

St Joseph's School

17th July 2025 Newsletter



The Greatest Show

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

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Dear parents and carers,

I can hardly believe we are in the final week of the academic year. This time of year, is always filled with such wonderful events that it feels as though it has crept up on us.

Last week, the children were buzzing with excitement as they entered the hall to meet their new teachers. It's always a slightly nervous time, but the children showed their new teachers just how wonderful they are.

It has been a very busy year, marked by two successful inspections and two maternity leaves Ms House and Ms Natali. We're pleased to report that both mothers and babies are doing well. We were also delighted to welcome back Mrs Grahame during the Summer term. We will also be welcoming a new Year 3 teacher Miss Yu to St Joseph's in September. I am sure you will welcome her with open arms.

It was fantastic to see so many parents and carers at our Open Evening last week. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the children's amazing artwork, celebrate the learning they have done this year, meet their new class teachers, and preview the exciting topics they'll be learning about next year.

Last night, I had the joy of attending the Year 5 and 6 performance of *The Greatest Showman* in the hall. The children delivered a truly captivating production, filled with laughter and beautiful singing it was a real treat.

This time of year, always brings a bittersweet farewell to our Year 6 class. While we know they must leave St Joseph's to continue their learning journey, we will miss them deeply. As we said during the Leavers' Assembly and Mass, the children will always be part of the St Joseph's community, no matter how far they travel in life. If I don't get a chance to wish you a wonderful summer in person, I'd like to take this opportunity to say: have a safe, restful, and enjoyable break.

Martin Maloney
Headteacher

Upcoming date for the diary!

September

4th – Pupils return to school

10th – Meet the Teacher various times TBC 3.30-5.30

Message from the Governing Body

As the academic year comes to a close, the Governing Body of Saint Joseph's would like to extend our deepest thanks to everyone who makes this school such a special place.

👤 To our Senior Leadership Team and Staff: your dedication and resilience have been extraordinary. Navigating the complexities of not just one, but two inspections this year was no small feat, and we commend the professionalism, strength, and teamwork you demonstrated throughout. Thank you for going above and beyond in everything you do for our children.

🤝 To the Friends of Saint Joseph's: your generosity and commitment never go unnoticed. The additional resources you've helped provide give our children more opportunities to play, explore, and grow. Your support lifts the whole school in ways words can barely capture.

🏠 To our wider community: Saint Joseph's is more than just a school—it's a family. Our community spirit shines in every school event, every celebration, and every moment shared together. We are proud to be part of a community so deeply rooted, vibrant, and connected.

🚩 As we look ahead, we're excited to continue growing, developing, and reaching new heights together. We wish our year 6 the best of luck on their new adventure going into secondary school. With unity and shared purpose, we'll keep building something truly remarkable—because here at Saint Joseph's, we believe the best is yet to come.

Smartphones

In a follow up to our previous letter, we want to celebrate the fact that as a school we are championing a smartphone free childhood at St Joseph's School from September 2025. We are working collaboratively with other schools in the local area to engage with this joint initiative to protect our children from online harm.

Along with other local schools we are implementing a new policy whereby smartphones are no longer allowed on school premises. The new policy will be effective from September 2025. This decision has been made to better safeguard the learning environment, ensure the welfare of all students, and uphold the ethos of our school community. Any smartphone that is found will be confiscated and returned to parents at the end of the day.

If your child is in Year 6 and will be walking home independently and you would like them to be contactable on their way to and from school please provide them with a simple phone (without access to the internet). These phones will need to be handed in for safekeeping at the start of the school day and will be returned at the end of the day. We would love it if adults also supported this initiative by keeping their own smartphones put away in a pocket or bag while on site.

For some children there may be exceptional circumstances that require them to bring a smartphone into school each day, for example if it is used as a medical device. If this is the case, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

We understand that many parents don't want to give their child a smartphone but feel they have no choice because everyone else is. No parent wants to isolate their child from their peer group. The solution to this problem lies in better regulation of the tech industry, but enacting legislation takes years, time that this generation of children don't have. Meanwhile our most powerful defence lies in taking collective action at school and at home. We hope that we can support you by working collaboratively in the community.

*Therefore, we strongly encourage parents to resist the pressure from your children and their peers, and hold back on giving your children smartphones until **at least the end of year 9**. If we all work together, social pressure is removed, and no child is the odd one out.*

Our children's futures are so important, to you and to us. In a world where fast-changing and unregulated technology is actually impacting the development of our children's brains, it is up to us to stand up for them, and their futures.

