



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

Newsletter – Friday 30th January 2026

It has been a bright start to an exciting term, despite the very wet weather! Whilst you all received a letter from your child's class teacher along with a topic web for the term, it is always good to celebrate all of the additional opportunities that our children at St Joseph's receive.

This term is bursting with enriching opportunities that showcase the creativity, confidence and curiosity of our pupils. We're delighted to offer a wide range of *free* curriculum experiences that help every child discover new passions and develop their talents.

Year 3 and 4 pupils are already diving into an inspiring mix of activities — from energetic cricket sessions that are being run by Eric Woodmason from Forester cricket club and dynamic gymnastics with Mrs Dixon, to expressive singing lessons with Alex Robinson that have continued from last term. We have all been impressed with these lessons and what the children have learnt. Year 4 are also beginning their violin journey, embracing the challenge of learning a new instrument with enthusiasm. Don't forget, the children also have the opportunity to hire a violin from the local authority which will enable them to practise their skills at home.

Our Year 6 pupils have their own exciting pathways too, stepping into the world of justice through engaging mock trials, Gary Horscroft paid them a visit last week to explain what the trial would be like and to spark their enthusiasm for it. They have also been exploring the power of sound in their Music Tech lessons, I am looking forward to their compositions and the end results!

It's shaping up to be a term full of creativity, teamwork and new skills. We can't wait to see what our children achieve next!



KNEX Challenge 2026

Last week, Year 5 and 6 threw themselves into the Renishaw KNEX STEM Challenge 2026, and the excitement was infectious. Working in teams, pupils designed and built imaginative structures using KNEX, applying real engineering principles while developing problem-solving, resilience and teamwork. As part of the challenge, they created a mini factory designed to store products, complete with shelves and moving robots. Their ideas were inspired by fully automated Amazon warehouses, and each team demonstrated how the robotic element of their warehouse would operate, showcasing some brilliant creativity and technical thinking. The challenge encouraged them to think like young engineers — testing ideas, adapting designs and celebrating those brilliant "aha!" moments along the way. It was inspiring to see their determination shine. At the end of the afternoon there was a winning design; congratulations to Hebe and Marianne, who will go to Renishaw in the summer to compete against the winners of other local school where they will see how they

get on against this year's competition. Equally, well done to all of the children who used our school values throughout the afternoon working hard to be the best that they can be!

Parent's evenings Tuesday 10th February and Wednesday 11th February 2026

Our second parents evening is fast approaching. Your children love to show you their books and what they have been learning about. These evenings also gives you the opportunity to see their classroom so ideally you will all be able to come into school and look at your children's books. We obviously want to enable as many parents as possible to attend parents evening so if you need to request a telephone appointment please only do so if **absolutely necessary** by emailing the Admin Team. We also have the Scholastic Book Fair in school that week so it will give you the opportunity to look with your child if you would like to.

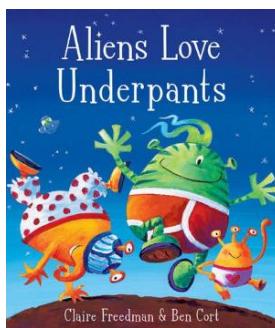
Just a few polite reminders:

- ✓ Please arrive at school before your appointment time
- ✓ Let me/Mrs Guoite know that you have arrived for your appointment
- ✓ Find your child/children's books and look through them
- ✓ The timings are managed from my laptop, parents will be called to go to their child's classroom for their appointment
- ✓ If you have finished looking at your child's books please take them to the classroom with you
- ✓ Alert the teacher to the fact that you are there by politely knocking on the classroom door
- ✓ Appointments are 10 minutes – please stick to your allotted time
- ✓ If you are late – your time with the class teacher will be reduced or we may need to re-arrange your appointment
- ✓ **Meetings are for parents only.** I am happy for your child to remain in the hall with me while you go to meet with their class teacher.

The booking system will go live at **9am this Saturday 31st January**. You will receive a link to book via eSchools. When booking your appointments, **please leave a 10 minute gap between** your children's appointments. This enables you to get to the next teacher on time and helps the evenings to run smoothly for our teachers.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that the evening runs smoothly for everyone.

Story Time at the Convent



We have a solution to the Story Time problem! Our lovely staff are happy to be put on a rota and will come and share some books with our Reception and Year 1 children – and any parents and younger siblings who are able to join us. I realise that we have missed January and February falls in half term but we will be back to it from March. The dates for the rest of the year are:

Friday 20th March

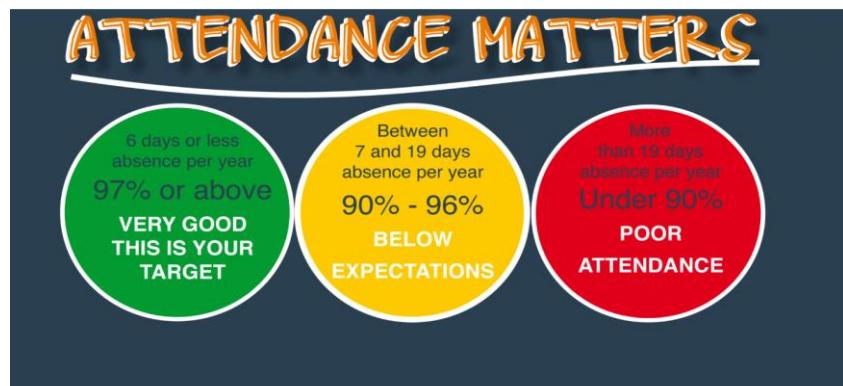
Friday 17th April

Friday 15th May

Friday 19th June

Friday 10th July

Attendance



Sporting News



We all enjoyed race 3 of cross country the other weekend. Whilst it wasn't raining on the day, the ground was certainly wet and slippery, with our senior racers splashing through water logged ground part way around their course. Our team did so well, despite the conditions, many achieving a personal best. Well done to all of our runners and a huge thank you to their parents for bringing them along and supporting the team. One more race to go - Saturday 7th February. Don't forget that the meet will take a bit longer as there are awards at the end.

