

# St Joseph's School

## 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026 Newsletter



### Dear parents and carers,

I would like to begin by saying how incredibly proud we are of all our Year 6 pupils, who have shown tremendous resilience and determination throughout their SATs this week. It is always a demanding time for the children, but they have approached each day with smiles, positivity, and maturity. They have truly represented the school wonderfully.

Yesterday afternoon, we celebrated Mass for the Feast of the Ascension. We are very grateful to Father Seamus for leading us in such a meaningful celebration and for his continued support of the school and our rich faith life. During this month of May, our Chaplaincy Team have also been leading the Rosary at lunchtime, providing pupils with valuable opportunities for prayer and reflection.

Next week, we will sadly be saying goodbye to Ms Yu. We would like to thank her sincerely for all she has done over the past year to support the pupils in Year 3, and we wish her every success and happiness in the future.

At the same time, we are delighted to be welcoming back Ms Natali after the half-term break following her maternity leave. We look forward to having her back as part of the school community.

This half term, classes have been particularly focused on developing their oracy skills. It has been wonderful to see the significant progress pupils have made in their confidence and quality of discussion. Across lessons, children have demonstrated an increasing ability to build thoughtfully on the ideas of others, respectfully challenge viewpoints, and articulate their reasoning clearly. This has led to some excellent debates and highly engaging classroom discussions.

Martin Maloney  
Headteacher



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

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#### Weekly Attendance:

# 95.7%

Excellent attendance

National average

Below national average

We've had **16**  
instances of lateness

#### Upcoming date for the diary!

##### May

- ❖ 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 Science 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
- ❖ Year 1 trip to the National History Museum
- ❖ 3rd Chaplaincy retreat (trip)
- ❖ 8th Open evening
- ❖ 14th Leavers production (PM)
- ❖ 15th Year 6 leavers Mass and assembly
- ❖ 21<sup>st</sup> end of term

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

## A note from the SENCo – Miss Mayes

In Hertfordshire, children and young people who are registered with a Hertfordshire GP can currently access a range of services to support them with their emotional and mental wellbeing. This includes free **online, virtual and digital support** delivered through **WithYouth** young people's service for 5-18-year-olds (including the **Lumi Nova** game) and the **Sandbox** for 10–25-year-olds.

To ensure we are commissioning services that are based on the needs of children and young people, Hertfordshire County Council and the NHS are seeking the views of those who have or may access these services' support.

By completing this short survey as a young person or a parent/carer of a young person, you will help us understand your views and opinions as well as indicating what you might want from future online, virtual or digital mental health and emotional wellbeing support.

Complete the survey as a Parent/Carer or child or young person

here: <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/KTULEE/>

Wishing you a very happy and restful half term



## Trust newsletter

The Summer edition of the Trust newsletter, **Messenger** is now available on our website at [www.stfrancistrust.net/trust-news](http://www.stfrancistrust.net/trust-news) or via our publication page on [issuu.com](http://issuu.com).

## Advert from Playgroup – cleaner required

Cleaner required to clean playgroup every day, either early morning (before 8.30am) or after closing (3.15pm). Looking to start immediately if possible but can be discussed. **DBS required.**

Please contact [stjosephsplaygrouptheark@outlook.com](mailto:stjosephsplaygrouptheark@outlook.com) or call 07814 849 274 for more information, an application form or to arrange a visit around our wonderful Playgroup and meet the team! Note, successful applicant required to have full DBS check.



**Walk to School Week** is on the way, running from **18th to 22nd May**, and we're invited to take part in this fun, high-impact campaign! This initiative is a fantastic opportunity to:

- 👤 Promote healthy, active lifestyles
- 🌍 Reduce school-gate congestion and improve air quality
- 😊 Boost pupils' wellbeing and readiness to learn
- 🚶 Build good travel habits that last

Whether your child walk or wheel, every journey counts!

**Friends of St Joseph's**

# Fathers Day CRAFT

CREATE A GIFT, MAKE A MEMORY!

 <b>KS1</b> <b>15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE</b> 3.15pm – 4pm	 <b>KS2</b> <b>16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE</b> 3.15pm – 4pm
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Join us for a fabulous crafting event to celebrate all of the fathers or those special to your children.

The children will have the chance to use their creative skills to design a meaningful gift.

