

St Joseph's School

21st July 2026 Newsletter



Dear parents and carers,

It has come to that time of year again, and I can hardly believe how quickly it has arrived. It feels like only yesterday that we were welcoming our new Reception children on their very first day in September.

This time of year, is always filled with wonderful events and exciting changes. The children have now met their new teachers with the usual mixture of nervousness and excitement, but, as always, they have shown just how kind, resilient and wonderful they are.

We have also been delighted with the response to our new Talk for Tuesday initiative, which is linked to our oracy scheme. Each week, the children are presented with a thought-provoking question, and every class has the opportunity to discuss it together. This has led to some lively, engaging and thoughtful debates, with the children demonstrating growing confidence in expressing and justifying their ideas.

At this time of year, it is always bittersweet as we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children, who will be leaving us today. As we shared during the Leavers' Assembly and Liturgy, they will always be a valued part of the St Joseph's community. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success and happiness as they begin the next stage of their journey.

We also say farewell to Mrs Preston. Mrs Preston has been part of the St Joseph's family for many years—first as a pupil, then as a parent, and finally as a dedicated member of staff. Throughout her time with us, she has touched the lives of countless children through her kindness, care and unwavering support. We thank her for everything she has given to our school community and wish her every success as she begins an exciting new chapter at Simon Balle next year.

Finally, if I don't get the opportunity to say goodbye in person, I would like to wish you all a wonderful, restful and enjoyable summer break. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, refreshed and ready for another exciting year at St Joseph's.

Martin Maloney
Headteacher



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

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Attendance this year:

94.1%

Excellent attendance

National average

Below national average

Upcoming date for the diary!

July

❖ 21st end of term

September

❖ 2nd – Pupils return to school

❖ 8th -Meet the teacher

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 is hard to believe that we are at the end of the year! And what a significant year it has been for SEN with the publishing of the White Paper.

Updates

St Joseph's now have a Mental Health Support Team who are based in the school one day a week. They are a universal level service, which means that they can support individuals and groups in areas such as low to mild anxiety, friendships etc.

The Friends of St Joseph have been very busy creating a lovely sensory space which will be ready to access from September meaning the school will have a dedicated area for children when life has just become too overwhelming. Kasia, SALT, will continue to work with the school and due to the ever-increasing demand for SALT support, we will be publishing our School SALT offer on the website which will explain the referral process and also the way that Kasia will work from September.

From December 2026, all schools will be required to have an Inclusion strategy and again the St Joseph's inclusion strategy will be available on the school website from September 2026.

As SENCo, my working days will continue to be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and I am directly contactable on senco@stjosephs255.herts.sch.uk or via the school phone number on these days.

Wishing you a very happy, healthy and restful summer and I look forward to working with you all again in September.

St Francis of Assisi Trophy winner - Poppy

Poppy is the proud winner of the **St Francis of Assisi Trophy**. Throughout the year, she has consistently demonstrated determination and resilience while living out the values of St Francis of Assisi: **compassion, stewardship, care for creation, and community**.



New PE shed

A huge thank you to this wonderful group of parents, along with the FOSJ, for their hard work in putting up our new PE shed. Your time, effort, and support are greatly appreciated, and this fantastic new addition will benefit our pupils for years to come.



Welcome to

St. Joseph's Playgroup

Play. Learn. Grow.

[Morning Applications for 2026–2027](#)

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](#).

We are holding an **Open Morning, Saturday 20th June from 10am to 12 noon** to look around, meet other families and staff.

For additional information and access to the application form, please visit our website on the QR code above or contact Diane via email at hello@stjosephsplaygrouphertford.co.uk.



JOIN GYMNASTICS Club
AT
ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

YEAR GROUP: KS2 ONLY

AFTER SCHOOL
3:15 – 4:15pm on a Friday

TEACHES THE FUNDAMENTALS OF GYMNASTICS IN A SAFE AND FUN ENVIRONMENT

GYMNASTICS PROFICIENCY AWARD SCHEME
Children will have the opportunity to work through and achieve badges in the gymnastics proficiency award scheme.