Reading books

If you haven't already done so, please make sure that your child brings all their school reading books back to school tomorrow. Children can still practice their reading over summer with the Hertford Library Reading Challenge which is being run from 6th July – 7th September. If you manage to get to the library on 21st July between 11:30am - 2pm you may find our very own Mrs. Lacey who will be giving a helping hand. She may also be giving out some house points for September to whoever takes up the challenge! For more information please click on the following link: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SummerReadingChallenge



Summer Sizzler – THANK YOU

The Summer Sizzler proved to be a fantastic success last weekend! A heartfelt thank you to the Friends of St Joseph’s (FOSJ) for organising such a lively and enjoyable event. It was not only a wonderful day filled with fun and community spirit, but it also raised an impressive amount of money to support and enhance our school.

Message from FOSJ

We would like to extend a huge thankyou to everyone who joined us at the Summer Sizzler last weekend. Despite the VERY hot weather everyone seems to have a wonderful day! Through your generosity we raised a fantastic £2300 on the day which will be used to purchase 5 new log benches and a story teller chair for forest school. These benches will not only replace the old ones but will create a fantastic area for the children to sit and learn for years to come. Once again, thank you to all of those who attended on the day and to the FOSJ committee member and parent volunteers for making another memorable day for our school community.

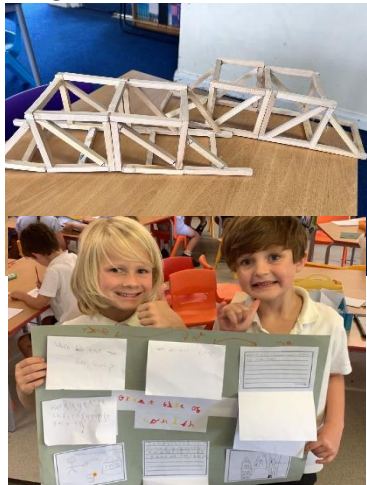


Franciscan Values Award

Congratulations to Elise in Year 6, who has been awarded the **Franciscan Values Award**. This special recognition, given by the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust, honours students who embody the values of St. Francis—such as kindness, compassion, and reverence for creation. Each school within the Trust nominates students who demonstrate these values in their daily lives. Elise has been recognised for her hard work, tenacity, and determination, always striving to do her best and never giving up. Well done, Elise—we are very proud of you!

In other news... Year 5 DT

Year 5 have been working on bridges in DT. They looked at bean bridges and arch bridges. They have built truss bridges and tested them with weights to test the structure.



In other news... Year 3 – A busy few weeks

Year 3 have had an exciting and productive few weeks full of hands-on learning and creativity.

We recently enjoyed a trip to the local river, where the whole class took part in a river study. The children worked hard to create field map sketches of the river and had great fun timing the flow of the water – a fantastic opportunity to put their geography skills into action!

In Art, we have completed our unit on abstract painting, inspired by the work of Georgia O’Keeffe. The children produced some truly beautiful and expressive pieces, and I was incredibly impressed by their creativity and effort. Well done, Year 3!




In other news... Year 1 – The Great Fire of London

Year 1 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Great Fire of London. Our budding historians have gained an impressive understanding of where and when the fire started, why it spread so quickly, how it was extinguished, and how London changed in its aftermath—just ask them anything! A real highlight was working collaboratively to create informative posters that showcased all their learning. Well done, Year 1!

Message from Little Voices

Little Voices After School Club Returns This September!

We're delighted to welcome back the Little Voices after school club every Wednesday from 3:15pm to 4:15pm. This inspiring club offers children the chance to develop their singing, acting, and confidence in a fun, supportive environment. Through engaging drama games, lively songs, and creative activities, children build communication skills, teamwork, and self-expression, all while having a great time! Whether your child loves to perform or is just starting to find their voice, Little Voices is the perfect place to shine. Spaces are limited, so be sure to book early to avoid disappointment! For more information and to register, please contact Cassie at eastherts@littlevoices.org.uk!



