

9th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a great summer break. It is so lovely to be back in school again. 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. During these first few weeks, we will focus on settling the children in and ensuring they feel happy and comfortable being back at St Joseph's.

Over the summer, we have been very busy decorating the following areas: Year 3, Chapel and the Key Stage 2 corridor stairwells. All of the rooms look bright and cheery. I am delighted to inform you that the drainage works have been completed: the soakaway has been fitted and the external drainage system and pipes have been replaced.

WELCOME

Welcome to all of our new Foundation Stage families:

Foundation 1:



Foundation 2:



Year 1:



Year 2:



Year 3:



Year 4:



Year 5



Year 6



Meet the Teacher Afternoon

After school on Thursday, the 28th of September, you will have the chance to meet your child's teacher and see their learning environment. The children will be dismissed as usual at the end of the day and together, you can then visit the classroom.

Key Stage 1 & 2 (Years 1, 2, 3, 4,5 and 6) Please feel free to visit anytime time after 3.20 p.m. until 4.30 p.m.

Foundation Stage 1 and 2 starts at 9.00 a.m. on Friday, 29th of September, during our Macmillan Coffee morning.

Class Saints

At St Joseph's, we want to help our children to respond to Pope Francis' call to holiness. As such, the Saints play an important role in motivating our pupils. They inspire us to lead joyful lives; they serve as role models; they teach us that holiness means being who you are; they pray for us from heaven, giving us the strength to be who God created us to be.

Each class has a dedicated saint as seen in the table below:

Year Group	Class Saints
Foundation 1	Mary
Foundation 2	St Joseph
Year 1	St Kateri Tekakwitha
Year 2	St Martin de Porres
Year 3	St Bernadette
Year 4	St Alban
Year 5	St Josephine Bakhita
Year 6	St Gabriel Possenti

As part of our Enrichment Units, each cohort revisits the Class Patron Saint at the start of every Academic Year. As they progress through the school, pupils learn about the different saints and make links between Gospel stories, the lives of the Saints and how they should live their own lives.

Class Prayers

Prayer and liturgy are integral components of our school's religious and spiritual life. Prayer and liturgy foster a sense of faith, community, and reverence for God. They provide opportunities for our pupils to engage in worship, deepen their understanding of Catholic traditions, and develop a personal relationship with God within the context of their education.

Pupils are taught different prayers in each year group. Please click on the links below.

F1	Learn to sing/say morning, end-of-day prayer & grace. Bless themselves by making the sign of the cross Foundation 1 Prayer Booklet
F2	Continue building on F1 & introducing the above to new children. Learning to focus their prayer in a spontaneous way- giving thanks and praise -praying for friends & family. Learn traditional Prayers and Responses at mass: 'Our Father', 'And with your Spirit' and the 'Alleluia' when welcoming the Gospel. Foundation 2 Prayer Booklet
Year 1	Learning to make up their own prayers. Learn traditional prayer: 'Hail Mary'. Responses at mass: 'Lord have mercy- Christ have mercy' Year 1 Prayer Booklet
Year 2	Learn traditional prayer: 'Glory Be' Introduce simple scripture verses to help the children use them to pray. Prayers at mass and Prayers of intercession ('Lord in your mercy- Hear our prayer'). Year 2 Prayer Booklet
Year 3	Learning how to understand the examination of conscience as a positive way of showing our love for God and each other. Learn traditional prayer: 'Act of Contrition'. Prayers at mass: 'I confess'. Year 3 Prayer Booklet
Year 4	Learning to use traditional prayer methods and adapt them to their needs e.g. the Rosary and litanies. Learn traditional prayer: 'Magnificat' Prayers at mass : 'Lamb of God' & 'Rite of dismissal (Thanks be to God)' Year 4 Prayer Booklet
Year 5	Introduce images and symbols as a way into prayer using art, music, poetry and prose. Learn the traditional prayer of the 'Angelus'. Responses and prayers at mass – 'Holy Holy & Glory to God'

	Year 5 Prayer Booklet
Year 6	Introduce the concept of making our lives a prayer. Learning that everything that we do can be given to God. Learn traditional prayers: 'Eternal rest' & 'Stations of the Cross' Prayers and responses at mass: Creed & Offertory prayers Year 6 Prayer Booklet

Catholic Social Teaching

We teach the children that, as Catholics, we are called to serve by God. Therefore, we teach our pupils the importance of serving others and promoting social justice. By engaging in acts of service and advocating for those in need, pupils develop a sense of worth by understanding their ability to positively impact the world. Each pupil has a crucial role in our school, holding our faith and social justice close to their hearts. We are advocates for social change, which Pope Francis has advocated as he invites us all to be Missionary Disciples of Christ.