**£6 PER PERSON**

BOOK VIA  **Arbor**

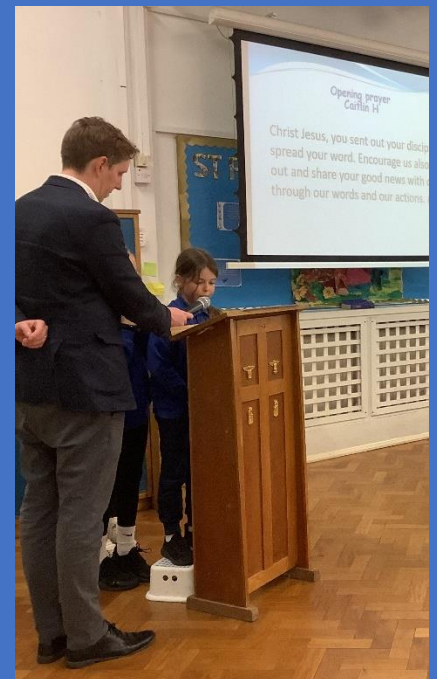
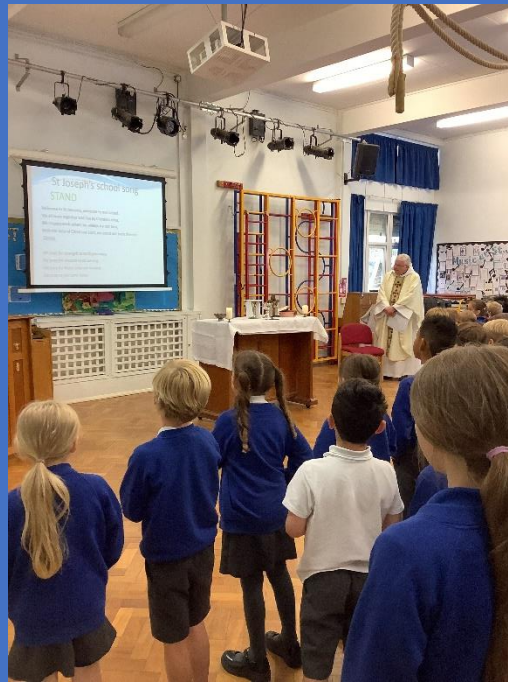
## Polite reminder:

The school gates open at 3:05pm for after school collection. Please can parents and carers refrain from entering the site until then, even if the gates are opening for taxis. This is due to lessons possibly still taking place on the playgrounds.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Ascension Mass

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our ascension mass on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you also to Fr. Seamus, as always, who led the proceedings. It was wonderful to gather together and reflect as a whole school. A special thank you to the year 5 children for reading.



## Praying the Rosary

As it is the month of Mary, the children have been enjoying praying the rosary in the prayer garden. During this month, all classes will spend time in Mary's garden, during a child led class worship.

## Butterflies

A few weeks ago, Mrs Roblett organised for every class to look after some caterpillars. We watched them feed, grow, make their chrysalises, and finally hatch into beautiful butterflies. It was wonderful to see the complete life cycle of a butterfly up close. We especially loved watching them fly away when we released them. What an amazing experience for everyone involved!



## Cricket

Year 1 to 6 really enjoyed their cricket taster session last week with Herts Cricket. The children enjoyed learning the rules of the game, as well as practising their batting and bowling skills. Many children had little previous experience of cricket, so it was wonderful to see their confidence growing throughout the session. Most importantly, everyone had lots of fun and thoroughly enjoyed themselves!



## Parkrun

It was wonderful to see so many of the St Joseph's community at Parkrun at Hartham Common on Sunday – Well done everyone!



## Nursery

This half term we have focused on developing maths skills, encouraging the children to use stem sentences and mathematical language to talk about what they know. The children have explored 1:1 correspondence, measuring, symmetry, and different ways to represent number through mark-making.

We were lucky enough to have a visit from the local PCSOs. They took the time to talk to the children about the five different emergency services, how to keep themselves safe, which number to call in an emergency, and why it is important to know their home address. The children then had a wonderful time exploring the police car, trying on police uniforms, and listening to the siren as the officers left.