Little Linguists

YEAR 2 - YEAR 6

- SMALL CLASSES (MAX 12)
- FUN AND ENGAGING SESSIONS
- £5.95 PER SESSION + £12.50 FOR COURSE MATERIALS
- TRIAL SESSION AVAILABLE
- STARTING TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

BOOKING NOW FOR THE AUTUMN TERM - EARLYBIRD DISCOUNT FOR BOOKINGS MADE BEFORE THE END OF THE SUMMER TERM

✉ SUZANNE@LITTLELINGUISTS.ORG.UK
☎ 07857 974437

WWW.LITTLELINGUISTS.ORG.UK

SPANISH LUNCH CLUB

@ST JOSEPHS PRIMARY SCHOOL

TUESDAYS 12.30-1.00PM




JH FOOTBALLING CAMP

THREE DAY CAMP in which the days will be
Tues 22nd, Weds 23rd & Thurs 24th July
Tues 26th, Weds 27th & Thurs 28th August
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 INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT ANY
OF THE PLATFORMS ON
THE ADVERTISEMENT!

Who's in Charge?

For parents/carers with children aged 4 years and over



TOP HAT
STAGE & SCREEN SCHOOL

PART TIME THEATRE ARTS TRAINING
4-17 YEAR OLDS
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

DANCE SING ACT
SUNDAYS AT ST JOSEPHS SCHOOL
10AM-1PM

COME ALONG FOR A FREE TRIAL

www.tophatstageschool.co.uk



- **What is Who's in Charge?**
Who's in Charge? is a 9-week child to parent violence (CPV) programme aimed at parents whose children are being abusive or violent toward them or who appear out of parental control. The course is delivered online and is for parents and carers of children 4 years and over.
- **Aims**
Provide a supportive environment to share experiences and ideas
• Reducing the blame, guilt and shame that parents may feel
• Offer ideas to help you develop individual strategies for managing your child's behaviour
• Explore ways of increasing safety and well-being
• Help parents feel more in control and less stressed

What is covered in the course.

- Pre-arranged one-to-one session to complete pre-group questionnaire.
- Session 1 Introductions and genograms
- Session 2 Cause and influences of abusive behaviour
- Session 3 What is abuse?
- Session 4 What can I control in my child's life?
- Session 5 Consequences
- Session 6 Anger and breaking the myths of anger
- Session 7 Assertiveness
- Session 8 Self-care, future goal setting and evaluation
- Session 9 One/two month follow up on goal achievement, evaluation and further goals

"My boundaries in the home are clearer and there are less physical interactions"
"The course is a safe place where no one judges."

"Go for it and give it your all but you have to want to make the change"
I don't even know how to put into words how much the course has helped my life change for the better. It's tough to change the way we parent and the way we live our life but this course has changed my whole life and my perspective on things and how I cope daily with the challenges it brings



Open Evening

Thank you to everyone who came to support the children during Open Evening. It was lovely to see so many of the school community come together to celebrate children's success this year and to help them look towards next year.



Spirituality Week Liturgy

Our Spirituality week follow up whole school liturgy was a great success. Each class enjoyed sharing their experiences and reflections from the week. A special mention to Nursery who not only joined us for the whole liturgy but also showed us a liturgical dance which was wonderful. Well done to everyone!



In other news... Year 4 DT

This week in Year 4 we have been finishing our 'book sleeve' project. We used our paper templates to help us cut our chosen fabric to size. We have joined the fabric by sewing, added embellishments and a fastening.



Year 4 also did some collaborative learning with Year 3. We focused on our times tables and made a playground chalk game or a paper board game to help us with our multiplication facts to 12x12.



In other news... Reception Trip

Reception had a great time at Manic Ceramics on Friday!

We were really impressed with the children as we walked down to Manic Ceramics – they were brilliant ambassadors of the school. We also enjoyed a picnic lunch.



Prayer

Prayer of St Ignatius

*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 labor and not to look for any
reward,
save that of knowing that I do
your holy will
Amen.*



Winner House

The overall House winners are:

Alyesford

Have a brilliant weekend!

In other news... YEAR 6 – Goodbye and good luck!

Year 6 Celebration Week

This past week, we celebrated our wonderful Year 6 pupils with a joyful series of events marking the end of their primary school journey. The week began with a fantastic performance where the children showcased their incredible talents, followed by a heartfelt Leavers' Assembly and a special Mass that brought the whole school community together. The celebrations ended on a high note with a great party filled with dancing, delicious food, and their favourite songs—an evening the children truly enjoyed. We will miss them dearly, but we are so proud of all they've achieved and look forward to hearing about their continued success in the future!

