



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through
Faith, Hope, and Love

Newsletter – Friday 16th January 2026

Welcome back to a brand new term. We hope you all enjoyed a joyful and restful Christmas break. On behalf of all the staff, a heartfelt thank you for the thoughtful cards and gifts we received, we had some lovely messages from parents - they were truly appreciated. Everyone is returning refreshed, energised, and excited for the learning, adventures, and opportunities the coming term will bring.

Year 5 Parents – Residential meeting

The letter came out earlier this week about the poll results and decision about the residential. Miss Gardiner has given a deadline for confirmation of places, please do respond by the deadline so that we can see if all children would like to go and if not, let you know what this will do to the cost of the trip. As we said at the meeting, if this trip puts a financial strain on your family, please do come and speak to us so that we can see what we can do to support you. We want all the children to be able to take part and enjoy this special extra-curricular activity. It is something that they will remember fondly for years to come.

Wellie Boot Shed



Thank you so much for your help with the wellies at the end of term. We collected 5 black bags full of wellies that were not taken home! If your child's wellies didn't come home, please let us know by the end of January - when they will be donated to Rosie de Leon's Wellie boot bank!

LOOK WHO'S TALKING! 2026

An Oracy Competition for Gloucestershire's Infant, Junior and Primary Schools

Look Whos Talking

Congratulations to the class finalists who shared their talks with the school last Friday. Congratulations to: Hebe, Bella, Henry, Sam, Una, Phoebe and Maddie. All of the children did a fantastic job, they spoke with such confidence – we were really proud of them all. I am so glad that I didn't have to choose the winners! But, the teachers discussed, debated and eventually decided on the winners.

Very well done to:

Upper KS2	Bella Sysum
Lower KS2	Sam Edmonds
KS1	Una Conway

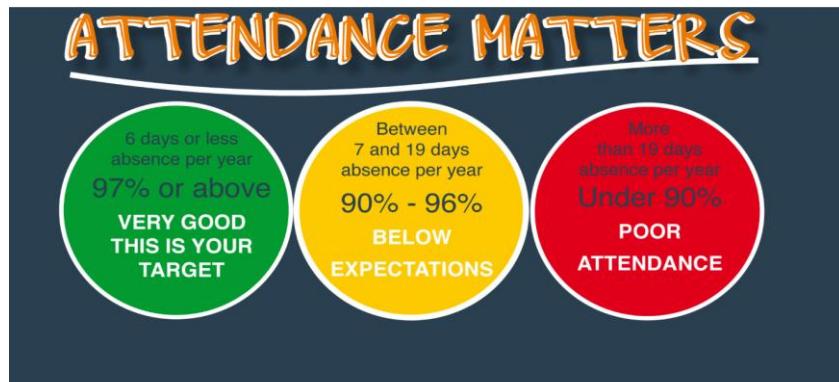
Reception are not included in the county round but we always include them in our class and school rounds because of the great opportunities this provides.

Story Time at the Convent



The story times at the convent were a popular event for Reception and Year 1 parents last term. We are still waiting to hear from the convent to see if they have a solution for their story teller on a Friday. As soon as we hear, we will let you know.

Attendance



We currently have 17 children whose attendance is below 90%. They are considered to be persistently absent and this will have an impact on the progress that they make at school. Parents will be being contacted during the next week to discuss this and to see what we can do to support them to improve their child's attendance.

Sporting News



Tomorrow is cross country race 3. I am looking forward to seeing you at the Rugby Club in the morning. Please can you remember to hand back your child's bib to us at the end of the race. The chips are really sensitive and can become easily damaged. Handing them back to us on the day is a way of making sure that we can keep them safe.

Due to the cancellation of the race last time, the next 2 race dates are:

Saturday 17th January

Saturday 7th February

thankyou

PTA News

The PTA were very busy in December, shopping, wrapping presents, selling raffle tickets. All in an effort to raise money and to support the experiences that the children get at school. This Christmas they:

Provided table cloths and crackers for the children at their Christmas Dinner

Shopped and organised Breakfast with Santa – including gifts for the children who did not attend the breakfast itself

Organised an amazing Christmas raffle – there were so many prizes that were won

Breakfast with Santa made £104.51 and the Christmas raffle made £958.00.

