



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

Newsletter – Friday 10th July 2026

As I write my final newsletter as Headteacher of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, I do so with immense gratitude, pride and affection. It has been a privilege to serve this wonderful school community, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has played a part in making St Joseph's such a special place. To our dedicated staff team – teachers, teaching assistants, office staff, kitchen staff and support staff – thank you for your unwavering commitment, care and professionalism, your willingness to go over and beyond in all that you do, collectively we put the children at the heart of our decisions. A special thank you goes to Mark Barron for all of the hard work that goes into managing and maintaining our school site, ensuring it remains a safe, welcoming and inspiring environment for all. His skills and talents can be seen all around the school, generally marked by a wooden mouse. Most importantly, thank you to our fantastic children for living out our REACH values and striving each day to be the very best they can be. Your enthusiasm, kindness, resilience and achievements have been the greatest joy of my time here. Finally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our parents and families for your continued support, encouragement and constructive feedback. The partnership between home and school is essential and instrumental in helping our children flourish. Together, we have built a community rooted in faith, hope, love and aspiration, and I leave with many treasured memories and a deep confidence in St Joseph's bright future.

Anxious parents

We were delighted to host Educational Psychologist, Emma Bowler, to deliver an informative workshop on Understanding Anxiety. The session explored what anxiety is, why it occurs, and how it can affect children as well as the role of the adult. Emma explained that while anxiety is a normal human response that helps keep us safe, some children may experience levels of worry that impact their daily lives, learning, and wellbeing.

The workshop provided valuable insights into recognising changes in behaviour, physical symptoms, avoidance of certain situations, and difficulties with emotional regulation. Attendees also gained practical strategies to support children, such as helping them identify and talk about their feelings, building resilience, establishing predictable routines, and encouraging gradual exposure to challenging situations.

We have received really positive feedback from the parents who were able to attend and suggestions to support more parents to attend too.

We would like to thank Emma for sharing her expertise and helping us further strengthen our approach to supporting our pupils' emotional wellbeing.

$$\text{Anxiety} = \frac{\text{Awfulness of outcome} \times \text{Likelihood of it happening}}{\text{Coping ability} + \text{Rescue opportunities}}$$

Transition meetings

Over the last few weeks the teachers have met with parents of children who are on a my plan. They have shared my plan reviews and targets for the autumn, ensuring that the transition between classes goes as smoothly as possible. I would like to thank the teachers for their flexibility in making appointments around the school day to accommodate all of the parents of children in their current and future classes.

Health Week

What another incredible Health Week the children have enjoyed this week. The weather has been warm, but careful management and planning has enabled the week to go ahead. I would like to thank everyone for their efforts that have supported this, including the parents who lent us their gazebos!

There are so many people to thank! Mrs Ponting and Mrs Daly for co-ordinating and planning the week, Mrs Wooldrige, Mr Neville, Mrs Hitchen, Ms Allen, Mrs Smee, Mrs Montgomery, Mrs Shipton and Mr Stevenson for giving up their time to come into school and run sessions for each year group. Mrs Jenkins and the School Council team made 160 smoothies which raised £110.14. Thank you for all your hard work.

The children have been privileged to be involved in: the daily mile, dance fitness, football, speed and reaction testing, Pilates/wellness, science and kinesiology – learning how the body reacts in different situations.

Sports Day was its usual success – congratulations to Kestrels! I would like to thank all of the staff for their support in ensuring that the day ran smoothly, the parents who joined us to help out, the PTA for serving refreshments all afternoon and especially Mr Amigoni for being our race starter once again!

They have also had a swim safety assembly, taken part in a water aid walk organised by Mrs Gasan and the Eco Committee, worked together to achieve the Read with Me sponsored 10k and taken part in a West End workshop with Jon-Scott Clark. This theatre workshop was funded by Sports Premium money (this extra funding is ending next year). The workshop was brilliant and all who took part – children and staff had so much fun.

What an incredible week of activities, all at no cost to parents. We are so lucky to have staff who spend time researching and planning different experiences/opportunities for our children at St Joseph's.

Read with Me – Sponsored 10k

Thank you to all of the parents who have supported the children with the Read with Me sponsored event this week. We are so grateful that we have the support from the readers, who are well trained and come into school weekly to support our children. This is a really good opportunity to support them in the great work that they do in securing and training volunteers and making a difference to children who need the extra support. There is still time to return your sponsorship money or you can pay direct online.



Miss Dury has been creating a reel of the week to share with you – look out for that next week!

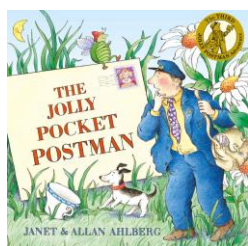
Useful information about SEND for parents

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) lead the way with their research and guiding and shaping education in many areas. They have just released a report on the identification of SEND and address some common misunderstanding for parents which some parents may find helpful.

OOSC

As a reminder, the OOSC AGM is taking place on 13th July at 6pm. Please find the link here to join the meeting [OOSC AGM](#)

Story Time at the Convent



We had our last Story Time at the Convent today. What a well supported event this has been. I would like to thank the staff and children who stepped up and read throughout the year, enabling this to continue. As it has proved to be so popular, I have added it to the diary dates for next year. I am sure that it will continue to be enjoyed and well supported as it has been this year.



Attendance

Disappointingly, another child has been added to the persistently absent tracker this week. There are now 14 children on the tracker.

