



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

## Newsletter – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2026

### Welcome Back

It is wonderful to see our St Joseph's family reassemble when children returned to school after six weeks away. They quickly began building the relationships with their new teachers which will sustain them through the next year, and re-establishing themselves in the safety of old friendships and settled routines. It was amazing to hear them speak both of their holidays and of their joy in being back in school. For those who work in school, it was a powerful reminder after a summer planning and preparing that we are called to serve your children, and that we are privileged to be part of each of their lives.

We were especially honoured to share the first school days of Reception with our new cohort and their families. It is amazing to think that each of them will grow and learn here, and leave able to shape their lives and world in a way they could not even understand now.

The start of a new school year gives every child the chance to look ahead, aim high and imagine what they might achieve. We have been encouraging the children to recognise the strengths that each has, and to think about where those strengths might take them. At the same time, we know that making those aspirations reality requires small steps every day, inspired and guided by their teachers, and with the confidence and resilience to keep going to reach their goal. We all look forward to seeing where your children's journey takes them this year.

I would like to end by thanking all of you who have welcomed me so warmly into the community I am now privileged to lead. This special place on the hill remains a place where children lead us in building a community based on learning, love, and listening. I look forward to getting to know more of you over the coming weeks, both at our drop-in sessions and through conversations on the gate.

### SAFEGUARDING ANNOUNCEMENT- Mobile Phones and Smartwatches

Recent changes to the statutory rules we follow to safeguard children have highlighted the risks of recording devices of any kind around young children, and properly demand that such devices are no longer used by adults within recording distance of very young children in our care.

The use of mobile phones (or recording on smartwatches) is therefore no longer appropriate within sight of the school, and certainly not within school grounds. Please could you finish calls before collecting children and keep phones out-of-sight until away from school premises. **Anyone using a phone on school grounds will be challenged and asked to stop, as will anyone recording on a smartphone.**

Children's smartwatches will be treated as phones if they have visual and audio recording facilities, and we would ask that they not be sent to school unless necessary. If they are, they should be stored for safekeeping in the office.

## Attendance

As someone whose own life was transformed by the power of a good education, I feel passionately that children need to be in school whenever possible. We will do everything we reasonably can to help every child attend regularly: offering support when there are barriers, working alongside families when things are difficult and, where necessary, using the formal measures available to us. This matters because in school is where we have the opportunity to change lives.

We work hard to make sure there is something good for every child in every day they spend with us. It might be time at break with friends, something new understood, a joke shared, a skill developed or a connection made. We also work hard to create the security that comes from familiar routines, relationships and calmness. Every day missed means missing some of these small acts of community that nurture and bind us. Academically, repeated absence also creates gaps in learning which can become increasingly difficult to close. What can seem like occasional days missed have been proven, over time, to make a significant difference to a child's wellbeing and education.

For this reason, I am hugely committed to supporting any child or family who is struggling with attendance. We will listen, help where we can, work with other services where appropriate, and make sure that children returning after absence are welcomed back with care and love. Please speak to us early if something is making regular attendance difficult: asking for help will always be better than allowing a problem to grow.

At the same time, children this young depend on the adults who care for them to get them to school. We therefore have a responsibility both to support families and to challenge absence when it becomes a concern. Where absence is persistent or avoidable, and support is not helping get a child to school, I will not hesitate to use the formal attendance procedures and statutory measures available to the school. Not to do so would be to fail some children I have responsibility for.

Our purpose in doing so is the same as our purpose in offering support: to ensure that every child receives the education, relationships and opportunities they deserve. We are here for your child, and we cannot serve and educate your child unless they are here.

## Drop off and pick up

We are aware that the car park the Rose and Crown generously lend us is not fully adequate given the numbers of families who travel by car to our school. When parking elsewhere, please can we ensure we do so safely, and in ways which guarantee the communities we share this village with can access its beauty and amenities safely.



*Interpretations of St Joseph by American Catholic liturgical artist Ade Bethune (1914 – 2002)*

## What to wear

The following summarises the days children should wear uniform of PE kit.



| YEAR GROUP | MONDAY                                                                                      | TUESDAY                                                                                     | WEDNESDAY                                                                                   | THURSDAY                                                                                      | FRIDAY                                                                                       |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| YEAR 6     |  PE KIT    |  UNIFORM   |  UNIFORM   |  UNIFORM   |  PE KIT   |
| YEAR 5     |  PE KIT    |  UNIFORM   |  UNIFORM   |  UNIFORM   |  PE KIT   |
| YEAR 4     |  UNIFORM |  PE KIT  |  UNIFORM |  UNIFORM |  PE KIT |
| YEAR 3     |  UNIFORM |  PE KIT  |  UNIFORM |  UNIFORM |  PE KIT |
| YEAR 2     |  UNIFORM |  PE KIT  |  UNIFORM |  UNIFORM |  PE KIT |
| YEAR 1     |  UNIFORM |  PE KIT  |  UNIFORM |  UNIFORM |  PE KIT |
| RECEPTION  |  UNIFORM |  UNIFORM |  PE KIT  |  UNIFORM |  PE KIT |

## Weather Preparedness

We are proud of the way REACH activities and guaranteed outdoor learning enrich our children's lives. These activities occur in all weathers and, while we make accommodation for extreme weather, most 'normal' British weather can be coped with if children have the right equipment. **Please ensure children have wellies, a waterproof coat and sun hat in school so they can participate fully.**

## Accessorising Uniform

A reminder as we return that in addition to correct clothing, all children with hair below shoulder length, boys and girls, should have their hair tied back in school. Make up, false nails, wrist bands, tattoos and colourfully dyed hair are not the means we wish children to express their personalities with in school.