£5 PER SESSION

Contact Emily on emoore.04@outlook.com to book on for **AUTUMN TERM!**



JOIN GYMNASTICS Club
AT
ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

FREE TASTER SESSION!

THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

KS1 ONLY
3:15 – 4:15pm

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME!
A FUN, ACTIVE SESSION PERFECT FOR CHILDREN TRYING GYMNASTICS!

£5 PER SESSION AFTER THE TASTER SESSION

Contact Emily to book on emoore.04@outlook.com



Message from Kings and Queens (chess club)

We're excited to let you know that we've prepared the Autumn Term Chess Club enrolment form for your school.

Registration Link:

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

The club will run on **Mondays** for a **12-week term**. Please see the session dates below:

September: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

October: 5th, 12th, 19th (Excluding 26th October and 2nd November Half-term)

November: 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

December: 7th

If you have any questions please contact us directly on 07900 048446

or admin@kingsandqueenschess.co.uk

JH FOOTBALLING CAMP

THREE DAY CAMP in which the days will be
Tues 11th, Weds 12th & Thurs 13th August (WEEK ONE)
Tues 18th, Weds 19th & Thurs 20th August (WEEK TWO)
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

JOE'S SMALL SHIRT

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!



SALSA LATINO DANCE CLASS

SALSA • BACHATA • MERENGUE

Step into the rhythm of passion and culture. Our Latino Salsa classes are perfect for couples who want learn something new together

St Josephs Primary
Thursdays 7.45PM
£10 per person
Pay as you go

Starting June 18th

APTON DANCE STUDIO
ALL LEVELS WELCOME

Message Max to secure your place 07854 251528



Starting 18th June

APTONS STREET DANCE

Ready to move, groove, and express yourself?

CLASS FEATURES

- ✓ Term time only
- ✓ Friendly Instructors
- ✓ Vibrant Atmosphere

THURSDAY
St Josephs Primary
6.15-7pm
For School years 3/4/5/6

Classes Just £7 and Pay as you go

Message Max to secure your place on 07854 251528

insta @apton_dance_studio
facebook - Apton Dance Studio



Message from the church toddler group

We have taken the difficult decision to temporarily close the Toddler Group, with the hope of reopening in September.

After approximately seven years of volunteering and running the group, Sophie will be leaving us. If you are interested in taking on a volunteering role to help keep the group running, please contact Mrs Walker and the Parish Church.

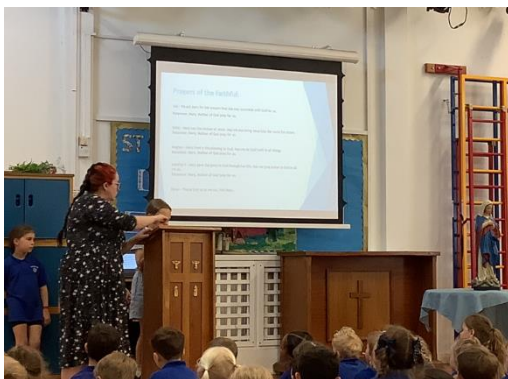
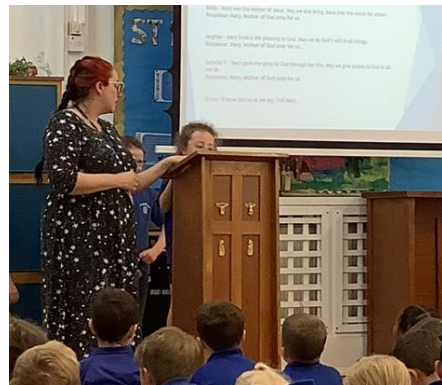


Sacramental Mass

It was wonderful to celebrate some of our Year 3 children receiving their First Holy Communion at a special Sacramental Mass alongside pupils from the other schools in our Trust. It was a beautiful and joyful celebration, bringing our school communities together in faith. We are incredibly proud of the children and hope they will always cherish this special milestone in their faith journey.

