

# St Joseph's School

## 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 Newsletter



Well done to year 3 and 4 pupils for their fantastic Easter production!



### Dear parents and carers,

The Spring term has come to an end, and what a term it has been. There has been so much happening at St Joseph's over the last few weeks that Mrs Grahame and I struggled to fit everything into one newsletter.

Our Team Captains have worked incredibly hard organising activities for Charity Week. They prepared and ran the cake sale, created and delivered wonderful quizzes for every child across the school, and planned and hosted the Bush Tucker Trials for teachers — all in the name of charity. The current total is a fantastic £909. This will make such a difference to Mary's Meals. At £19.15, it costs to feed a child for a whole year, meaning that with the money raised, 47 children will receive a nutritious meal every day for a year.

This week, we have been sharing the Stations of the Cross as a school. Each class has reflected on the stations and prayed for God's love during this special time of Lent. I must also mention the fantastic performance by our Year 3–4 pupils on Tuesday. Their re-enactment of the Passion was superb. The singing, delivery of lines, and acting were excellent. I was incredibly proud of the children, and they should be very proud of themselves for such a wonderful performance.

I would also like to say a heartfelt farewell to Mrs Cooper, who will be leaving us today to continue her teaching journey at Christ Church. We wish her every success and happiness in her new school.

I hope you all have a wonderful, restful, and peaceful Easter break.

Martin Maloney  
Headteacher

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

North Road, Hertford, SG12 2BU

Telephone: 01992 583148

Email:

[admin@stjosephs255.hertsch.uk](mailto:admin@stjosephs255.hertsch.uk)

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

#### Upcoming date for the diary!

##### April

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

##### May

- ❖ 6 th 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

- ❖ 3 rd LIFT Maths session 9am - 9:15am
- ❖ 3 rd Class and team photos
- ❖ 8 th 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

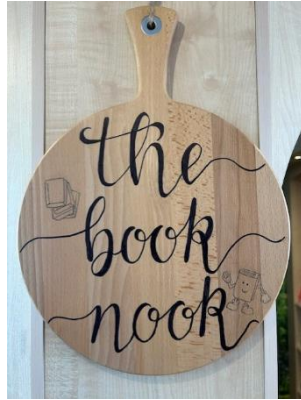
Please see the last news bulletin or here <https://tinyurl.com/3h4hr6ff> for the whole year calendar

## A note from the SENCo – Miss Mayes

It has been a very busy term in the world of SEN and I am currently disseminating the Schools White Paper and what this will look like for St Joseph's. After Easter, I will be holding a couple of information sharing coffee afternoons regarding the White Paper.

Dates are yet to be confirmed.

Wishing you a relaxing Easter Break.



## St Joseph's Officially opens New School Library 'The Book Nook'

On 2 March, St Joseph's School proudly celebrated the official opening and blessing of its brand-new school library, *The Book Nook*.

The special ceremony was led by Fr Seamus, who formally blessed the library and marked the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the school community. In attendance were our dedicated Reading Champions, members of Friends of St Joseph's (FOSJ), Mrs. Grahame, and members of staff, all of whom have played an integral role in bringing this wonderful project to life.

The Friends of St Joseph's have worked tirelessly over the past few years to raise funds to make this vision a reality. Their commitment and determination have been instrumental in transforming the idea of a new library into the vibrant and welcoming space officially it is today. The event was a joyful occasion, celebrating not only the completion of the library but also the spirit of collaboration and community that made it possible. With Fr Seamus' blessing, *The Book Nook* is now ready to inspire generations of young readers.

This library will become a magical space where children's imaginations can run wild, sparked by the stories and adventures waiting on the shelves.



## Groups and workshops



Summer 2026

### Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children (6 weeks) Online group

Thursday 14th May to 25th June, 7pm - 9pm

If your child has ADHD/ASD, or you think they might, join our online 6-week group where you will receive support from other parents and gain a comprehensive understanding of ADHD/ASD and learn strategies to improve life at home and at school.

### Less Shouting, More Cooperation (6 weeks) Online group

Wednesday 13th May to 24th June, 7pm - 9pm | Monday 1st June to 6th July 9.30am to 11.30am

Do you feel you are constantly nagging or shouting at your child to get what you need? Are you tired of losing your cool and want a calmer house? Join our free online 6-week group to learn how you can change the way you communicate with your child, respond better, and feel more in control.

### Getting on with your Pre Teen / Teen (6 weeks) Online group

Friday 5th June to 10th July, 9.30am to 11.30am

Is your teen feeling anxious or isolated? Are you concerned about their mental health and struggling to get help? Join our free online 6-week online group to learn how parents can best emotionally support their teen and feel confident and prepared for whatever challenges might arise.

### Sibling Rivalry Online Workshop

(Date to be confirmed)

This workshop provides parents/carers with practical strategies and tools to effectively foster positive sibling relationships, promote cooperation and manage conflicts between children.