2 children were PA, recovered their attendance and moved out of this category. Unfortunately, they have had more days off and have dropped below 90% attendance again they are PA again. 5 children on the tracker are red – their attendance has not improved, they have had more time off so in fact it has got worse which means that only 4 children have made an improvement to their attendance. I know that it is the end of the year, but poor attendance does have a significantly detrimental effect on those children. Please ensure that your child comes to school unless they are ill.

As you know, our attendance is reported and tracked by the DFE. Their most recent report continues to highlight Year 1 as a year group where significant improvement needs to be made for attendance.

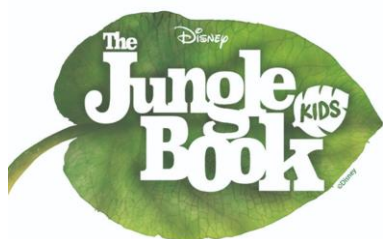
Our PA children make up 10.1% - this is alarmingly high for a school like St Joseph's.

Attendance on Mondays was 95.1%, lower than at least a quarter of similar schools.

Attendance on Thursdays was 95.8%, lower than at least a quarter of similar schools.

So the question is – why is attendance at St Joseph's lower on a Monday and Thursday? What can you do to make sure that your child is not included in the deficit data?

Jungle Book



What a fantastic performance from our children last week. Every Year 6 child stood out in some way for their fantastic performances. The Year 5 children did a fantastic job too, what an amazing volume they produced when singing, for such a small number of children. The clarity and confidence in the children as they delivered their lines, knowing every move, the seamless movement all around and the attention to detail – what a great final performance at St Joseph's.

I am truly grateful to Sarah, who decided at the start of the

year she would not be coming back to St Joseph's, she was going to take her business in a different direction. However, on hearing that I was retiring, and that Mrs Knight had chosen Jungle Book, she agreed to come back, work with Mrs Knight and our children for one last time.

I don't think you can underestimate the benefits for the children of being involved in a production like this, being part of something so successful. The confidence that they gain has the potential to lead them onto other opportunities when they move onto secondary school. How lovely that this year our Year 5's were given the opportunity to get a little touch of the Dazzle experience!

I would like to thank everyone involved in making this such a fantastic end of year production for the children, Sarah, Mrs Knight, Mrs Pickering, Mrs Wooldrige (costume maker and face paints) and Mrs Mydlowski (face paints). Thank you all – so very much!

PTA News



Thank you once again for the parents who supported the quiz at The Old Fox on Monday – to Jo Smee and Claire Wooldridge who ran the night. It's always a good event – some tricky rounds this time Mrs Smee! The event raised a great £374.00.

Thank you to Alexa, Naomi and Rachel for providing refreshment throughout the afternoon at Sports Day – this was much appreciated by all! This event raised £286.00, there are still some parents who need to make payment for the ice creams/drinks etc Please can you make sure you pay asap.

There are 2 more events to go– it is the last ice cream sale tonight and the PTA will be serving refreshments at the school picnic.

I would like to thank the PTA, past and current for all of their hard work and the money that they have raised. They have supported the school to enhance the provision and opportunities for all of the children and families at St Joseph's, from new blinds for the hall, film on some of the windows, upgrading the tables in all of the classrooms, contributing to reduce the cost of trips for parents, the EYFS environment, much play equipment, the outside speaker, the new signage for the play zones, games for check mate club....and so much more. Thank you also to the parents who have supported them, enabling them to run

events and attending them – it is an important part of our school community – and benefits all the children here at St Joseph's.

The things that they are currently raising funds for are: more reflective film for Year 3, 4 and 5, a giant sandpit which is planned to go by the clamber stack on the field, and the final few tables for Year 6 next year.

I am so grateful for all of the extra things that you have funded and that have benefitted the children in my time at St Joseph's – thank you.



Open Gardens

Last Sunday the Bidwell Family once again opened their gardens in Nympsfield to the public and Lucy Watts was asked if she could support by running the tea and cakes at the event once again. Lucy accepted the offer and with the support of Abbie Wand produced an amazing amount of cakes and scones for the afternoon. The event was really successful and a sell out! They raised an amazing £1100, which will go towards improving the opportunities for children. I would like to thank them so much for the huge amount of time, effort and work that went into raising this for the school.

Photo Consent

It was really disappointing to receive several concerns raised by parents after Sports Day that despite politely asking parents not to film, some parents continued to do so. To be really clear – we do not have consent from several parents and for many different reasons; more often than not to safeguard a child's identity. By ignoring this request there is the potential for a child to become vulnerable. Please respect the wishes of other parents and consider the safety of some of our children.



Mass
Schedule

Thursday 16th July – Whole School Leavers' Mass at 9.30am



July 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 prayers are written by:
Jess and Atticus**

Dear God

Help me to always follow your word and never stop believing in you. Help our governors to make the right choices. Thank you for supporting our school. Amen

Dear God

We are sorry for our mistakes. We will all make up for them. Thank you for our food, water and gifts we are given in all our hearts. We love you. Amen



Dates
for your



WB 13th - Week of Awe and Wonder

Tuesday 14th - Whole School picnic - Y6 Make £5 Grow stalls and other stalls

Wednesday 15th - Music concert 2.30pm - if your child has lessons with Mrs Mason, Mrs Thomas or Mr Tuttle they have been asked to perform and hopefully have been practising at home

Thursday 16th - Leavers' Mass 9.30am

Friday 17th - Leavers' assembly 9am

Friday 17th - Schools out for summer at 1.30pm

September 2026

Tuesday 1st - INSET day

Wednesday 2nd - INSET day

Thurs 3rd - EYFS new parents Tea and Chat in the hall 9.00am

Y6 LEAVERS MASS AT CLIFTON CATHEDRAL

