

St Joseph's School

23rd October 2026 Newsletter



**Our new Reception class
have settled in well!**

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

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**Upcoming date for the
diary!**

November

- ❖ 2nd - 3rd Inset day school is closed
- ❖ 4th Back to school
- ❖ 5th LIFT – Black History Month celebration
- ❖ 9th Anti-bullying week
- ❖ 11th Remembrance Service with Year 4 at 10:45am

December

- ❖ 15th Nursery and Reception Nativity at 9:30am
- ❖ 16th School Christmas dinner
- ❖ 17th Year 1 and 2 Nativity at 9:30am
- ❖ 18th End of term school ends at 1:15pm
- ❖ 21st - 1st Christmas Holidays

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

Dear parents and carers,

As we come to the end of our first half term, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the whole St Joseph's community. It has been a wonderful half term, filled with exciting events, celebrations and opportunities for us to come together as a school.

It seems like only yesterday that our new Reception and Nursery children nervously walked through our gates for the very first time. Now, they confidently run into school with excitement, ready for another day of learning. It has been a joy to see how quickly they have settled into school life.

Our Year 6 pupils have also flourished as they have taken on their new responsibilities. They have embraced their roles as school role models with great enthusiasm, demonstrating maturity, kindness and a real sense of responsibility. They have taken to their new roles like a duck to water!

I would also like to thank you all for your wonderful generosity during our Harvest celebrations. I was genuinely blown away by the number of parents, carers and family members who joined us for our Harvest Liturgy. Your presence made it a truly special occasion and was a wonderful reflection of the strong, supportive community that makes St Joseph's so special.

The response to our food bank collection has also been incredible. Your generosity and willingness to support those in need reflect the kindness, compassion and care that are at the heart of our school and our Catholic faith. Thank you for helping us put our values into action.

Thank you once again for your continued support and for everything you do to make St Joseph's such a wonderful place to learn and grow.

I wish you all a restful and peaceful half term.

Martin Maloney
Headteacher

Messages

A note from the SENCo – Miss Mayes

This half term has seen some exciting initiatives in supporting our learners who have additional challenges. The Friends of St Joseph's have worked extremely hard on creating a Sensory Space within the school. This is called Space to breathe and is already popular with pupils when they need time to reset and re-regulate. Our thanks to the Friends of St Joseph's. To further support children who have a high level of need that can make accessing the classroom difficult, The Hub has been implemented as an Internal Alternative Provision to support those children in accessing a bespoke curriculum.

Forest School

As the weather is getting colder and wetter, please ensure your child has a waterproof coat and wellington boots or another pair of trainers in school that they can change into, on forest school days.

Netball matches

The netball team have played 2 matches so far this term. We won against Priorswood 11-2 with Beatrice being awarded the Opposition's Player of the match and Ruby being awarded the Coach's Player of the match.

Unfortunately we lost a close game against Hertingfordbury 8-6. Caitlin Harvey was awarded the opposition's Player of the match and Coach's player of the match went to both Darcie and Arianna. A great start by everyone – well done.

Training is on Thursdays after school and will continue after half term.

Football matches

Our football team has made a fantastic start to the school year, winning both of their opening matches! St Joseph's secured an impressive 9–0 victory against Priors Wood, followed by a brilliant 4–2 win against Hollybush. Congratulations to all the players on this fantastic achievement, and well done to the team for their hard work and determination. We look forward to seeing their success continue throughout the season!

Lunchtime Chess Club

Monday lunchtime chess club will run from 12:20pm - 1:05pm for 5 weeks (9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th November and 7th December) . Please contact Kind and Queen's Chess directly if you would like further details or use the following link if you would like to book,

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

First Holy Communion 2027

Registration forms are now available on the table at the back of the Church. Children should be in Year 3 or above. The completed forms need to be returned by 11th November. Classes will begin in January. Please be aware that the forms are only available from church and Fr Séamus will not be accepting photocopied forms.