### Reducing Conflict Online Workshop

(Date to be confirmed)

This workshop is for parents/carers struggling with conflict within their family life and provides tools to promote a cooperative and collaborative approach to resolving the conflict.

### Anxiety around ADHD Online Workshop

(Date to be confirmed)

This workshop helps parents/carers understand what ADHD is, why it makes sense for a child to be anxious if they have ADHD, strategies to help support you and your child, plus signposting to other support that is available.

All our programmes provide support, information and resources to parents/carers and adult family members in Hertfordshire so they can help their children reach their full potential. For more information about our programmes, please contact Louise on 0204 522 8700/8701 or email [services@familylives.org.uk](mailto:services@familylives.org.uk) or scan the QR code for our online form.



We build better family lives together

[www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk) @familyliveshertsandbeds



Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 5817762. Registered charity No. 1077722. Registered address: The Annex York House, Salisbury Square, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5AD

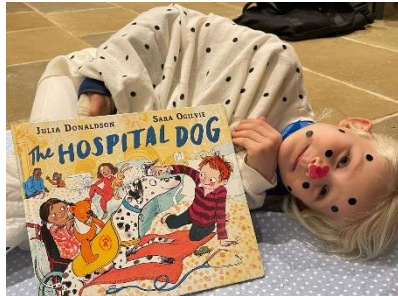
## World Book Day 2026! (week)

We had an amazing World Book Day and managed to stretch the celebrations across the whole week!

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their workshop with author Claire Alexander. It was fascinating to hear about her creative process and how she brings her books to life—whether she is writing and illustrating her own stories or illustrating for other authors. The children were fully engaged and loved having the opportunity to illustrate their own stories. We were also delighted to celebrate the grand opening of our brand new *Book Nook* library, which has already become a much-loved space. The highlight of the week was, of course, World Book Day itself. The children (and adults!) had a fantastic time dressing up as their favourite book characters, sharing much-loved stories, taking part in catwalks, crafts, online workshops, and quizzes. What a truly fantastic celebration of reading!



Pippa even joined in at home as she was off with a broken arm just like Dot in the hospital dog book!



Y5 thoroughly enjoyed WBD. During their session with the author on Monday, the children started to illustrate a story on a story board. Once all the images were complete, the children cut out the images and turned them in to mini books. They were very impressive and the children were very proud of them.



### Year 4

We loved World Book Day and enjoyed making photo frames to hang from our reading corner with our World Book Day costumes on.

We had a great afternoon working with author Claire Alexander and we each illustrated a short story she had written.



## Reception

Our topic in Reception is all about life cycles! This half term, the children have been painting pictures in the style of Eric Carle, playing in our Garden Centre role play area and looking for signs of Spring and new growth around our classroom and in Forest School. We have also been growing cress in class and creating symmetrical butterfly paintings.



## Nursery

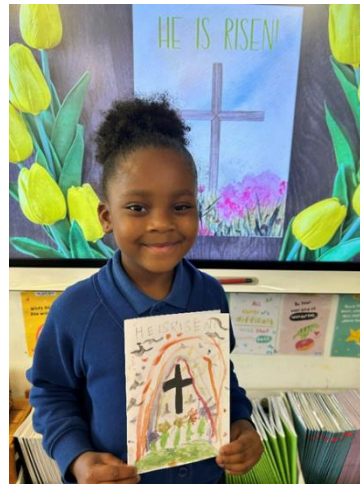
This half term we have focused our learning around RE and Easter, the children listened to readings from the Bible and learnt how Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday and rose again on Easter Sunday – a day of celebration. This led to some great opportunities for discussion around how we treat others, what kindness looks like and how we can make good choices. The children also made their own palm leaves, created their own Easter artwork, and together we created an Easter garden.

We ended the term with a rainbow Easter egg hunt in the garden, the children worked together in small teams to find their coloured eggs, once they had all four they could swap them for 'a real Easter egg'. We also joined the rest of the school to watch teachers take part in their own bush tucker trials for 'I'm a teacher get me out of here' which the children really enjoyed.



## Year 1

In Science we have been keeping plant diaries of our growing sunflower seeds! This week we will be bringing them home and continuing to observe over time how our plants grow!



In RE this week we have been learning all about Holy week, through bible stories, drama, art and writing we have explored and sequenced these events and can now retell and wonder about some of the key events during Holy Week.



## Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic half term, showing real progress in both their independence and their attitude to learning. It has been wonderful to see the children challenge themselves and take pride in their work.

One highlight was when we wrote our own versions of *The Detective Dog*. Every child worked hard to apply everything they had learnt, producing imaginative and highly entertaining stories. The class especially enjoyed visiting Reception to share their storytelling, which was a lovely experience for everyone involved.

