

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Democracy!**

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we believe in celebrating our community's increasingly diverse cultural backgrounds whilst promoting and holding true to what we recognise as British Values.

Democracy is at the heart of our values. The children have been following Christ's teachings by making decisions about their learning and behaviour towards each other. Pupils are taught to listen carefully, with concern for each other, respecting the rights of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Last week, pupils were given the opportunity to vote for the House Captains and next week, they will have a chance to vote for School Council, Eco Council and Sports Council representatives.

The elections of the School Council members and House Captains are based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action. The pupils will then be given the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council and regular questionnaires.

The votes for Head Boys and Head Girls are in. We are extremely proud to announce our Head Girls and Head Boys are Jessica, Zoe, Malachy and Darren.



Congratulations to our newly appointed House Captains.



### Queen Elizabeth II



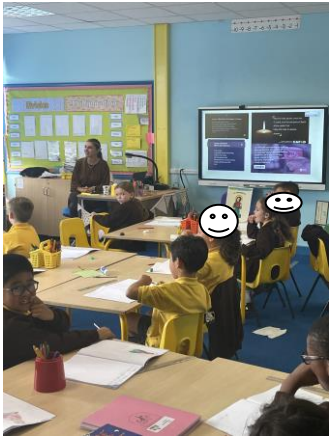
As we reflect on the sad news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, our thoughts and prayers go to the Royal Family and everyone in our school communities as we process this news. In school, the children have taken time to remember how Queen Elizabeth II was a shining example of devoted service and steadfast duty. Last week, each class spent time reflecting and celebrating the life of our Queen.



In Foundation 1, the children made crowns as a way to remember Queen Elizabeth II and to celebrate our new King, Charles III.



In Foundation 2, the children reflected on this moment in history and celebrated Her Majesty`s life.



In Year 3, the children wrote prayers and sent condolence cards to King Charles III and his family.

**Curriculum updates**



Year 2 are enjoying their new topic in computing based on coding. The children had to write codes and complete a number of tasks.



Year 5 have started looking at a new text called `Sir Gawain and the Green Knight`. Here they are writing their own Myths. Great start Year 5! Well done.



In Year 1 they have been practising counting backwards from 10-0 using tens frames and unifix cubes. As you can see, they are working really hard. Well done, Year 1.





Year 6 have been studying a poem called 'The River's Story' by Brian Patten. The children had to invent actions for the lines to support them when reciting the poem.



In Year 4, the children have been learning about Romans. As part of their Art topic, they have started to create their own Roman sandal. You might just see them in the shops when summer comes around. Well done Year 4.

### **September RE Newsletter**

Below is a link for the September RE newsletter. [www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/](http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/)

### **Headteacher's Award**

Following on from the Year 6 lesson, a member of the Year 6 class was able to recite the whole poem 'The River Story' by Brian Patten. Brilliant work. Well done.

Luca also did some amazing artwork and received a Headteacher's Award too.



### **Meet the Teacher Afternoon**

Next week, after school, you will have the chance to meet your child's teacher and see their classroom. The children will be dismissed as usual at the end of the day. The children will then bring you back to school for a classroom tour.

Key Stage 1 & 2 (Years 2, 3,4,5 6) Please feel free to visit anytime time after 3.15p.m. until 4.30p.m. on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

Year 1 will meet on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September (3.15pm – 4.30p.m.).

Foundation Stage 1 and 2 starts at 9.00a.m. on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Wellbeing**

The emotional wellbeing of our children and their families continues to remain a high priority as we settle back into school life.

[www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters) is a website that Public Health England has released. The website is endorsed by the NHS and offers practical advice for parents and children about wellbeing and emotional health concerns.

Please do not hesitate to speak to the school should you need any further information or require further support in this area

## **Important Notices**

### **1. Secondary School Transfer Information For Year 6 Parents**

Secondary School admissions opened at the beginning of September and the closing date for all applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. We recommend that this is completed by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October, so that if there are any queries, they can be dealt with ahead of the deadline.

Year 6 parents must complete the online form at [www.hertsdirect.org/admissions](http://www.hertsdirect.org/admissions) and complete the school's Supplementary Information Form, which you can obtain from the school's website or during the school's Open Evenings.

Please note that all Catholic secondary schools require a Certificate of Catholic Practice, which can be obtained from your parish priest

### **2. Pupil Premium Funding**

In certain circumstances, schools can claim approximately £1,600 of extra funding per child for pupils whose parents receive various benefits. This funding is available to all eligible children in school, from Nursery to Year 6. 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.

If you think you or your partner may be eligible to claim this extra money, please 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 each year that your child is with us. However, you will need to reapply for the funding when your child moves from Foundation Stage to Key Stage 1 or from Key Stage1 to Key Stage 2. If you have any queries, please speak to the School Office in confidence.

### **3. First Holy Communion**

If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion next year, please see Father John.