As part of our Nursery routine, we take time each day to sit and 'read' books together. It is a lovely opportunity for a quiet moment, as well as a way to promote early reading skills and positive learning behaviours. The children really enjoy this part of the day and have now begun to 'read' familiar stories to me and to each other, which is wonderful to see.

And finally—after much anticipation—we said goodbye to our butterfly friends. Even the Nursery's resident robin came to see them off on their journey.



## Reception

This half term our topic in Reception has been about castles, knights and dragons! The children have been painting pictures for our class display, writing about an imaginary dragon and enjoying the castle role-play area. We have also enjoyed watching the caterpillars change to butterflies over the past few weeks and have made the most of the warmer weather, getting outside to plant seeds and flowers ready to watch them grow.



## Year 1

In DT year 1 have been learning juicing and chopping skills in preparation for their smoothie making at the end of this half term. We all had a go at juicing lemons and limes and chopping bananas. Next week we will choose our ingredients and make our smoothies!

Year 1 visited Sele school to take part in the infant agility PE session this was a fantastic opportunity to enjoy a range of different sports and learn some new skills.

Throughout the week we have been taking every opportunity to take part in learning outside the classroom. The class have especially enjoyed the phonics flashcards scavenger hunt!



## Year 2

Over the last few weeks, year 2 have taken part in lots of engaging, active learning! We have had a wonderful cricket session. The children have been sampling a range of ingredients in DT to find the best combinations...whilst still including balanced food groups! The children have also enjoyed testing out the new equipment in forest school.



## Year 3

We have had a busy few weeks in Year 3. We explored how natural products can produce pigments to create different colours in art, just as people did in the Stone Age.

In science, we explored how plants grow by comparing different conditions with a control group.

We enjoyed a cricket taster session from Herts Cricket. Practising throwing, batting, and catching skills was so much fun!



## Year 4

### Sir David Attenborough turns 100:

Year 4 joined a live lesson with almost 1 million other children across the world to celebrate Sir David Attenborough's birthday. We found out a bit more about him and his career and even listened to a special message he had recorded for the session. Steve Backshall was a special guest and spoke about his admiration for Sir David's incredible career.

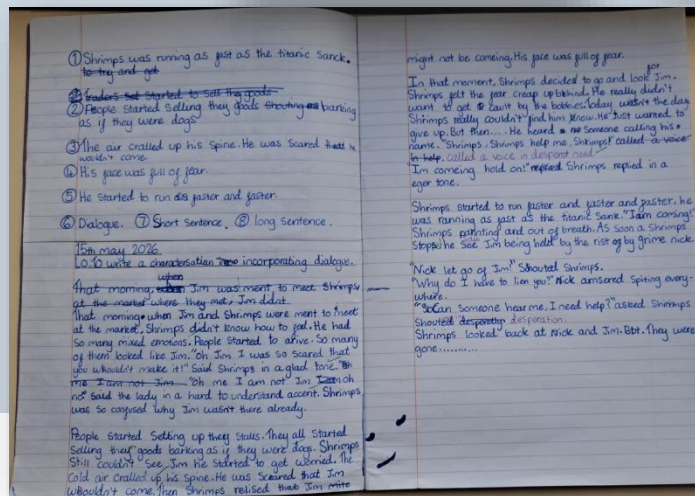
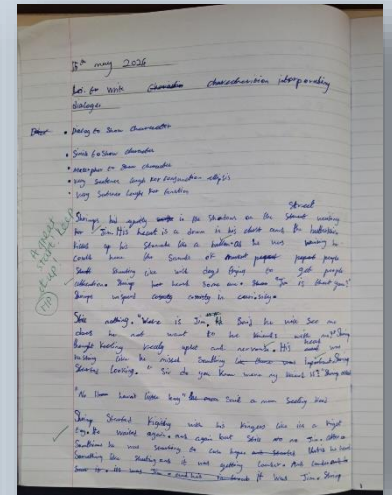
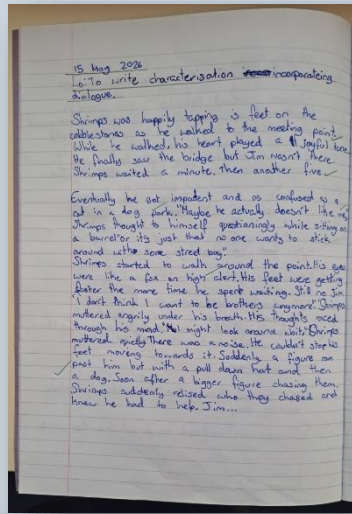


### Colour mixing- tint and shade:

In Art we have been learning about colour mixing. We learnt that if we add white paint to one colour we can create a tint and by adding black paint to one colour we can create a shade. We will be using these skills when we come to paint our still life composition.

