



19<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,



**Thought of the Week**

November is a time for remembering and praying for our loved ones who have passed away. We also remember the soldiers who fought bravely and lost their lives during the wars. Every year, the school community unites to ensure that no one is forgotten and to remember and honour those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom.



**FIFA World Cup**

To celebrate the start of the World Cup, we had a non-uniform day and a penalty shoot-out. By the end of the day, Mr Tannian was exhausted as he was in goal. On Monday, we will be watching the first England game together. Come on England! As Year 4 are on a school trip, they will watch it together on catch-up, on Tuesday.



**Headteacher's awards**

Well done to Ronni, Shealun and Amelia for their outstanding work and effort. Each child received a Headteacher's Award. Well deserved too.



**Foundation1**

In RE, Foundation 1 have been learning about baptism through role play. They all had a wonderful time.



**Foundation 2**

The Foundation 2 Class have been making long and short snakes out of multi-link cubes in mathematics. They had great fun.



**Year 1**

In RE, Year 1 have been learning about the time when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary.



**Year 2**

In PE, Year 2 have been making up their own dances linked to their history topic, which is the Great Fire of London. Well done, Year 2.



**Year 3**

In RE, the Year 3 class have been learning about other faiths. This term, they have been learning about Judaism.



### Year 4

Are you looking for new shoes? Then look no further, as the Year 4 pupils have been designing Roman sandals as part of their design and technology topic. I suspect the sandals will sell out quickly, as they were all amazing.



### Year 5

In science, Year 5 have been finding out which materials are electrical conductors.



### Year 6

Year 6 went on a geography field trip to Hudnell Park to investigate and explore the River Gade. Here they are writing up their final reports.



### Parents & Friends Association (PFA) Christmas Present Appeal

If you have any unwanted gifts/toiletries, please send them to the school office for our Christmas shop. During December, the children will have the chance to visit the Christmas shop and buy a gift for their parents at a small cost. All money raised will go towards our new 'home' reading books fund. We will require volunteers to help wrap up presents; therefore, please contact the School Office if you are available to help at any point during December.

### Times Tables Rock Stars

I am reminding all parents about our fabulous, interactive homework programme. By the end of Year 4, all pupils should know all of their times tables. When it comes to times tables, speed and accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do more difficult calculations. Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help pupils master their times tables. To be a Times



Table Rock Star you need to answer any multiplication fact up to 12x12 in less than 3 seconds.

**The goal is for all participating rockers to be Times Table Rock Stars after 20 weeks!**

You can also download the free App by visiting your Play Store or visit

<https://trockstars.com/>

Your child's login details can be found in your child's reading record.

**Please make sure your child is using the up-to-date version of TTRS.**

## Reading and Phonics

### What is Phonics?

Phonics is **a way of teaching children how to read and write**. It helps children hear, identify and use different sounds that distinguish one word from another in the English language. Phonics involves matching the sounds of spoken English with individual letters or groups of letters. At St Joseph's, we use Read, Write Inc as our systematic synthetic phonic programme. Synthetic phonics is **a method of teaching where words are broken up into the smallest units of sound (phonemes)**. Children are taught how to break up words or decode them into individual sounds and then blend all the way through the word.

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully.

They are taught how to:

- recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes;
- identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make – such as /sh/ or /oo/;
- and blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to decode new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.

Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way – starting with the easiest sounds and progressing through to the most complex – it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read.

It is particularly helpful for children aged 4 to 7. Systematic teaching of phonics helps our pupils to learn the skills they need to tackle new words. They can then read any kind of text fluently and confidently and read for enjoyment.

**Please have a look at our phonics page on our school website for more details.**

<http://stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk/statutory/curriculum/reading-and-phonics>

## Sports News



### Rickmansworth Dance Festival

Pupils from Year 4 entered the Sports Partnership Dance Festival. They were superb! Well done dancers!



