

St Joseph's School

13th June 2025 Newsletter



Library challenge

On Monday we had Sarah from Hertford library join us during our Gospel assembly. She spoke to the children about the Summer Library challenge. The challenge is to read 6 books between the 4th July and 6th September. It would be wonderful to see lots of children with their medal for completing the challenge in September.

Dear parents and carers,

I was filled with joy as I watched the pupils receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday. Mrs. Grahame also wanted to share her joy as she saw the pupils receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday. It is such a momentous occasion in these children's spiritual lives, and I know how committed they were in preparing for this special day. A heartfelt congratulations to each one of you.

This week, we celebrated Spirituality Week. The children have been leading collective worship outdoors and developing their relationship with God through artwork, song, and dance. It has truly been a wonderful experience. One pupil shared, "Doing our daily meditation outside made me feel closer to God and His creation."

As always, Sports Day was a huge success. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and demonstrated great levels of competitiveness and sportsmanship. I would like to extend my thanks to Zoe (PE Leader), who helped to organise the event. I would also like to thank all the parents and carers who came along to support the children. It was, as always, a truly wonderful day.

As you may have seen, earlier this week I signed a joint statement with other Headteachers of primary schools in Ware and Hertford, about smartphone-free childhoods. Time spent on devices reduces time spent playing, interacting, and developing vital social skills (or "Smartphones – those connected to the internet – are changing the way children's brains develop and fundamentally affecting their ability to concentrate, which is obviously a serious concern for me"). You can read more about our plans for St Joseph's, and how to join the growing parents' community committed to this work, below.

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

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Upcoming dates for the diary!

July

- 1st Liturgy 9.30 am
- 8th Open evening 3.30-5.30pm
- 9th Rock Steady Concert 9.30am
- 10th Transition Day
- 12th FOSJ summer Sizzler
- 14th Year 5 & 6 play 5.30pm
- 15th Year 6 leavers assembly 9.30am-10.30am
- 15th Year 6 leavers mass 11am
- 15th Year 6 leavers party 3.30pm-5pm
- 17th KS2 Choir 9.30am
- 18th End of term 1.15pm

Catholic Life - Spirituality week

For spirituality week we explored self-expression and who we are as a person. The children created their own rainbow ribbon dancing sticks and learnt to do a ribbon dance expressing themselves through movement. They also made a 'this is me' book and started by drawing the people who are special to them which we will continue to add to over the rest of this term. We finished spirituality week by listening to 'The Rainbow Fish' story and thinking about how we treat others, and lastly taking the time for reflection while listening to classical music.



Year 1

Year 1 have really enjoyed discovering new ways of praying this week. We tried singing our prayers, drawing and colouring our prayer and Pope Francis 5 finger prayer. It was refreshing to learn different ways to be close to God.



Making St Joseph's Smartphone Free

St Joseph's is part of a growing community across Hertford and Ware, and the country, committed to making childhood as smartphone-free as possible. We would like to make St Joseph's a smartphone-free school from the beginning of the next school year (2025/2026). This comes after careful consideration, and in light of the growing evidence of the impact smartphones are having on children.

We believe the best primary school environment is a smartphone-free one, for students, parents, and staff. The risks currently outweigh the benefits, for children, and we think it's best for our school community if we keep smartphones and smart devices off school grounds.

To get involved, you can:

- 1. Show your support.** Sign the [Smartphone Free Childhood pact here](#), and join the St Joseph's SFC WhatsApp community, where parents share tips and ideas to support each other. Please contact the office to be added to the St Joseph's SFC group, which is run by parents, not the school.
- 2. Give us feedback.** We want to hear from you, as parents and caregivers, about the best way to implement our goal. To engage, you can:
 - Contact Mr Maloney with your thoughts or questions.
 - Join the parents/caregivers' group to help advise us as we go. Let me know if you would like to be added to this group.



Sports Day

We had a fantastic sports day today! The children were amazing, showing great competitiveness and sportsmanship throughout the event. A huge thank you to Miss Vivian for organising such a successful and enjoyable day.



Message from FOSJ

Own clothes day – 11th July

In return for a bottle for the Summer Sizzler tombola, children can come to school in their own clothes on Friday 11th July. Please make sure you bring in a bottle for your child to take part - wine, beer, prosecco, soft drink etc - and place it to the right of the school office at the front entrance of the school. You'll have a chance to win back your bottle at the summer sizzler on Saturday 12th July - head to the tombola! One bottle per child please.

Thanks for your support.

Friends of St Joseph's

SATURDAY
July 12th
2pm - 5pm

ADMIT ONE

Summer Sizzler

BOUNCY CASTLE RAFFLE PENALTY SHOOT OUT
FACE PAINTING CRAZY HAIR BOOTH
GLITTER TATTOOS FREE ACTIVITY CORNER TOMBOLA
PRE-LOVED UNIFORM INFLATABLES BEAT THE GOALIE
CRAFTS SPLAT THE TEACHER ROCK PAINTING YO YO DECORATING

Market Stalls BBQ Bar Cakes, Donuts & Ice Creams

EARLY BIRD TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON !!

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



COACHING

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!

Prayer

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, for whom it is impossible not to have compassion on the afflicted, have pity on us miserable sinners and grant us the grace which we ask of you, through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, your tender Mother and ours.

Amen.

Sports day
Winners
1st Walsingham
2nd Fatima
3rd Aylesford
4th Lourdes

Chaplaincy team On Tuesday, I was lucky enough to accompany the Chaplaincy Team on a pilgrimage to Westminster Cathedral for the Festival of Hope celebration. We were joined by schools from all over the Westminster Diocese and were led in prayer by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. It was a wonderful way to celebrate this Jubilee Year of Hope.



Catering We have been made aware that some parents would like to share their feedback on the lunches provided by Aspens. We want the highest quality at the best value, and we welcome your thoughts. All comments received will be shared with Aspens to help inform ongoing improvements. The Governors will review this feedback at their meeting on 7th July please follow link: <https://forms.gle/vwTvusQnN2saAFx19>

Thank you for your continued support.

Have a great weekend!