



3rd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is so lovely to be back in school again and I hope you all had a great summer break. I would like to offer a very warm welcome to our new children and their parents. I am very excited about the year of learning ahead of us and I am sure your children will thoroughly enjoy their time at school this year. During these first few weeks, we will be focussing on settling the children in and making sure that they feel happy and comfortable being back at St Joseph's.

Over the summer, we have been very busy decorating the following areas: Foundation Stage 1 classroom, Foundation Stage 2 classroom, the Year 4 classroom and the Key Stage 2 corridor. All of the rooms look bright and cheery.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our building fund. With the money donated, we have had doubled glazed windows and doors installed in our Year 3. The classroom now looks great.

Over the next few years, I hope to get new windows for Years 4, 5 and 6. However, I will need to raise approximately £30,000; therefore, please ensure that you pay your Building Fund donation, which is £30 per child, per term. Payments can be made via the School Gateway App. Thank you for your donation as it genuinely helps improve our school environment.

WELCOME

I would like to say welcome to the following children and their families:

Foundation 1: Daniel, Alice, Jake, Joph Rylie, Niamh, Alexander, Ella Myka, Melissa, Casey and Daisy.

Foundation 2: Eduardo, Sophia, Liliana, Aria, Eliza, Faith, Anushka, Isabella, Sara, Thomas-Jay, Tobias, Ianis, Kevin, Anastasia and Albert.

I hope you enjoy learning with us at St Joseph's!

Covid Updates

Thank you so much for your patience. As promised, I am writing with the latest Covid update. I know some of you may be anxious regarding the latest government guideline changes. Here are just a few of the measures we have put in place to keep your children safe:

- the temperatures of all staff and pupils will be checked as they enter the building and throughout the day, using our thermo-sensor cameras;
- Staff will continue to do lateral flow tests;

- all children will wash/sanitise their hands as they enter the building and at regular intervals throughout the day;
- workstations will be cleaned throughout the day;
- children in EYFS will wash their hands before using the equipment and additional cleaning of equipment will occur throughout the day;
- classroom doors will be propped open and windows opened to ensure rooms remain well ventilated;
- packed lunches (school kitchen or from home) will be eaten in the classrooms or outside until October;

These measures are subject to government guidance and may change at any time.

Covid Symptoms

If anyone (child or staff) in school develops symptoms 'however mild', they will be sent home immediately, and required to take a PCR test and await the outcomes. A negative test will mean children/staff can return to school. A positive test will continue to require ten days of isolation. Schools can '*refuse pupil attendance if they feel a pupil presents a risk to other staff and children*'. **The key difference in the new guidance is that siblings and household members will not need to be sent home or stay off school or isolate.** I would remind parents that the requirement for your child to self-isolate should they develop symptoms or test positive for Covid remains a statutory duty.

Classes will **not** be closed in the event of a positive case. However, we will inform parents where this happens so that you can be vigilant for any signs of infection. If in doubt about peripheral symptoms, please keep children at home.

I realise that for some, the government advice represents a significant change in direction and might be uncomfortable. However, should there be a number of positive Covid infections in one class, schools are asked to seek advice when '*5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within 10 days*'. At this point, we will follow advice sought directly from Public Health England and the IPC Nurses, who may recommend temporary closure or other measures.

The school systems for remote education will remain in place and will be used for children who are well enough to work from home and have contracted Covid. Work will be provided and teachers will check in with individuals.

Important 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 31st October 2021. Year 6 parents must complete the online form at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions and complete the School's Supplementary 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.

Wrap Around Care

BREAKFAST CLUB

The school's Breakfast Club runs five days a week (during term-time only) from 7.35 am - 8.50 am, for Nursery to Year 6 children. You can choose which days your child attends. A healthy, nutritious breakfast of cereal, toast and squash is provided.

Breakfast Club prices are charged as follows:

£5.00 per child per day (7.35 am start)
£3.50 per child per day (8.00 am start)

Bookings can be made through the School Gateway App.

Please click on the link below:

<https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login>

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Happy Days is an external agency that provides our after school club, which is based at the Clitheroe Centre in South Oxhey. The Happy Days staff will collect your child from St Joseph's school at the end of the day. The club starts at 3.15 pm until 6.00 pm and is on every day. Please contact [After School & Breakfast Clubs based around North West London | Happy Days Clubs](#) for more detail . At the club, the children have lots of fun and access to various toys and games.

First Holy Communion

If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion next year, please collect a form from the church after any weekend Masses.

Newsletters

I will send out newsletters fortnightly. If you do not receive a newsletter via e-mail, please inform the office. If you do not have an e-mail account, paper copies will be distributed.

PE kits

When your child has their PE lesson, your child must come into school in their PE kit. If it is cold or wet, the school's tracksuit must be worn. Please ensure your child wears their PE kit on the following days:

PE Days for Year Groups

Class	Day
Foundation 1	Friday
Foundation 2	Monday
Year 1	Wednesday
Year 2	Tuesday
Year 3	Monday
Year 4	Tuesday
Year 5	Thursday
Year 6	Friday

Packed Lunches

As we are a healthy eating school, we also ask that your child has a healthy packed lunch. Children may have a small treat per day, such as a chocolate biscuit. Crisps are only allowed on Fridays. Packed lunches **must not** contain any type or form of nuts (including spreads such as Nutella), fruit and nut bars and some cereal bars. This is necessary as we have children with severe allergies. Glass bottles or cans of fizzy drinks are not allowed.

School Meals

Our school kitchen offers delicious lunches. School dinners are prepared and cooked on site. These include Wednesday Roasts and Friday Specials. Lunches are ordered and paid for online at app.schoolgrid.co.uk.