May the Month of Mary liturgy

During May, we celebrated the Month of Mary with a special liturgy led by Miss House and Year 2. It was a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together in prayer and reflection as we honoured Mary. The children led the celebration beautifully, helping us all to pause, pray, and reflect on Mary's example of faith and love.



Oracy Speak Out challenge

Three children from St Joseph's attended the Trust Oracy Speak Out Challenge on Wednesday 3rd June. They prepared and delivered speeches to an audience of pupils and staff from across the Trust.

All three children excelled, demonstrating excellent oracy skills as they confidently presented their speeches. Their topics included what makes a good leader, how they deal with change, and what their chosen superpower would be and why.

We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the confidence, creativity, and communication skills they displayed throughout the event

Science Week

'Curiosity: What's your question?' was our theme for Science Week this year. Every class participated in a Fab Science session and were fortunate enough to meet the animals from Exotic Encounters. To celebrate the amazing learning we did during Science Week, we have created a huge display in the hall.



Nursery

This half term has certainly been a busy one and it has been lovely to see the children develop and refine their play and learning skills, ready for new and exciting challenges in Reception Class. Part of the moving on process is to support the children with their personal, social and emotional skills and to process the changes ahead. They have been working hard to express their emotions, use strategies to self-regulate, and utilise their growing language and Oracy skills to communicate effectively. Earlier in the term the children enjoyed the opportunity to join in with sports day and the continued sporting activities have inspired them to play slightly more structured games such as football and learning to pass the ball to each other. Over last couple of weeks the children have really taken an interest in bat and ball games and even set up their own 'Wimbledon' to play tennis in the Nursery garden.

Last week we had our last Forest School session, over the year the children have really risen to the challenge and developed their independence. They can now get themselves ready and explain what they need and why. The new strap lines that were installed have really encouraged the children to challenge themselves and they have all grown in confidence, reaching up and balancing themselves to move across the strap lines with growing independence.



Reception

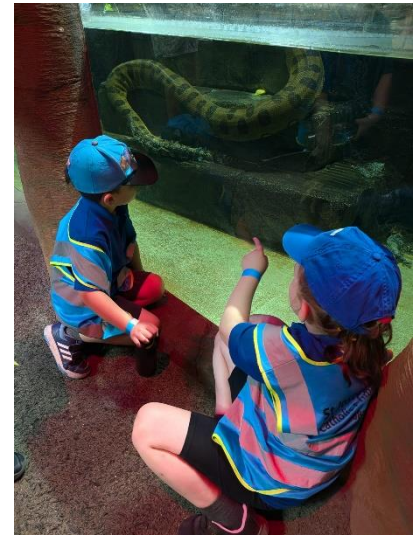
Reception have been very creative over the past few weeks, making sporting events from recycled materials linked to our topic 'Going for Gold'.

We also had a great time at Manic Ceramics on Friday and enjoyed a picnic lunch before returning to school for an ice lolly!



Year 1

It was a wonderful way to end our school year with a visit to Hertfordshire Zoo! Throughout the day, the whole class was engaged, enthusiastic, and eager to learn. They were a credit to St Joseph's School, demonstrating excellent behaviour and representing our school with pride.



Year 2

We have had an amazing year in Year 2, and we are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved. They have worked hard, grown in confidence, and embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm.

One of the highlights of our year was undoubtedly our trip to the Natural History Museum in London. It was an exciting and memorable day from start to finish. We travelled by train and even navigated the London Underground, which was a fantastic experience for the children. At the museum, we explored some of the incredible exhibits and enjoyed an immersive show about ocean habitats, which was both fascinating and inspiring. We finished the day by visiting some of the museum's most famous galleries, including the dinosaur and mammal exhibitions.

It was a truly fantastic day, and the children were a credit to both St Joseph's School and their families. Their excellent behaviour, curiosity, and enthusiasm made us all incredibly proud.



Year 3

Year 3 have produced fantastic stories in our English this term! We used the 'Raft' by Jim Lamarche as inspiration and created our own stories. They worked really hard, making sure to include many literary devices to make their writing more engaging for the reader, including the use of zooming in and slowing down our narratives, the power of three and alliteration to intrigue the reader with their stories- Well done Year 3!