### **Play Rangers**

Three Rivers District Council are offering free play ranger activities for 5 -16 year olds. The children will play traditional games such as making dens, obstacle courses, rounders etc. Play Rangers will take place at South Oxhey Playing Fields (Asburnham Drive entrance) on Fridays 4.00p.m. – 6.00p.m. For more information, please contact [playrangers@threerivers.gov.uk](mailto:playrangers@threerivers.gov.uk).

### **Pupil Premium Funding**

In certain circumstances, schools can claim approximately £1,600 extra of funding per child for pupils whose parents receive various benefits. The criteria are the same as they would be for applying for 'free school meals' in KS2. The money can be used to support anything that improves a child's enjoyment, wellbeing, achievement or attainment at school.

Recently, we have used such funding to pay for individual music tuition, 1:1 maths/literacy support, breakfast club and after-school club places etc.

If you think that you or your partner may be eligible to claim this extra money for your child, please speak to Mrs Tannian in the school office as soon as possible. All enquiries of this nature will be treated in the strictest confidence. If you know you are entitled to Pupil Premium funding you can apply directly using the following website:

[www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals)

Once successfully applied for, this funding will remain in place for each year your child is with us. Please note that this extra funding is available to all eligible children from Nursery to Year 6.

### **Snow Procedures**

It may snow at some point this term. Therefore, I would like to remind all parents of the bad weather procedures.

If, in the unlikely event the school needs to be closed, please follow any of the procedures listed below:

1. Firstly, a text message will be sent to you via the School Gateway App. Please ensure the school office has your correct mobile number.
  2. Check the school website after 7.35a.m. to see if the school is closed or opening at a later time [www.stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk).
- Or**
3. Check our twitter feed @stjosephs775
- Or**
4. Contact the school office after 7.45a.m. and listen to the answer machine message.
- Or**
5. Listen to the local radio stations, which will provide updated information on school closures.

### **Important Notice: School Admissions: Primary School Place**

The paragraph below is very important for all Foundation 1 parents and any parent seeking a school place for their child in September 2022. Applications for admission to our school will open on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. You will need to apply for a school place if your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

Would you please ensure you complete the **Hertfordshire online form at:**

**(<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx>)?**

When completing the online form, please be aware that there are four St Joseph's schools in Hertfordshire, so selecting the right St Joseph's is imperative. We are St Joseph's in Watford, code number 9193383.

You will also need to complete the **School's Supplementary Information Form**, which is obtainable from the school office or website. A **Certificate of Catholic Practice** is also required, which you can get from your church. If you are unable to contact the church, please inform the school office, and we will hopefully be able to help you. All forms must be completed and returned to the school office before admission can be considered.

Therefore, to apply for our school, the following documents are required:

- 1. Supplementary Information Form
- 2. Certificate of Catholic Practice (if applicable)
- 3. Baptism Certificate (if applicable)

Please do not be late, as this could jeopardise your child's school placement. The closing date for all applications is 15 January 2022.

**Nursery Admissions**

We now offer full-time Nursery provision (9.a.m. to 3p.m.). Applications for admission to our Nursery Class will open on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, for children who were born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

Please ensure you complete the **School's Supplementary Form which you can obtain from the school's website or the school office**. All forms must be completed and returned to the school office before admission can be considered.

Therefore, in order to apply for our school, we must receive:

- Supplementary Information Form & Nursery Application Form
- Certificate of Catholic Practice (if applicable)
- Baptism Certificate (if applicable)

**1. School Closed**

The school will be closed on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November.



**Attendance Award**

Year 3 had the best attendance last week .Well done Year 3!

**Have a great week  
Mrs L. Payne**

**Dates for the diary**

**Dates for the diary**

**New dates or change of date.**

**Dates for the diary**



More than ever - please treat this calendar as a guide – I am sure as we progress through the year, there may be variations.

New dates are highlighted in blue.

