



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

Newsletter – Friday 13th February 2026

As we reach the end of this half term, it's hard not to notice just how much wet weather we have battled through together! Despite the rain, the children have continued to shine — showing resilience, enthusiasm, and a wonderful commitment to their learning. Our staff, too, have worked tirelessly to ensure that each child feels supported, encouraged, and inspired every day.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to every member of our school community — children, staff, and families — for your hard work, dedication, and the way you continually strive to be the very best you can be. Your efforts truly bring to life the values at the heart of our Catholic school.

I hope you all enjoy a restful and refreshing half term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for Spring Term 2, ready for new learning, new opportunities, and hopefully some finer weather as we move closer to Spring!

Parent's Evenings

The staff enjoyed parent's evenings this week, sharing the progress your children have made. Thank you all for helping them to run on time and respecting the 10 minute appointments.

If you have any concerns at all about your child, please do speak to their class teacher who are available on the playground at the end of the school day.

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you all so much for your support with buying books for your children from the Scholastic Book Fair. For a small school we did so incredibly well. The fair sales were £945.98 and we receive 50% rewards. So Mrs Knight has over £450 to spend on books that will go into your child/ren's classes.



Staffing Update

We are delighted with the interviews that took place this week and the quality of the candidates that we saw. We have appointed Mrs Lewis and Mrs Bennett who will be joining us in Spring Term 2.



Attendance

Class teacher shared with parents their children's attendance during parent's evenings. Obviously, if your child is ill, they cannot come to school. However, it is important to remember the impact that absenteeism and how quickly time in school leads to gaps in learning. Thank you for ensuring that your child attends school unless they are too unwell to be with us.

Sporting News



A team of 8 children took part in the Year 5/6 swimming Gala last week. The children smashed their races winning 12 out of 16 races! Everyone listened well to instructions and asked questions afterwards if they were unclear. The children were supportive of their team mates and of children from other schools, and it was lovely to see them all working together and encouraging each other. Taking part in any sporting event requires resilience, confidence and high expectations; and these qualities were all displayed by our children at the gala. Miss Gardiner and Mrs Wooldridge were so proud of the children that they took. Thank you to Amberlee, Austin, Ella W, Finn, Hebe, Marianne, Marmaduke and Thomas for representing our school so well. Thank you also to Miss Gardiner and Mrs Wooldridge for taking the children and enabling this event to happen!

Cross country – what a final race – I can't imagine a wetter and muddy race for the children, yet they all did their very best and ran so well. All of the children who ran well and truly deserved their finishing medal.

The overall results of the league are as follows:

Junior Girls – 1st place, Junior boys 2nd place

Individually Edward Artz was place 3rd in the Senior Boys category and has also been selected to run for the County – congratulations Edward!

Overall, we were placed 3rd! That is a great achievement for all of the children because we were competing against large schools. We are all so very proud of our children for their resilience and commitment to the team.

I would like to thank Mr Amigoni for his time and commitment to training the children every week, whatever the weather and to Mrs Knight also for supporting this club and the Saturday races.

 *thank you* 
for all you do

PTA News

The PTA Disco was a great success once again. The children had a great time. Thank you so much to the PTA for their hard work in organising this event and to all of the parents who supported in different ways, making cakes to sell, manning stalls etc. I would also like to thank the teachers who joined us to support the event. The evening raised an amazing £813!



The first day back after half term Monday 23rd February is a non-uniform day in exchange for a gift for the PTA Easter Hampers. More information on raffle tickets next term.

Children's Mental Health Week



This week has been Children's Mental Health week. The theme this year was 'This is my Place' and all of the children have taken part in activities focusing on belonging. The children in KS2 have also taken part in the county survey – we look forward to seeing the results when they come back into school.

Internet Safety Day

It's been a busy week! It has also been safer internet day too! The children have taken part in a variety of activities across the school this week at an appropriate level.

It is just a reminder too that it is so important that as parents you are fully aware of what your child is accessing and when. Staff are often concerned when children share platforms that they are accessing at home and what they may be exposed to. Useful support and guidance for parents can be found here [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Safer
Internet
Day 2026 | Tuesday
10 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

Lent Retreat

I was very sorry to have missed the Lent retreat yesterday, although I hear as usual it was a lovely reflective afternoon. Our Chaplaincy Team did a fabulous job of leading the stations in the classrooms, supported and prepared by Mrs Barron. I would like to thank the children for their commitment to leading us all in our faith. I would also like to thank Mrs Barron, for all of her hard work in preparing the children for the afternoon and to the staff who supported the event. As we move into the season of Lent, preparing for Easter a time of thinking of others.

It was nice to hear that the event was supported by some parents, I hope that you enjoyed your afternoon.