Year 3 and Year 4 enjoyed being in Forest School together! They made the most of the outdoors playing, building, developing new skills and building friendships. It was lovely to see Year 3 and 4 explore Forest School and help each other with creating recipes in their mud kitchen café to moving tires and playing on the slack lines. A special thank you to Mrs. Lacey, for allowing us to go together and supporting the children with the slack lines.



Year 4

On Friday 3rd July Year 4 were invited to The Saint John Henry Newman School for their Community Mass. We had to learn 10 songs and the singing was incredible. We also had to decorate a petal on the theme of our school and the Jubilee of St Francis and this was to be offered at the start of the Mass.



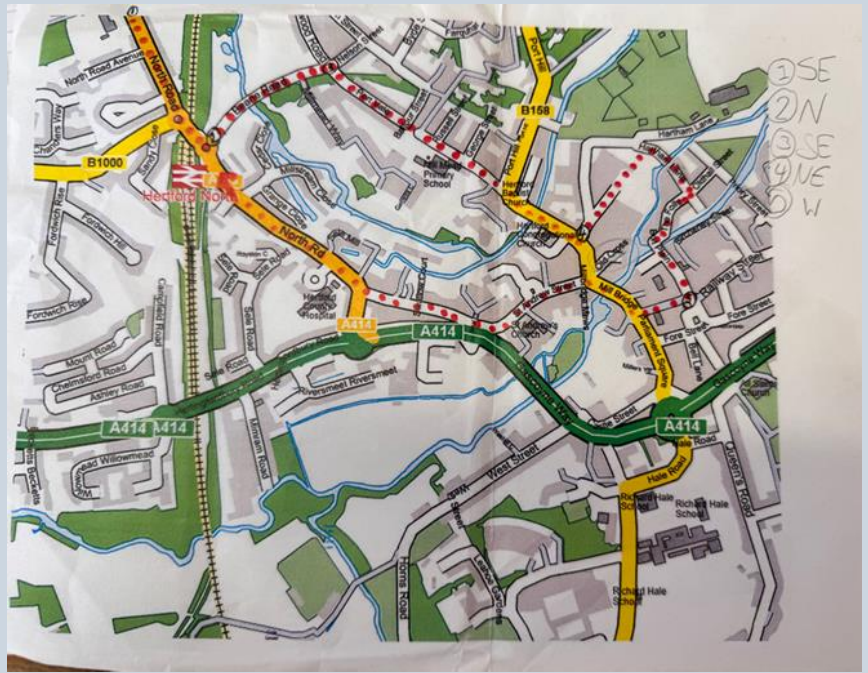
In Forest School Year 4 have been making dream catchers. We started with a hoop and some thread and carefully wrapped the hoop weaving and crisscrossing a web inside. Finally, we hung thread below the hoop and attached feather. I'm sure you'll agree that they look beautiful. Thank you, Mrs Lacey.



World Cup fever has hit Year 4. We have loved updating our wall chart each morning, seeing who has been eliminated from the competition. To make it more exciting we have split the teams between the children and they have had a team/s drawn for them. The children have created a fact file about their country/team and have learnt about the culture and important facts about them. During School Sports Week, we also took the opportunity to follow Wimbledon, and I was able to teach them the scoring system in tennis.

Year 5

This half term Year 5 have been practicing their fieldwork skills in geography. They have learned about maps and grid references, as well as using a compass to record and give directions. We took a field trip to Hertford taking a circular walk. The children recorded the shops they saw on the way using a tally and later analysed this data. They stopped at junctions and worked out which direction they were going to travel in using the 8 cardinal compass points. When they were back at school they were able to use all of this experience to write directions for someone to follow.



Year 6

Our Year 5 and 6 performance was truly outstanding! A huge congratulations to all the children for their incredible effort, enthusiasm, and confidence. We are so proud of the hard work and teamwork they showed, both on stage and throughout their rehearsals.

We would also like to congratulate our wonderful Year 6 pupils on their fantastic SATs results. Your determination, resilience, and hard work have been truly inspiring. As you prepare for the next exciting chapter of your journey, remember that you are brilliant, courageous, and strong. We are incredibly proud of everything you have achieved and wish you every success and happiness for the future!