If you would like your child to receive a school dinner:

- please register on SchoolGrid at app.schoolgrid.co.uk;
- please order termly to ensure your child's lunch is arranged in advance;
- please cancel the lunch option if your child is absent from school or if you have sent in a home packed lunch;
- please ensure your child brings a home-packed lunch if you have not ordered dinner before the cut off time of 8.45 am;
- please make your payment through School Gateway "SchoolGrid Dinner Money". Payments need to be paid in advance.

Breaktimes

Milk provided is free for children under five and may be purchased in advance for children who are aged five years and over and in Years 1 and 2. All children may bring water or squash to drink and a piece of fruit/cheese for their morning break (Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children have fruit provided as part of a national scheme).

Important Notice

1. **Individual and sibling photographs** will be taken on Tuesday 14th September.
2. Please may I remind you that dogs are **not** allowed anywhere on the school site. Thank you for your co-operation.
3. Flu vaccination sessions will take place in school on Monday 18th October and Tuesday 30th November. Consent forms will be sent to parents and should be completed and returned to the school office as soon as possible.

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 to this due to any changes to Covid restrictions guidelines.

The acronym TBC means to be confirmed.

September	
Tuesday 14 th September	Individual/Sibling Photographs
Friday 17 th September	Swimming starts for Year 3 and Year 4
Friday 24 th September	Foundation Stage Macmillan Coffee Morning. Foundation Stage parents are welcome to attend. More information to follow.

October	
Friday 15 th October	Pink Non Uniform Day to support Breast Cancer Appeal (Children may wear pink).
Week commencing 18 th October	Virtual Parents' Evening (all week) Class days TBC - To Be Confirmed
Monday 18 th October	Flu Vaccination Session
Thursday 21 st October	Harvest Assembly (F1 – Y6) More information to follow. End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
Friday 22 nd October	School Closed – Deanery Inset Day



25th October – 29 th October	Half Term Holiday – School Closed
---	-----------------------------------

November	
Monday 1st November	Start of term
Thursday 4 th November	Year 5 Remembrance Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 5 parents are welcome to attend.
Friday 5 th November	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Thursday 18 th November	Year 4 Refugee Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 4 parents are welcome to virtually attend.
Friday 26 th November	Occasional Day – School Closed
Tuesday 30 th November	St Andrew's Non Uniform day (children may wear blue white or tartan).
Tuesday 30 th November	Flu Vaccination Session

December	
Wednesday 1 st December	Year 6 Advent Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 6 parents are welcome to attend.
Wednesday 8 th December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play (dress rehearsal- parents and toddlers welcome). Starts at 9.30a.m
Thursday 9 th December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play. Starts at 9.30a.m. All parents welcome to attend .
Friday 10 th December	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 4
Monday 13 th December	KS2 Advent Service. Starts at 1.30p.m.TBC / Virtual
Wednesday 15 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day (children may wear a Christmas jumper/teeshirt).
Thursday 16 th December	Whole School Christmas Virtual Quiz & Foundation Stage Party
Friday 17 th December	Whole School Trip Pantomime, Watford Palace Theatre
Tuesday 21st December	Mass in church 9.15a.m. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass
22nd December – 3rd January	Christmas Holiday – School Closed

January 2022	
Spring Term	
Wednesday 5th January	Start of term

February	
Friday 4 th February	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
Monday 7 th February	Parents' Consultations all week Save the date
Tuesday 8 th February	Safer Internet Day
Friday 11th February	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
14th – 18th February	Half Term holiday – School Closed
Monday 21st February	Start of Term

March	
Tuesday 1 st March	St David's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green, red,

	white or yellow).
Thursday 3 rd 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.
Thursday 17 th March	St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green or white).
Friday 18 th March	St Joseph's Day Mass – date to be confirmed. (TBC)
Friday 25 th March	Mother's day Class Assembly starts at 9.00a.m. All F1 – F2 mothers/carers welcome to attend.
Monday 28 th March	Lenten Cake Competition (all children may enter by baking a cake). Cake sale.
Thursday 31 st March	Lenten Toy Sale (please donate old toys).
Friday 1st April	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. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.

April	
Tuesday 19th April	Start of Term
Friday 22 nd April	St George's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear red, white or blue).

May	
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday. School closed.
Friday 6 th May	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
3 rd – 20 th May	KS1 SATs- Year 2
Monday 9th – 12th May	KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests (free breakfast club for Year 6 pupils all week, starting at 8.00a.m.)
Monday 9th May	KS 2 Spelling, punctuation and Grammar Paper 1 & 2 tests
Tuesday 10th May	KS2 Reading Test
Wednesday 11th May	KS2 Maths Paper 1 & 2 Test
Thursday 12th May	KS2 Maths Paper 3 Test
Monday 16 th May	Walk to School Week
Tuesday 17 th May	KS1 Sports Day at 9.30a.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Tuesday 17 th May	KS2 Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Thursday 19 th May	Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend)
Friday 27 th May	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
30 th May – 3 rd June	Half Term Holiday – School Closed

June	
Monday 6th June	Inset Day – school closed.
Tuesday 7th June	Start of Term
Tuesday 7 th June	Year 1 Phonic tests commence

	Year 4 Multiplication tests commence
Tuesday 14 th June	KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 9.30p.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Tuesday 14 th June	KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Thursday 23 rd June	Phonic meeting for F2 parents- Getting ready for Year 1 at 2.00p.m

Wednesday 29 th June	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
July	
Monday 4 th July	F1 visits and new parents meeting 1.30p.m.
Tuesday 5 th July	Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 2 parents are welcome to attend)
Wednesday 6 th July	Reserve date: Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Thursday 7 th 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 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting)
Monday 18 th July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Tuesday 19 th July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m KS2 parents are welcome to attend.
Wednesday 20th July	Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass End of Term Year 6 lunch End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.