Black History Month

This October, our school have been celebrating Black History Month with our whole-school theme: “Black History: Stories, Culture & Changemakers.” Throughout the month, children from Nursery to Year 6 have been exploring different stories, people and aspects of Black history and culture through history, literature, art, music, science, sport and discussion. Our aim is for Black History Month to be a joyful celebration as well as an opportunity to learn. Children will discover scientists, artists, musicians, historical figures and communities whose stories have helped shape Britain and the wider world. Each year group have been exploring a different theme and we would love to share our experiences with you after the half term break. We will have a dedicated LIFT session on **Thursday 5th November at 9.05,** please come and join us.

Thank you to FOSJ

Thank A big thank you to FOSJ (Friends of St Joseph's) for organising the St Joseph's Charity Race Night on Friday 16th October, and to all the parents and families who came along to support the event.

We are incredibly grateful to FOSJ for the time, effort and enthusiasm they put into organising events like this, and to everyone who attended and supported their fundraising efforts. Your continued generosity and involvement help make a real difference to our school and provide valuable support for our children.



Nursery We have had a brilliant half term in Nursery. The children have settled really well, confidently exploring the environment and engaged in every activity. We have focused on Autumn and the changes in the natural environment. We explored a pumpkin , making predictions about what might be inside it, and using a range of vocabulary to describe how it feels, looks and smells. The children have really enjoyed exploring in Forest School; catching rain drops on their tongues, squelching and jumping in muddy puddles, climbing trees, doing some 'fishing' and creating their own mud monster game.



Reception

We have had a great half term in Reception! The children have settled brilliantly, are exploring the environment and making new friends. Our topic has been about getting to know you and the children have been painting self-portraits and telling each other all about their family. In RE, we were learning about the creation story and talking about how through baptism, people are welcomed into God's family. We re-enacted this in class and have been sharing baptism photos via Seesaw.



Year 1



In DT this half term, year one have been working on STABLE STRUCTURES. We have learnt about natural and manmade structures and also the features that make these structures stable! We had lots of fun designing and making our own pencil pots!

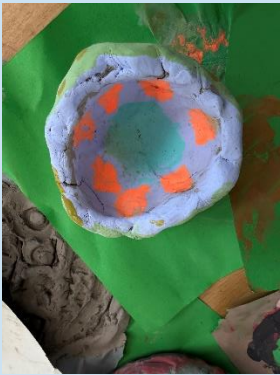


In Maths the class have been working hard on numbers within 20, thinking about one more and one less and also greater than and fewer than. We took our learning outside this week, making the most of the sun to practice our numbers bonds and maths fluency skills.



Year 2

Year 2 have used their skills to roll, shape, flatten, smooth and pinch clay to make pinch pots and clay tiles houses. They then painted the pots using their knowledge of colour mixing.



Year 3

Year 3 have been embracing their creativity and imagination in Forest School by using natural materials to create their very own Greek gods and goddesses. Using leaves, sticks, stones and other treasures, the children have explored how nature can inspire their designs while learning about the fascinating world of Greek mythology. Alongside their creative activities, the children have also been practising meditation, taking time to slow down, relax and connect with the natural world around them. These calming moments help them to develop mindfulness, focus and a sense of wellbeing!



Year 4

Bob Marley- Black History Month

We have been learning about Bob Marley in Year 4. We have found out all about him including his early life, music career, awards/achievements and his best-known songs. We have really enjoyed listening to his music and will be looking to create a short original spoken message about peace/community/belonging over one of his songs.

St Francis

We found out a little bit more about St Francis as it was the St Francis of Assisi Feast Day. We completed some art work linking to his affiliation to nature and then met our reception buddies to make origami fish and birds.

Roman Foxholes workshop at Hertford Museum

We got to handle Roman artefacts- some genuine and some replicas. We found out about the Roman settlement where Foxholes now is in Hertford, and then were very lucky to be able to go and see the only corn dryer in Britain!