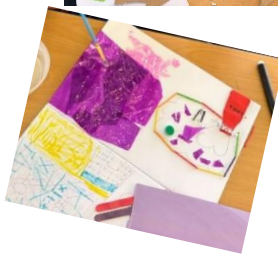
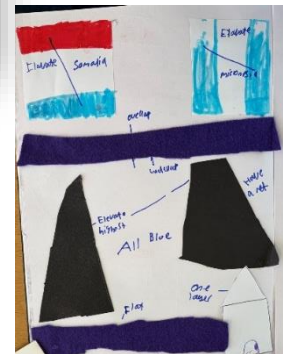
## Year 5

Year 5 have been working hard on their oracy skills this half term. We had a great discussion about the marathon and whether age mattered. Should we stop pushing ourselves to try new things at a certain age? We then built on these skills further by conducting a debate in History about whether the arrival of the railways was the most important change of the Industrial Revolution. The children were able to build on what their peers had said, challenge them and dig deeper. I was very impressed and it showed their understanding of the History unit.



## Year 6

Year 6 have been exploring sculpture by taking inspiration from the work of Louise Nevelson. To begin the project, the children created mind maps of their memories and ideas, thinking about objects, experiences and shapes that were meaningful to them. They then developed these ideas into designs, experimenting and testing their relief sculpture layouts in their sketchbooks. This process allowed them to plan how different shapes and textures could work together before creating their final relief sculptures.



They have also been excellent this week while completing their SATs papers. The children have shown great focus, determination and a positive attitude throughout. Despite the hard work, we have still made sure to have some fun along the way!

## Prayer

*O Most Holy Virgin Mary,  
Mother of God and our  
Mother, I entrust myself to  
your loving care. Guide me  
with your wisdom, protect me  
with your mantle, and lead me  
ever closer to your Son, Jesus.  
Help me to live with a heart  
full of grace, peace, and  
selfless love  
Amen*

## Gold Book Winners

Well done to all our Gold  
book winners this week  
and last week:

YR: Rosie  
Y1: Chester  
Y2: Willow  
Y3: Eddie  
Y4: Belle  
Y5: Blake  
Y6: Dexter

YR: John  
Y1: Finn  
Y2: Jaxson  
Y3: James  
Y4: Fletcher  
Y5: Conor  
Y6: *All of year 6!*

## Winner House

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

**Have a brilliant  
weekend!**

## Rocksteady

Please note, there will  
be an additional  
rocksteady lesson on  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June. This  
is to make up for a  
rescheduled lesson  
during SATs week.

## JH FOOTBALLING CAMP

THREE DAY CAMP in which the days will be  
Tues 26th, Weds 27th & Thurs 28th May  
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

oe@jhfootballing.com

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

LAUNCHES THIS MAY HALF TERM!

ACTIVE8 MULTI-SPORT HOLIDAY CLUB

Amwell View School  
Stanstead Abbots  
8:45am - 3:45pm

£36 a day OR  
Full 4 days £136

That's just £32.50 per day (May Half Term Low)

Easy drop off/pick up &  
plenty of on-site parking

LIMITED SPACES - BOOK NOW  
active8multi-sports.co.uk

ACTIVE8 MULTI-SPORT HOLIDAY CLUB

Active8 is a new Multi-sport holiday club for 8-11 year olds to build skills and confidence through sport before starting secondary school.

Set within the grounds of Amwell View School the club will benefit from all of the amazing facilities including auto-belay climbing wall, soft play, dance studio, sports hall and sports fields. The club will be run by qualified secondary PE teachers and coaches. Active8 will provide opportunities to play and learn skills in a full range of sports from tag-rugby, cricket, basketball, netball, football to tennis, volleyball, rounders, dodgeball and many more. We will even have a daily tuck shop selling sweets, drinks, and ice creams.

Book now: active8multi-sports.co.uk

Check out our website and social media pages for all of the important information, to meet the team, and to watch our video

