantly throughout the trip.

World Book Day

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.**

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!

Parent Governor Vacancy

Governors play an extremely important role in the success of St Joseph's School, and the position is both rewarding and impactful. We are therefore writing to inform all parents and carers of a forthcoming vacancy for an elected Parent Governor on the St Joseph's Local Governing Body. This is a four-year term, beginning on 15th March 2026. All registered parents and carers with children currently on the school roll are eligible to stand for election. Please note that a Parent Governor may continue to serve their full term of office even if their child leaves the school before the term ends. If you are interested in this role, please let the office know or have conversation with Mr Maloney.

Mary's Meals

Each year, the Chaplaincy children from across the Trust choose a charity to support. This year, they have chosen to support Mary's Meals as part of our commitment to giving and helping others. Mary's Meals is a charity that provides meals to children in some of the poorest communities around the world. By feeding children in their classrooms, the charity not only helps to fight hunger but also encourages more children to attend school. To help our pupils learn more about this important work, a representative from Mary's Meals visited before half term to speak to the children. We are very grateful to them for taking the time to share their inspiring work with us. To raise funds, we will be holding a **Charity Week** beginning on **23rd March**. Our House Team Captains will be organising fundraising events throughout the week – please watch this space for updates. We encourage all pupils to take part and kindly ask parents to support these events. In the meantime, children in KS2 will be receiving an envelope this afternoon. We invite you to fill it with any foreign currency you may have at home it does not need to be legal tender and return it to your child's class teacher. Every contribution, no matter how small, will greatly support the work of Mary's Meals. Thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of children around the world. You may also wish to talk with your child about Mary's Meals and the importance of helping others during Lent.

Gold book winners

YR: Monty

Y1: Zofia

Y2: Sive

Y3: Whole class

Y4: Evie

Y5: Ethan

Y6: Whole class

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.

Message from the Trust

We are pleased to share the latest edition of our Trust newsletter, newly renamed, *Messenger*. The e-newsletter is available on our website at [St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust - Trust News](#), or via our publication page on [Trust Newsletter Spring 2026 by St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust - Issuu](#).

Please switch off car engines

As a school we are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our pupils. Therefore, please **switch off your engines while waiting to drop off or pick up children**. Please supports us in keeping our air clean. Thank you for your cooperation.

Changes to the SEND system

You may have heard recently that changes are being made by the government to the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) system. Although changes will not be overnight, if you would like more information on how the system is being changed please click on the following link, <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2026/02/schools-white-paper-what-parents-need-to-know-about-changes-to-the-send-system/>

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Free school meals

You can apply for free school meals for the new school year. To receive meals for the remainder of this current school year, please email freeschoolmeals@hertfordshire.gov.uk, with your name, national insurance number and date of birth. If your child receives free school meals, you don't need to re-apply for 2025/2026 unless your child is moving from Year 2 to Year 3.

School email addresses

Breakfast Club - diary@stjosephs255.herts.sch.uk

Absences, illness, medical appointments, collection of children, lunches - diary@stjosephs255.herts.sch.uk

Breakfast Club queries - diary@stjosephs255.herts.sch.uk

General enquiries not listed above – admin@stjosephs255.herts.sch.uk

Term dates for 2025/2026 and 2026/2027

The new term dates for 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 are available on the school website. Please use the following link: [St Joseph's Catholic Primary School - Term Dates](#)

Dates

Here are some dates for your diary for the Summer term. You will receive more information for some of the events nearer the time.

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
- ❖ 24th Year 3 and 4 Easter play at 9:30am
- ❖ 26th KS2 Choir concert 9:30am - 10am
- ❖ 27th End of term pick up at 1:15pm
- ❖ 30th - 10th April Easter holiday

April

- ❖ 13th Children return to school

- ❖ 15th LIFT Maths session 9am -9:15am
- ❖ 16th Start of term mass

May

- ❖ 6th LIFT Reading session 9am -9:15am
- ❖ 11th Start of Primary SATS week
- ❖ 20th Year 4 trip to Roald Dahl Museum
- ❖ 22nd End of half term pick up at 3:15pm
- ❖ 25th - 29th End of term holiday

June

- ❖ 3rd LIFT Maths session 9am -9:15am
- ❖ 3rd Class and team photos
- ❖ 8th Aspirations week
- ❖ 11th Year 5 visit to JHN
- ❖ 12th Inset day school closed
- ❖ 15th Sacramental Celebration
- ❖ 19th Sports day
- ❖ 22nd Assessment week
- ❖ 26th St Mary's Primary Football and Netball tournament 10am-12pm

July

- ❖ 1st LIFT Reading session 9am -9:15am
- ❖ 3rd Chaplaincy retreat (trip)
- ❖ 9th Open evening
- ❖ 14th Leavers production (PM)
- ❖ 15th Year 6 leavers mass and assembly
- ❖ 21st End of term

Please note that these dates maybe subject to change.

Please read your newsletter weekly to be informed of any changes