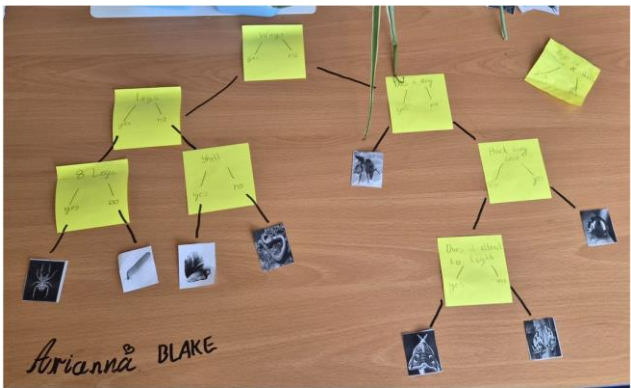
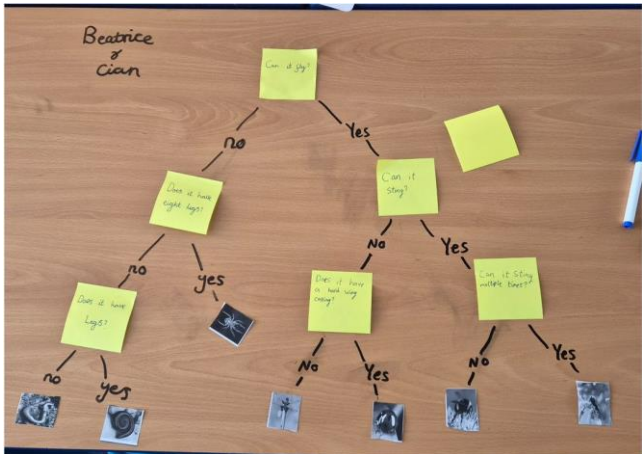
Year 5

Year 5 have had a busy half term which we started in earnest by visiting the STEM centre in Stevenage to learn about space and see the Mars rovers, which are developed there. The children loved kicking off the science and English topics this way. In science, we have conducted science experiments to investigate what variables might alter the size of a crater when a meteorite hits the moon. This was messy but very interesting and enjoyable! For Black History Month and one of our English topics we have learned about Katherine Johnson and her role in the space race. The children wrote biographies about her and they have been creating Mission Control posters demonstrating the mathematics she would have had to use to safely put people in to space and get them home again.



Year 6

In our science topic, 'Living things and their Habitats', we have been developing our understanding of classification and it's importance. We have been inspired by the work of biologist, Carl Linnaeus. We created classification trees on our desks, classifying invertebrates and vertebrates, based on their observable characteristics.



Prayer

Loving Father,
We thank you for the many blessings you have given us.
Thank you for the beauty of your creation, for the food we eat and for the people who work so hard to provide for us.
Help us never to take these gifts for granted.
Open our eyes to those who are hungry, our hearts to those who are struggling and our hands to those who need our help.
Give us the courage to share generously, the wisdom to care for our common home and the love to follow the example of your Son, Jesus Christ.
May the seeds of kindness we plant today grow into a harvest of love, hope and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gold Book Winners

Well done to all our Gold book winners last week:

Y1: Whole class
Y2: Ayda
Y3: Ruth
Y4: Sebbie
Y5: Whole class
Y6: Libby

Winner House

LOURDES!

Have a brilliant half term!

What a wonderful half term of whole-school celebrations and liturgies! It has been lovely to come together as a school community to celebrate our faith.

We enjoyed a special Welcome Mass, where our new Chaplaincy Team received their blessing for the year ahead, a beautiful and thoughtful Harvest Liturgy, and a celebration of St Francis of Assisi, marking the 800th anniversary of his death.

A huge well done to all the children who have taken part, led prayers or spoken during these special celebrations. We are so proud of you all!



Welcome Mass



Harvest Liturgy



St Francis Assembly – celebrating his 800th year

Guitar and ukulele assembly