### **4. Pink Non-School Uniform Day**

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October, there will be a non-uniform day to raise money for Breast Cancer Research. Children may wear pink or red clothes. We are asking for a £1 voluntary contribution. Please do support this worthwhile cause.



### 5. Healthy Lunches!

As a healthy eating school, we ask that your child has a healthy packed lunch. Children may have a daily treat, such as a chocolate biscuit. Crisps are only allowed on Fridays. Glass bottles or cans of fizzy drinks are not allowed. Fruit, dry fruit, water, squash and juice are also allowed at playtime.

### 6. Nut Allergies!

May I remind you that nuts are not allowed in school because we have a few children with nut allergies. This is a life-threatening condition, so please ensure your child's lunch or break time snack does not contain nuts or nut products, e.g. peanut butter, Nutella and cereal bars. Thank you.



## Autumn Prayer

*O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. As we embrace these autumn months, May the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.*

*May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet remind us of the brevity of this earthly life. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us your breath of life.*

*May the scurrying of the squirrels and the migration of the birds remind us that you call us to follow your will.*

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.

Amen.



Have a great week,

Linda Payne

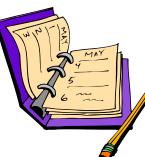
### Dates for the diary

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

The acronym TBC means to be confirmed.

<b>September</b>	
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the Teacher for Year 1
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the Teacher for Years 2 – 6
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the Teacher and join our Foundation Stage Macmillan Coffee Morning. <b>Foundation Stage parents are welcome to attend.</b> More information to follow.

<b>October</b>	Month of Mary
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu Vaccination Session
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Year 1 Phonics Meeting for Parents. Starting at the following times:</b> 2.30pm. or 5.00p.m.
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Pink Non Uniform Day to support Breast Cancer Appeal (Children may wear pink).
Week commencing 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Virtual and Face to Face Parents' Evening (all week) Class days Exact times to <b>TBC - To Be Confirmed</b>
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Assembly: All Parents are welcome to attend.



	Approximate start times:
	<b>Foundation 1</b> 9.10a.m.
	<b>Foundation 2</b> 9.15am.
	<b>Year 1</b> 9.20a.m.
	<b>Year 2</b> 9.25a.m.
	<b>Year 3</b> 9.30a.m.
	<b>Year 4</b> 9.35a.m.
	<b>Year 5</b> 9.40a.m.
	<b>Year 6</b> 9.45a.m.
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	School Closed – Deanery Inset Day
24 <sup>th</sup> October – 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Half Term Holiday – School Closed
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>	<b>Start of term</b>

<b>November</b>	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	All Saints Day Mass (TBC)
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m. (after assembly)
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	PFA Fireworks Night. Parent Volunteers needed to help at this great event. <b>Gates open at 6.30p.m.</b>
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 Remembrance Mass at 2.00p.m. <b>Year 5 parents are welcome to attend.</b>
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 Refugee Mass at 2.00p.m. <b>Year 4 parents are welcome to attend.</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>	
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Year 6 Advent Mass at 2.00p.m. <b>Year 6 parents are welcome to attend.</b>
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- <b>parents and toddlers welcome</b> ). Starts at 9.30a.m
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play. Starts at 9.30a.m. <b>All parents welcome to attend .</b>
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 4</b>
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. <b>All parents welcome to attend.</b> <b>End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.</b>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Christmas Holiday – School Closed

<b>January 2023</b> <b>Spring Term</b>	
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<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Start of term</b>
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Epiphany Mass in Church (No Celebration Assembly)</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
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<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</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. <b>All parents are welcome to attend the World Book Day Assembly</b> 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. <b>All F1 – F2 mothers/carers welcome to attend.</b> More information to follow.
	<b>St Joseph's Day Mass – date to be confirmed. (TBC)</b>
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) <b>All parents welcome to attend the Easter Bonnet Parade.</b> 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</b>

	<b>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
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Ascension Mass <b>All parents welcome to attend.</b>
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m. <b>(All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend)</b>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	KS2 Sports Day at 9.30a.m. <b>KS1 parents may attend.</b>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	KS1 Sports Day at 1.15p.m. <b>KS2 parents may attend.</b>
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. <b>KS1 parents may attend.</b>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 1.15p.m. <b>KS2 parents may attend.</b>
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	St Peter and St Paul Mass TBC

Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. <b>F1 &amp; F2 parents welcome to attend.</b>
<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. <b>F1 &amp; F2 parents welcome to attend.</b>
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting at 2.30p.m. <b>(All Year 2 parents are welcome to attend)</b>
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	New to Year 2 SATS & Transition Meeting <b>(All Year 1 parents are welcome to attend)</b>
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. <b>(Current F1 parents to attend).</b>
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting)
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. <b>KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.</b>
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m <b>KS2 parents are welcome to attend.</b> Year 3,4,5 and 6 pupils must be back in school <b>at 5.40pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m. <b>(F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass</b> End of Term Year 6 lunch



	<b>End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.</b>
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