The
Season
of
Lent



OFSTED UPDATE

A quick guide to the new Ofsted report cards

Ofsted has recently changed how it reports the outcomes of school inspections, with parents and carers in mind. The new approach is designed to give a **clearer and more balanced picture** of what is working well in a school and where there may be areas to improve.

Ofsted has created a short video illustrating the new 'Report Card' system for parents & carers which we recommend you watch:

[Click here to watch Ofsted's explainer video](#)

What's changed?

Schools are no longer given **one overall judgement** such as *Outstanding* or *Good*. Instead, inspection outcomes are shown on a **report card**, with **separate colour-coded grades** for key areas of school life, including:

- Attendance and behaviour
- Achievement
- Personal development and wellbeing
- Inclusion (how well the school meets the needs of all pupils)
- Curriculum and teaching
- Leadership and governance

Safeguarding is also reported clearly as either **"met"** or **"not met"**.

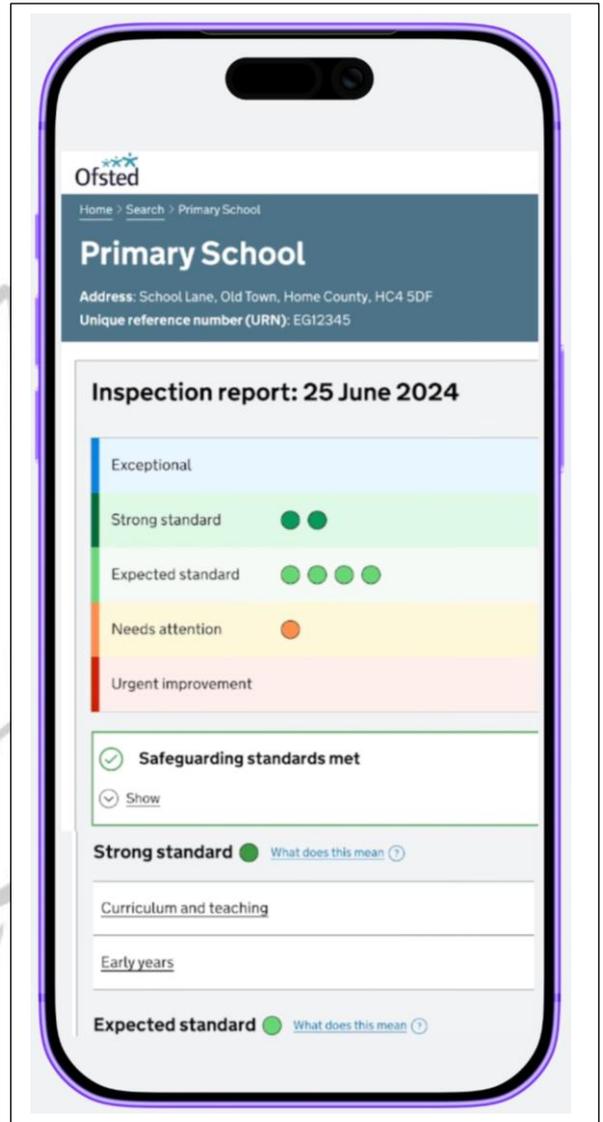
Understanding the grades

Each area is graded using a **new scale**:

- **Exceptional**
- **Strong standard**
- **Expected standard**
- **Needs attention**
- **Urgent improvement**

An **expected standard** is a high bar and means the school is doing everything it should be doing for pupils.

Grades above this recognise excellent or exceptional practice and carries an expectation for the school to share its best practice with other schools.



A grade of **needs attention** is *not* a failure – it highlights areas that need focus before problems grow. It is entirely normal for a school to be stronger in some areas than others and it is becoming common for many schools to have areas that need attention due to the changing expectations on schools nowadays.

What parents will see

Alongside the grades, report cards also include **clear, detailed explanations** of what inspectors found and what it is like to be a pupil at the school, helping parents understand the full picture.

What this means for our school

For our school, this new approach means inspections focus more clearly on the **day-to-day experience of pupils**, rather than a single headline judgement. It allows us to celebrate strengths in specific areas, while being open and transparent about where we are continuing to improve. Most importantly, it helps parents see **how we support children's learning, wellbeing and inclusion**, and reassures families that high expectations remain at the heart of our work.



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 26 th Feb – Year 2 Thurs 12 th March –Year 1 Thurs 19 th March – St Joseph's Feast Day – Whole School Mass at 9.30am	Thurs 26 th March - Reception Friday 27 th March – Stations of the cross – parents welcome AM time TBC
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February 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 Year 3 who wrote a prayer about community and participation:

Dear God,

Thank you for bringing us together,
united as a community,
We thank you for our school community
and all the fun things we do,
We thank you for the community of our
families, who keep us safe,
We thank you for the community of our
friends, who love and support us.
Amen.



Dates for your



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

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 AM

**Friday 27th - End of Term
1.30pm ☺**