



19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

**We remember  
them.**

### **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.

### **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 opens on 1 November. You will need to apply for a school place if your child was born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018

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 it is imperative to select the right St Joseph's. 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 the school's website.

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 place at the school. The closing date for all applications is 15 January 2022.

### **Parents & Teachers 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 just wanted to remind 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 harder 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://ttrockstars.com/>

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

## **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>



### **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 Mondays and 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 are in receipt of 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, I urge you to 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.
  6. Register with Everbridge School Closure Notification System following at the following website: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489>

This link will direct you to the 'Sign Up' page. Click on the 'sign up' button located at the top right-hand side of the page on the grey strip. From there, follow the instructions. It should take no more than five minutes to register. You can add two devices, which means you may want to include a spouse or grandparent's mobile number and email address. They too, will then receive any messages concerning school's closure.

Alternatively, other people can register themselves separately.

Please note: this messaging system only applies to notifications of school emergency closure and does not in any way replace our usual messaging system. However, please note, the School Gateway system can be delayed during busy periods such as snow days.

If you require any assistance in signing up, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

## Nursery School Applications

The paragraph below is very important for all parents with children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 and 31 August 2019. Applications for admission to our Nursery Class has now opened.

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)

The closing date is 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Please do not be late as this could jeopardise your child's place at the school.

### 1. School Closed

The school will be closed on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November.



### Attendance Award

F1, had the best attendance last week .Well done F1!

Mrs L. Payne

### Dates for the diary

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### New dates or change of date.

<b>November</b>	
<b>Monday 1st November</b>	<b>Start of term</b>
Friday 26th November	<b>Occasional Day – School Closed</b>
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	St Andrew's Non Uniform day (children may wear blue white or tartan).
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Vaccination Session

<b>December</b>	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Year 6 Advent Mass at 2.00p.m. <b>To be confirmed</b>
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play (dress rehearsal- parents and toddlers welcome). Starts at 9.30a.m <b>To be confirmed</b>
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play. Starts at 9.30a.m <b>To be confirmed</b>
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 4
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Advent Service. Starts at 1.30p.m.TBC / Virtual
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day (children may

December	wear a Christmas jumper/teeshirt).
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Christmas Virtual Quiz & Foundation Stage Party
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Trip Pantomime, Watersmeet
	<b>End of Term Mass date TBC</b>
<b>Tuesday 21st December</b>	<b>End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.</b>
<b>22nd December – 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	Christmas Holiday – School Closed

<b>January 2022 Spring Term</b>	
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Inset Day – School Closed</b>
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Start of Term</b>

<b>February</b>	
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Consultations all week Save the date
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Feeling Good and Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Half Term holiday – School Closed</b>
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>Start of Term</b>

<b>March</b>	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	St David's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green, red, white or yellow).
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Ash Wednesday Service – More details to follow.
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</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.
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green or white).
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	St Joseph's Day Mass – <b>date to be confirmed. (TBC)</b>
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Mother's day Class Assembly starts at 9.00a.m. <b>All F1 – F2 mothers/carers welcome to attend.</b>
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Lenten Cake Competition (all children may enter by baking a cake). Cake sale.
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Lenten Toy Sale (please donate old toys).
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Bonnet Parade (F1 – Y6 classes) (F1-Y6) 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>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Start of Term</b>
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	St George's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear red, white or blue).

<b>May</b>	
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday. School closed.</b>
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> May	KS1 SATs- Year 2
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<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 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>KS 2 Spelling, punctuation and Grammar Paper 1 &amp; 2 tests</b>
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>KS2 Reading Test</b>
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>KS2 Maths Paper 1 &amp; 2 Test</b>
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>KS2 Maths Paper 3 Test</b>
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Walk to School Week
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	KS1 Sports Day at 9.30a.m. <b>KS1 parents may attend.</b>
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	KS2 Sports Day at 1.15p.m. <b>KS2 parents may attend.</b>
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m. <b>(All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend)</b>
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> May – 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	<b>Half Term Holiday – School Closed</b>

<b>June</b>	
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Inset Day – school closed.</b>
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Start of Term</b>
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June – 11 <sup>th</sup> June	One World Week – Working together for a just, peaceful and sustainable world.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonic tests commence Year 4 Multiplication tests commence
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 9.30p.m. <b>KS1 parents may attend.</b>
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 1.15p.m. <b>KS2 parents may attend.</b>
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Phonic meeting for F2 parents- Getting ready for Year 1 at 2.00p.m

<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. <b>F1 &amp; F2 parents welcome to attend.</b>
<b>July</b>	
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	F1 visits and new parents meeting 1.30p.m.
Tuesday 5 <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 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Reserve date: Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. <b>F1 &amp; F2 parents welcome to attend.</b>
Thursday 7 <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 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting)
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m. KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
<b>Wednesday 20<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>