Another memorable part of the term has been our learning about Hertford Castle and Queen Elizabeth I, who spent part of her childhood there. The children were fascinated to discover what her life might have been like and why she was sent to the castle. To bring our learning to life, we made crowns, donned royal cloaks, and took part in role-play interviews, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.



## Year 3

Our visit to the Science Museum for the “Feel the Forces” session gave pupils a hands-on opportunity to explore pushes and pulls. For some, it was also their first time travelling by train to London.



Little hands, big creativity! Our young makers are proudly sewing their own cushions, one stitch at a time.



## Year 4

### Easter Play:

Year 3 and 4 have worked incredibly hard on their Easter Play. The performance earlier this week showed off many talents in acting, singing and dancing- well done. Also, a huge thank you to Mrs. Kee for returning to help us by playing the piano.



### Art:

Year 4 have created some wonderfully creative patterns in art, taking inspiration from the rainforest.

## Year 5

Just before half term Y5 went on their residential to St Cassian's in Kintbury. They had such an amazing time with their friends and making new friends. They had fun with archery and on low ropes, working out how to get their team to complete the activities successfully. We all participated in liturgy to start each day off in the chapel and went on to enjoy lots of team building activities. It is a truly amazing places which, I am sure, will live in the children's memories for years to come.



## Year 6

Year 6 have been working hard in preparation for SATs, but that does not mean we are not also having fun and using our creativity. The children used their previous knowledge of electric circuits to create steady-hand games. I am very impressed by their designs and think they could even be patented!



## Charity Week – Mary’s Meals-

Gerrard from Mary’s Meals spoke to the children in preparation for our whole school charity week. He explained that the Charity feeds over 3million children each day and it only costs £19.15 to feed a child for a year. To raise money, our school council organised an own clothes day and put the teachers to the test in "I'm a teacher, get me out of here!". In total, we raised an incredible £909.60 which equates to 47 children fed for a whole year, via Mary’s Meals!



## JH FOOTBALLING CAMP

THREE DAY CAMP in which the days will be  
Tues 7th, Weds 8th & Thurs 9th April  
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 INFORM  
PLEASE CONTACT  
OF THE PLATFORM  
THE ADVERTISEM

## Chess Club – join the fun!

We're excited to remind everyone that our Chess Club is running every Monday lunchtime in the Year 5 classroom, and it's open to all children! Whether your child is a complete beginner or already a keen player, Chess Club is a fantastic way to build strategic thinking, concentration, and confidence—all while having fun with friends. Spaces can be booked using the link below:

<https://kingsandqueenschess.co.uk/enrol.html>

If you have any questions please contact Kings and Queens chess directly.



Little Linguists

**NEW! AFTER SCHOOL SPANISH**  
@ St Josephs RC Primary School  
**Beginners - Reception / Key Stage 1**

**Free trial session!**

Monday afternoons - 3.15-4.00pm  
20 April - 06 July (10 weeks)

- Small classes (Max 12)
- Fun and engaging sessions
- £6.95 per session + £13.50 for course materials

Booking now for the summer term - trial session and earlybird discount available

E-MAIL: SUZANNE@LITTLELINGUISTS.ORG.UK  
CALL: 07857 974437

[WWW.LITTLELINGUISTS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.LITTLELINGUISTS.ORG.UK)



Little Linguists

**SPANISH LUNCH CLUB**  
@ St Josephs RC Primary School  
**Key Stage 1 / Key Stage 2**

Get ready for the summer holidays and put some Spanish sunshine into your life!

Tuesday lunchtimes - 12.30-1.00pm  
21 April - 07 July (11 weeks)

- Small classes (Max 12)
- Fun and engaging sessions
- £5.95 per session + £13.50 for course materials

Booking now for the summer term - trial session and earlybird discount available

E-MAIL: SUZANNE@LITTLELINGUISTS.ORG.UK  
CALL: 07857 974437

[WWW.LITTLELINGUISTS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.LITTLELINGUISTS.ORG.UK)



## Netball and Football

### Prayer

*Lord, let everything I do in the coming Holy Week be inspired by You.*

*Help me to remember that nothing is important in my life unless it glorifies You in some way. It's so easy to get caught up in the day to day of my life.*

*Help me to enter fully into your Passion through my Lenten promises and always be reminded that You went to the desert, the garden and the cross for me.*

*Amen*



Well done to the football team who came 4th at the district football competition on Friday 20th March at Wodson Park.

### Gold Book Winners

Well done to all our Gold book winners last week:

YR: Alex

Y1: Cecilia

Y2: Whole class

Y3: Whole class

Y4: Fletcher

Y5: Alex

Y6: Oscar

### Winner House

The winner house this week is **Lourdes!**

**Have a brilliant Easter Holiday!**



Well done to the netball team who played brilliantly at the Herts and Ware district tournament at Chauncy School on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.