



### **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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **Note from Marie Godfrey (Ex Vice Chair of Governors)**

*Over the past governor term, I've had the privilege of working alongside an exceptional group of fellow governors, dedicated staff, and—most importantly—our wonderful children. It has been an experience full of learning, insight, and joy. I've gained a deep appreciation for the complexity of running a school: the policies, the procedures, the data, the operations, and the countless decisions that quietly shape a child's day. The highlight, without question, has been governor mornings. Sitting in classrooms, talking with pupils, and watching teaching unfold with such skill and creativity has been nothing short of inspiring. Following my link class through their journey has been a reminder of why this work matters so deeply. As my term comes to an end, I want to encourage parents to consider joining this fantastic governing body. If you've ever thought about giving a little time to the school—perhaps swapping one evening of Netflix for something that genuinely makes a difference—this is a wonderful opportunity. You'll learn how a school really works, become a constructive critical friend, and help shape the future for our children. In my opinion, there are far worse ways to spend a Tuesday night than in the company of people who care passionately about this special St. Josephs community. It has been a privilege to serve, and I'm grateful to have worked with such great people.*

### **Trust Charity Week**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 marks the beginning of our Trust charity fundraising week to raise money for Mary's Meals. Our charity events will run throughout the week, ending on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026. During this time, we will hold a number of events to help our school community raise money for Mary's Meals, a charity that provides life-changing school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest communities. They are already serving more than three million children every school day, but millions more are still waiting for Mary's Meals. With our support, more hungry children will wake each morning knowing they will receive a nutritious meal. It costs just **£19.15** to provide a child with meals at a place of education for a whole school year. As part of our charity fundraising week, the House Team Captains have organised a series of events that will take place throughout the week:

- **Tuesday:** Bake sale after school KS1 Playground
- **Wednesday:** Class quiz led by the House Team Captains
- **Friday:** Own clothes day

- **Friday:** *"I'm a Teacher, Get Me Out of Here!"* – a few 'willing' teachers have volunteered to take part in a number of *I'm a Celebrity*-style tasks, such as guessing what's in the mystery box and eating unusual foods, all in aid of charity.

Although we are hoping to raise lots of money for Mary's Meals, **no child will be excluded from taking part in any activity if they are unable to donate.** We are not asking for donations for each individual event, but rather a **single contribution for the week.** As mentioned before, £19.15 could provide a child with hot meals for a whole year at school, and anything you are able to donate towards this figure will be greatly appreciated.

### **Gold book winners**

YR: Everlynn

Y1: Alfie

Y2: Helen

Y3: Hadley

Y4: Lexie

Y5: Dominic

Y6: Scarlett

### **Farewell to Mrs Cooper**

It is with great sadness that we announce that Mrs Cooper will be leaving us at the end of the Spring term. Mrs Cooper has held many roles at St Joseph's and has been fantastic in every one of them, from Teaching Assistant to teacher and Art and Design Leader. Throughout her time at the school, she has made a wonderful contribution to our community and has supported and inspired many pupils. Mrs Cooper will be continuing her teaching journey at Christ Church School in Ware. We wish her all the very best in this next chapter and she will be greatly missed by everyone at St Joseph's. Following this news, we are also very excited to welcome Mrs House back after the Easter break from her maternity leave. She will be sharing the teaching responsibilities for Year 2 with Mrs Grahame for the remainder of the year.

### **Uniform**

We have recently noticed an increase in pupils not wearing the correct school uniform. We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of our expectations. Examples we have seen include pupils wearing hooped or dangling earrings, grip socks or patterned socks instead of plain grey or white socks, and trainers being worn on non-PE or non-Forest School days. We have also noticed some skirts and shorts that are shorter than they should be. We kindly ask all parents and carers to refer to the school's uniform policy to ensure that children come to school dressed appropriately and in line with the agreed expectations. Your support in maintaining our high standards of uniform is greatly appreciated.

### **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.

### **Lunch boxes**

A reminder that we are a nut-free school. We currently have a number of pupils with severe nut allergies, and therefore we ask that all nut-based products are not included in children's lunch boxes. This includes items such as Nutella, sesame seed buns, pesto, hummus, and cereal bars that contain nuts. We appreciate your support in helping us keep all of our pupils safe.

### **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 support us in keeping our air clean. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Message from The Ark Playgroup**

If your child will be 2 or 3 years old between 1st September 2026 and April 2027, and you would like them to enrol in Playgroup commencing in September 2026 or during the subsequent Spring (January) or Summer (April) terms of 2027, we encourage you to submit an application. The application deadline is Friday 27th March 2026. Applications received after this date will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. For additional information and access to the application form, please visit our website: [www.stjosephsplaygrouphertford.co.uk/sessions](http://www.stjosephsplaygrouphertford.co.uk/sessions), or contact Diane via email at [stjosephsplaygrouphertford@outlook.com](mailto:stjosephsplaygrouphertford@outlook.com).

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:diary@stjosephs255.herts.sch.uk)

Absences, illness, medical appointments, collection of children, lunches - [diary@stjosephs255.herts.sch.uk](mailto:diary@stjosephs255.herts.sch.uk)

Breakfast Club queries - [diary@stjosephs255.herts.sch.uk](mailto:diary@stjosephs255.herts.sch.uk)

General enquiries not listed above – [admin@stjosephs255.herts.sch.uk](mailto: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**

- ❖ 16<sup>th</sup> Assessment week
- ❖ 19<sup>th</sup> Year 5 and 6 girls District Football at Presdales School
- ❖ 19<sup>th</sup> St Josephs day
- ❖ 23<sup>rd</sup> Trust charity week
- ❖ 24<sup>th</sup> Charity bake sale afterschool in KS1 playground
- ❖ 24<sup>th</sup> Year 3 and 4 Easter play at 9:30am

- ❖ 26<sup>th</sup> KS2 Choir concert 9:30am - 10am Easter Bonnets
- ❖ 27<sup>th</sup> Own clothes day
- ❖ 27<sup>th</sup> End of term pick up at 1:15pm
- ❖ 30<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> April Easter holiday

#### April

- ❖ 13<sup>th</sup> Children return to school
- ❖ 15<sup>th</sup> LIFT Maths session 9am -9:15am
- ❖ 16<sup>th</sup> Start of term mass

#### May

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

#### June

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

#### July

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

**Please note that these dates maybe subject to change.**

**Please read your newsletter weekly to be informed of any changes**