They are in the process of organising a school Disco and an Easter event.

We would like to thank them for all that they do, they are all working parents who give generously to our school in their limited free time.

It was disappointing to hear that before Christmas, they received some criticism and on one occasion inappropriate emails and confrontation over a misunderstanding.

As a catholic community, this is not in keeping with the values of our school or in line with our Parent Code of Conduct. If anyone has a problem I would ask them to speak to me about it rather than cause upset in our small school community.



Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you for your generosity - £121 was raised for Save the Children charity.

The Writing Framework

Following on from the Government's initiative The Reading Framework, promoting a love of reading, now comes The Writing Framework, which was published in July 2025.



Since the introduction of the Framework, we have been working hard to develop our writing curriculum, as it is important for children to see themselves as writers. Writing is an important but complex skill, and we want every child to feel confident and successful. With **faith in their potential, hope for their progress, and love for learning**, we are committed to building strong foundations for writing.

We also want to keep parents fully informed about what is happening in school to support this. Below is a simple summary of what the Writing Framework advises schools:

1. Start with the Basics

In Reception, handwriting and spelling should be taught so these skills become automatic. This frees up children's thinking for creative writing later on.

2. Build Strong Sentences

All writing is made up of sentences. Children should learn how to construct clear, meaningful sentences before moving on to longer pieces.

3. Talk Before Writing

Speaking and listening are just as important as writing. Children should plan and practise ideas aloud before putting them on paper.

4. Quality Over Quantity

Long pieces of writing should not be expected too soon. First, children need to master the foundations - handwriting, spelling, and sentence building.

5. Reception is Key

The Reception year lays the groundwork for writing success throughout primary school.

6. Extra Support When Needed

If a child needs more help, this should be identified early and extra time and practice provided to help them make good progress.

7. Step-by-Step Progress

Writing takes time to learn. The essentials should be taught first, and more complex skills introduced gradually.

8. Focus on Learning, Not Just Tests

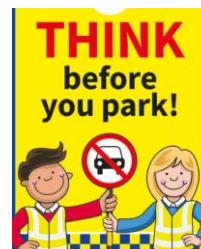
Too much test practice can limit creativity. The focus should be on developing confidence and skill in writing.

9. A Positive Writing Culture

Writing should be valued across the school, teachers well-trained, and the curriculum carefully planned.

Are you keeping our children safe?

The same concerns are being raised about the way that some parents are parking at drop off and pick up.



When you park, please consider the safety of the children that are walking into school with their parents. Consider whether your parking might:

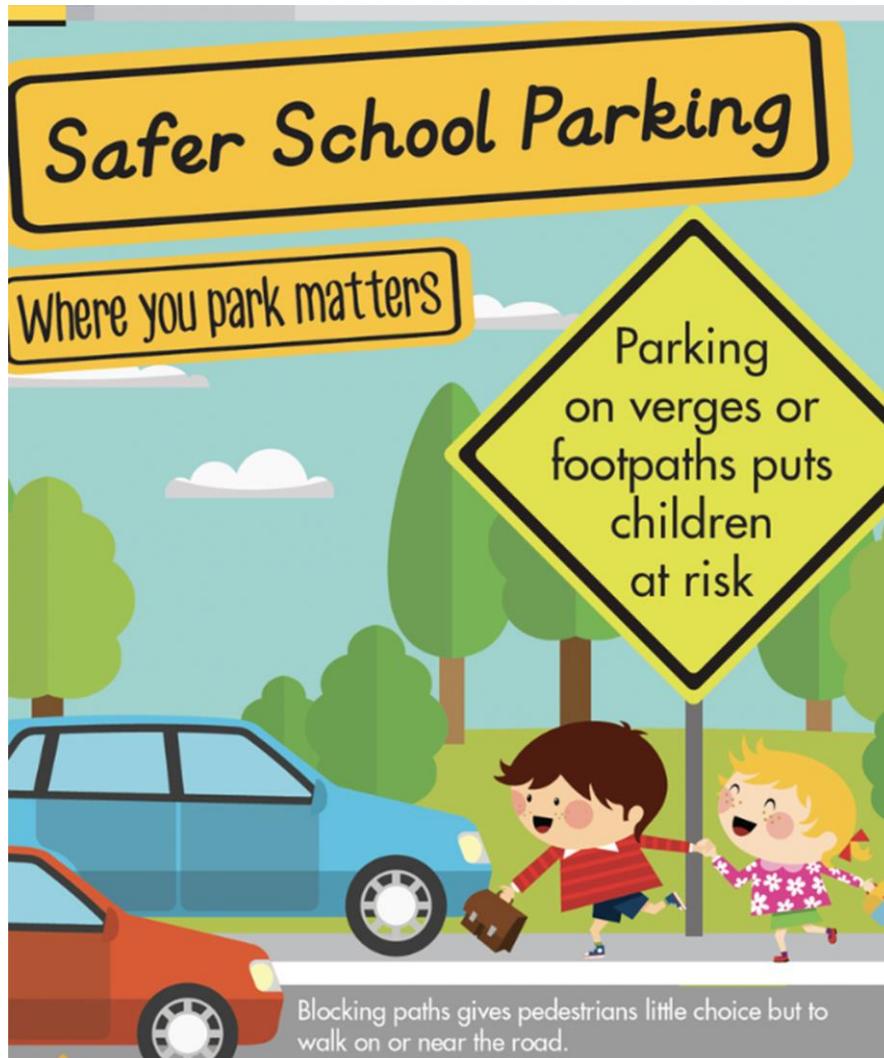
Stop one of our children walking safely along the pavement