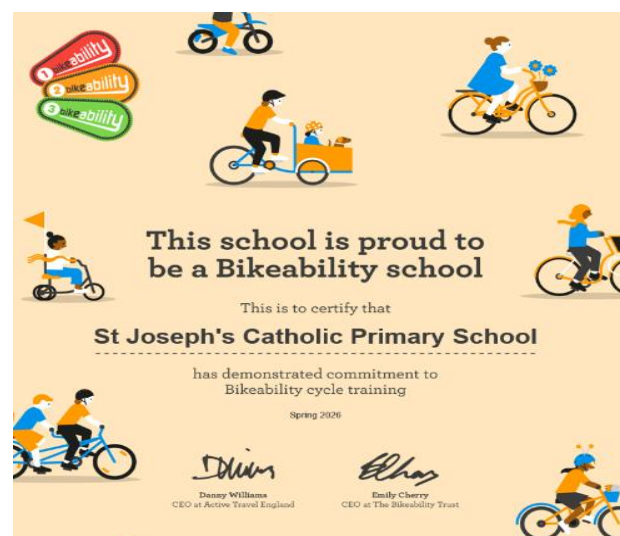
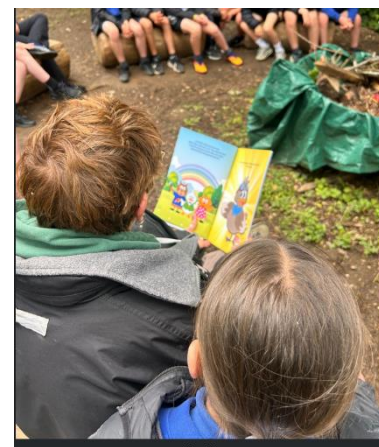
Clean Air Day

Clean Air Day is the UK's largest annual air pollution campaign, raising awareness of the impact that air pollution has on our health and encouraging active travel, such as walking and cycling, to help improve local air quality.

To mark the day, all of our children took part in a range of exciting activities to learn more about the importance of clean air. They discovered how lichens can tell us about the quality of the air around us. These fascinating little organisms act as natural air quality indicators because they thrive in clean air and are very sensitive to pollution.

During Forest School, each class went on a lichen hunt, exploring the outdoors and looking for these important signs of healthy air. We also listened to the story of Aunt Duck, which helped us understand the effects of air pollution in an engaging and age-appropriate way.

To finish the day, every child made a pledge, promising one simple action they can take to help protect our environment. From walking more often to looking after nature, every small action makes a difference. Together, we can all play our part in creating a cleaner, healthier future. Thank you to Mrs Roblett and Mrs Lacey for organising and facilitating the activities.



Prayer

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to look for any reward, save that of knowing that I do your holy will.
Amen

Gold Book Winners

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

Y1: Rueben
Y2: Minnie
Y3: Alby
Y4: Olivia
Y5: All of year 5
Y6: Rudy, Lucas

YR: Thea
Y1: Ennis, Namiko, Seb
Y2: Kieran
Y3: Harry
Y4: Jemima
Y5: Caitlin G and Libby
Y6: Niamh

Winner House

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

Have a brilliant Summer holiday!

Paralympian

Kare Adenegan is a British T34 wheelchair athlete from Coventry, England. She has competed at multiple Paralympic Games and has won numerous medals in events ranging from the 100m to the 800m. In June, Year 4 were fortunate enough to join Kare on a zoom call to hear all about her inspirational journey. She shared lessons from her sporting journey that are pertinent to us all: learn from mistakes and losses, believe in yourself, enjoy what you do, don't give up and you are more than your wins and losses!



Bowl – Sports week

As part of School Sports Week, the KS2 children had the opportunity to try lawn bowls with Colleen from the School Sports Partnership. They learnt many new skills, rules and then had a go at playing the game against each other. If your child enjoyed bowls then there are two local bowls clubs in the area, please see the leaflet for more information.

