



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

Newsletter – Friday 23rd October 2026

It seems only a moment ago that we began the year in the warmth of summer, and now the mists and rain have arrived and our first half term together has come to an end. I am incredibly proud of how well your children have settled, the relationships they have built and, above all, how hard they have worked. Through the time they have spent in school we have learned about their likes, lives and what truly excites them. These strong personal relationships, alongside the academic work and assessments completed this half term, mean we know each of your children so much better. We look forward to helping them grow and flourish through the year, supporting each to learn at the best pace for them: as fast as they are able, and as slowly as they need to.

It has also been a real pleasure getting to know so many of our parents and families, whether at the school gate, Parents' Evenings, coffee mornings or other events. Our Harvest Festival was a wonderful way to end the half term, bringing our whole school community together in gratitude and using what we have to make a difference to others.

As I look back on these first weeks, I feel enormously proud of all that we have achieved together and deeply grateful for the trust placed in me to lead this very special school. I hope every child, family and member of staff has a restful and well-deserved half-term break.

Attendance This half term, your children have attended an amazing 9,426 individual sessions of school. That's 9,426 mornings and afternoons packed with opportunities to learn, grow, spend time with friends and make memories. I have really appreciated the efforts parents and carers make every day to get children into school, particularly when mornings are not easy. We will continue to monitor attendance carefully and work alongside families where there are barriers, offering support and practical help wherever we can. Where necessary, we will also take the other appropriate steps available to us to ensure that every child has access to the education each of them deserves. Thank you for working with us to make every session matter.

Mrs Hill Mrs Chelsey Hill is leaving us at the end of this week. She has made a huge difference to so many children in school during her time here, as well as being a cherished part of our school family. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours. She will always have a place in our hearts here at St Joseph's and is always welcome back if she wishes to visit her St Joe's family.

Harvest We were able to offer practical help and comfort to many families with our Harvest donation to Stroud foodbank. A big thank you to Leah Wilson for delivering our collection to the foodbank.

Cross Country Thank you to the adults who gave up time to train and support our cross-country runners on Sunday. The children did us proud, each of them absolutely trying their best, and many making top ten finishes.

PTA Events The PTA generously gave their time to arrange a cake sale and raise over £100 for the school - a huge thank you to them. Thank you too to everyone who provided cakes. The PTA AGM is on Tuesday 3rd November at 7pm - all parents welcome. The next event is a disco on Friday 20th November. Please mark the date, as children are always keen to attend.

Parking There have been several complaints from local residents that driveways and junctions have been blocked by parents parking to collect their children, meaning people have been unable to leave their houses for appointments. We appreciate parking is not easy, but please do consider the needs of our neighbours when choosing a parking space.

Diary Dates A full list of confirmed and likely events for the year is available at [Diary Dates 2026-2027](#)

FIRST WEEK BACK

WEDNESDAY
Stroud Literary Festival begins

9am
Parents
Parent Forum

THURSDAY
10am
Year 3 and all communicants
Mass
 (Holy Day of Obligation)

FRIDAY
Years 3 and 4
NSSP
 National School Singing Project

Literary festival events *in school* will run on the Thursday and Friday, when children will be able to speak to authors virtually about their books and how they work.

There is a **PTA AGM on Tuesday at 7pm**. Please attend if you would like to support the PTA in the next year. The PTA raises spirits and money for the school though fundraising events. It is different to the Parent Forum

PE KIT DAYS

Wear your PE kit on the days shown below.
On other days, wear your school uniform.

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	UNIFORM	UNIFORM	PE KIT	PE KIT
YEAR 3	UNIFORM	UNIFORM	UNIFORM	PE KIT	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



DAY	LUNCHTIME	AFTER SCHOOL YEARS 1 AND 2	AFTER SCHOOL YEARS 3, 4, 5, 6	MUSIC LESSONS
MONDAY	 D&D/Warhammer Painting	 Cookery (Year 1)	 History - How Women Won the Vote (Years 5 and 6 from week 2) and Learning for Peace	 Drums
TUESDAY	 Chess	 Kids with Bricks	 With the Ball	 Piano
WEDNESDAY	 Choir	 Stop Motion	 Cross Country	 Violin
THURSDAY	 Football and Reading Club			 Guitar
FRIDAY	 Football and Disco			

We will continue to offer lunchtime football when the field is usable but please be aware we may cancel if needed. Children will increasingly need wellies to play.

Kids with Bricks will not restart until 17th November.

If any pupil in Years 5 and 6 would like to join Dr Johnson's **History Club** please sign up at the school office.

Children are welcome to bring paints or models into **Warhammer Club**, but these will be kept in the school office for safety. Models and Paints will be provided for others.