<b>November</b>	
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Occasional Day – School Closed</b>
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	St Andrew's Non Uniform day (children may wear blue, white or tartan). Flu Vaccination Session

<b>December</b>	
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Advent Mass at 11.00a.m. Year 6 parents are welcome to attend.
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Foundation Stage, Key stage 1 & 2 Christmas PFA Disco Parent volunteers needed.
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play (dress rehearsal- parents and toddlers welcome). Starts at 9.30a.m
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play. Starts at 9.30a.m. All parents welcome to attend .
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 4
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime Trip, Watersmeet Theatre
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime Trip, Watersmeet Theatre
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day (children may wear a Christmas jumper/teeshirt).
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Advent Service. Starts at 1.30p.m. TBC
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Christmas Quiz & Foundation Stage Party
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Mass in church 9.15a.m. All parents welcome to attend. <b>End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.</b> Foundation 1 finishes at 1.15p.m.
22 <sup>nd</sup> December – 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Christmas Holiday – School Closed

<b>January 2023 Spring Term</b>	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Start of term</b>
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Epiphany Mass in Church at 9.15a.m.(No Celebration Assembly)</b> All parents welcome to attend.
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Welcome Mass – All parents welcome to attend</b>

<b>February</b>	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Parents' Forum at 5pm
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Consultations all week Save the date
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Half Term holiday – School Closed</b>

<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Start of Term</b>
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday in church, at 9.15a.m. All parents welcome to attend.</b>

<b>March</b>	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	St David's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green, red, white or yellow).
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day – Book Character Non Uniform day. All parents are welcome to attend the World Book Day Assembly This is a non-uniform day. Children may dress up as their favourite book character.
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green or white).  Mother's Day Assembly starts at 9.00a.m. All F1 – F2 mothers/carers welcome to attend. More information to follow.
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	St Joseph's Day Mass in church – 9.15a.m. All parents welcome to attend.
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Lenten Cake Competition (all children may enter by baking a cake). Cake sale.
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Lenten Toy Sale (please donate old toys).
<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Easter Bonnet Parade (F1 – Y6 classes) (F1-Y6) All parents welcome to attend the Easter Bonnet Parade. Children to make the bonnets at home and bring them into school. All children may participate in this event. <b>End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.</b>

<b>April</b>	
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Start of Term</b>
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	St George's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear red, white or blue).

<b>May</b>	
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday. School closed.</b>
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Parents' Forum at 2.30p.m.
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> May	KS1 SATs- Year 2
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests (free breakfast club for Year 6 pupils all week, starting at 8.00a.m.)</b>
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>KS 2 Spelling, punctuation and Grammar Paper 1 &amp; 2 tests</b>
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>KS2 Reading Test</b>
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>KS2 Maths Paper 1 &amp; 2 Test</b>
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>KS2 Maths Paper 3 Test</b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Walk to School Week

17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 Phasel's Wood Trip
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Ascension Mass in church at 9.15a.m. All parents welcome to attend.
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend)
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	KS2 Sports Day at 9.30a.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	KS1 Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> May – 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	<b>Half Term Holiday – School Closed</b>

<b>June</b>	
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Inset Day – school closed.</b>
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Start of Term</b>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonic tests commence Year 4 Multiplication tests commence
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Class Photographs
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 9.30p.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	St Peter and St Paul Mass in church at 9.15a.m.

Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
<b>July</b>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Trip to Wales
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	F1 new children and parents visits 1.30p.m.
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Reserve date: Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 2 parents are welcome to attend)
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	New to Year 2 SATS & Transition Meeting (All Year 1 parents are welcome to attend)
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	F1 new children and parents meeting 1.30p.m.
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition Day for all pupils Secondary School Transition day New to F2 Parents' Meeting at 9.15a.m. (Current F1 parents to attend).
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass at 11.00.a.m. Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting)
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m. KS2 parents are welcome to attend. Year 3,4,5 and 6 pupils must be back in school at 5.40pm
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass End of Term Year 6 lunch <b>End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.</b>