thankyou
for all you do

PTA News

For those of you who were with us during COVID, you may or may not remember that the PTA bought all of the classes a visualizer. They were used a lot during that time to model enabling children to access the learning from home and school.

Visualizers have remained a much used tool for teaching and learning in the classrooms and at 5 years old, they are becoming temperamental!

We are really grateful to the PTA who have agreed to replace them in all of our classrooms – this will have a positive impact on the support that teachers provide for all of the children in their classes.

PTA Disco Friday 6th February – one of the most popular events with the children. The staff can't wait too. Don't forget to sign up and let the PTA know that your child/children will be coming.



This is an exciting term for our children who are preparing for their First Holy Communion. We are so lucky to have Syd Gwyer who has run the classes and prepared children for many years. This year she will be joined by Mrs Carr, with the plan of her taking over the classes in the future. Below is a reminder for parents of the children who will be attending.



Communion Programme – 2026

Classes will take place at St Joseph's School on Wednesday afternoons, 3-30pm to 4-15pm, term-time only.

25 th February	Introduction. Prayer
4th March	Glory to God in the highest
11th March	The word of the Lord
25th March	Bread to offer
1st April	Fruit of the vine
22nd April	Lord have mercy
29th April	Celebrating our rescue
6th May	God helps me get it right
13th May	Practice for Reconciliation
14 th May	Sacrament of Reconciliation - St. Joseph's Church After Mass at 10am. Parents welcome to attend.
20th May	Do this in memory of me
3rd June	Body of Christ
10 th June	Practice for Reception of Communion
13/14 th June	Communion Masses at:- St Joseph's – Saturday at 5.30pm St Dominic's – Sunday at 10.30am

We use the book "I Belong" published by Redemptorist Publications. You may join any class and would be especially welcome when your child receives the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will also be a celebration after the Communion Masses. Any queries, please contact me by email on smgwyer@btinternet.com

Many thanks to Fr Philip and the Staff at the School for their help and support.

PANCAKES on Shrove Tuesday at St Dominic's Church Hall, Dursley from 4.00pm-5.30pm. Pay on the door - £5 adults and £2.50 children. Tea and coffee, soft drinks included.





Bookings are now live for the OOSC Easter Holiday Club. The Club will be available on: Tuesday 31st March, Wednesday 1st April and Thursday 2nd April, 8.30am to 5pm at the bargain price of £29 a day or all three days £82.65. Get in quick to secure your child/ren's places now!

Easter holiday club 2026

Time	Pirate day! Tuesday 31 st March	Art and baking day! Wednesday 1 st April	Easter day! Thursday 2 nd April
8.30am – 9.00am	Free play	Free play	Free play
9.00am – 10.00am	Wooden treasure chests	Clay making	Easter bonnets
10.00am – 11.00am	Pirate cupcakes	Free play	Free play
11.00am – 12.00pm	Free play	Create your own masterpiece	Easter nests
12.00pm – 1.00pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Pirate hats	Cake making	Wooden Easter craft
2.00pm – 3.00pm	Swords	Hama beads	Egg hunt
3.00pm – 4.00pm	Scratch art magnets	Biscuit making	Window decoration
4.00pm – 5.00pm	free play	free play	free play
5.00pm	Home time	Home time	Home time

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 5th Feb –Year 4
Thurs 12th Feb –Year 3

Thursday 12th Feb - Lent Retreat
at 1.15pm

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
– 9.30am Whole School
Thurs 26th March - Reception
Friday 27th March – Stations of the Cross 10am



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 Reception who have been thinking about what we should be thankful for:

Thank you for letting us see rainbows
Elara
Thank you for all the animals I love them
Fearne
I love all the friends and families you made
for us
Rosie
Thank you for our buddies
Pippa
Thank you for a new house
Teddy
Thank you for making the world for us
Charles



Dates for your

Spring Term 1 - February 2026

Friday 6th to Wed 11th - Scholastic Book Fair in the hall after school until 4pm

Friday 6th - PTA disco 6.00pm-7.30pm

Saturday 7th - Last cross country race and prize giving

Monday 9th - Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 10th - Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 10th - Lego Club finishes for this term

Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th - Parents Evening (NO COOKERY CLUB)

Thursday 12th - Lent Retreat at 1.15pm - parents/grandparents very welcome to join us - please let the Admin Team know

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

Wednesday 18th March - NO COOKERY CLUB

Thursday 19th - St Joseph's Feast Day Mass 9.30am

Friday 20th - Story time at the Convent 8.40am

Sunday 22nd - PTA Easter event

Tuesday 24th - Y6 Skillzone trip PM

Thursday 26th - House Singing Competition

Friday 27th - Stations of the Cross 9.30am

Friday 27th - End of Term 1.30pm ☺