Prevent one of our children from being able to safely cross the road

Block our neighbours on their drive, preventing them from leaving their home

Park on the yellow zig zags at the end of the school drive – it is illegal.

The village hall car park is a 3 minute walk away.....



LET US PRAY



Mass Schedule

Mass begins at 10am

Parents are warmly welcome to join their child's class when it is their turn to go to Mass. Please let the Admin Team know if you are able to come.

Thurs 22nd Jan – Year 6
Thurs 29th Jan – Year 5
Thurs 5th Feb – Year 4
Thurs 12th Feb – Year 3

Thursday 12th Feb - Lent Retreat

Half Term

Thurs 26th Feb – Year 2
Thurs 5th March – World Book Day
Thurs 12th March – Year 1
Thurs 19th March – St Joseph's Feast Day Mass – Whole School Mass
Thurs 26th March - Reception
Friday 27th March – 9.30am Stations of the Cross



January 2026

Just a reminder that you are able to access and see the focus for our Liturgies through the Ten Ten monthly Parent Newsletter.

This week's prayer is from



Dear God

Thank you for guiding us the right way and for helping us to love our neighbour as we do for ourselves

Help us to show human dignity to everybody no matter their wealth. Help us to show solidarity to everybody around us.

Guide us to follow in the footsteps of god and Jesus.

Help us to follow the beatitudes so we can have a happy life.

Guide us to follow the golden rule of "Do to others as you would have them do to you"

Amen

Prayer by Millie Trimble – Year 6

Dates for your



Spring Term 1 - January 2026

Saturday 17th - Cross country race
Wednesday 21st - Y5 and Y6 K'nex
Challenge 1-3pm

February 2026

Friday 6th - PTA disco
Saturday 7th - Last cross country race
and prize giving
Monday 9th - Children's Mental Health
Week
Tuesday 10th - Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th -
Parents Evening
Thursday 12th - Lent Retreat
Friday 13th Feb - Half Term ☺

Spring Term 2 - February 2026

WB 23rd Feb - Awe and Wonder week
Monday 23rd - PTA non-uniform for
Easter hampers
Thursday 26th - Parent Forum 9am - all
welcome

March 2026

Tuesday 3rd - In the Net - internet
safety play for Y4 - we are hosting
starts at 10am
Thursday 5th - World Book Day
WB 9th - Science Week
Monday 16th - last week of teacher led
clubs
Thursday 19th - St Joseph's Feast Day
Mass 9.30am
Sunday 22nd - PTA Easter event
Thursday 26th - House Singing
Competition
Friday 27th - Stations of the Cross
9.30am
Friday 27th - End of Term 1.30pm ☺