Here are a few of the jobs the children have around the school:

Year Group	Catholic Social Teaching
Foundation 1	Plant Leaders
Foundation 2	Gardening Leaders
Year 1	Playtime Equipment Leaders
Year 2	Laudato si Leaders
Year 3	Lunchtime Chair monitors
Year 4	Song Leaders
Year 5	Caritas Ambassadors, Library Monitors, Games Makers
Year 6	Sports Leaders, Class Apostles, House Captains

There are also many other jobs that the children have which are voted for by the other pupils, which are listed below:

Catholic Social Teaching
Class Apostle
Milk Monitors
Book Monitors
Library Monitors
Tidy Up monitors
Line Monitors
Sports Leaders
Eco Warriors
Sports Council
School Council
Head Boy/Girl

At St Joseph's, we strive to ensure that all our children recognise their important role in continuing Christ's mission by promoting the Catholic Social Teachings, where together we call for a better, more just world. Our Caritas Ambassadors lead the way in school; they put their faith into action and are involved in charitable acts, aware of environmental issues as stewards of creation and promote love for their neighbours where people can live in peace and dignity.

At St Joseph's school, we teach our children to think of what each of us can do to make a positive difference to others. This term, the Caritas Ambassadors will be organising a coffee morning for Macmillan.

Wrap Around Care

Nursery

We now offer full-time hours from 9.00 a.m. until 3.00 p.m. with a lunchtime club. Your child may attend nursery part-time (9.00 a.m. until 12.00p.m.) or full-time.

Breakfast Club

The school's Breakfast Club runs five days a week (during term-time only) from 7.35 a.m. - 8.50 a.m. 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 a.m. start)

£3.50 per child per day (8.00 a.m. 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 a **privately** run after-school club 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 from 3.15 p.m. until 6.00 p.m. and is on every day. Please contact [After School & Breakfast Clubs based around North West London | Happy Days Clubs](#) for more details. At the club, the children have lots of fun and have access to various toys and games.

First Holy Communion

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

Newsletters

I will send out newsletters fortnightly. Please inform the office if you do not receive a newsletter via e-mail. Paper copies will be distributed if you do not have an e-mail account.

PE kits

Please ensure PE kits are brought into school each Monday. Children should take their PE kit home to be washed on Fridays.

Packed Lunches

As a healthy school, we ask that your child have a healthy packed lunch. Children may have a small daily treat, 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:

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

Breaktimes

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 the 12th of September.
2. 'Meet The Teacher' will be on Thursday 28th September for Years 1 to Years 6.
3. Please may I remind you that dogs are **not** allowed anywhere on the school site.
Thank you for your co-operation.
4. Flu vaccination sessions will take place in school on Monday the 18th of September and Monday the 27th of November. Consent forms will be sent to parents and should be completed and returned to the school office as soon as possible.
5. Please note that Parents Forums will be held at different start times throughout the year as suggested at the last Parents Forum.
6. Phonics workshop for Foundation 2 parents on Wednesday 27th September at 2.30p.m. or 5.00p.m.
7. Phonics workshop for Year 1 parents on Wednesday 4th October at 2.30p.m. or 5.00p.m.
8. Multiplication workshop for year 4 parents on Tuesday 3rd October at 2.30p.m. or 5.00p.m.

Have a great week,

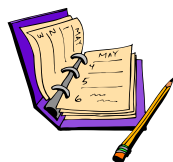
Linda Payne

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.

September	
Tuesday 12 th September	Individual/Sibling Photographs
Friday 15 th September	Swimming starts for Year 3 and Year 4
Monday 18 th September	Flu Vaccination Session
Wednesday 27 th September	Foundation 2 Phonics Meeting for Parents . Starting at the following times: 2.30pm. or 5.00p.m.



Thursday 28 th September	Meet the Teacher/visit the classroom for Years 1 – 6 (after school) from 3.20pm
Friday 29 th September	Foundation 1 & 2 Meet the Teacher and Foundation Stage Macmillan Coffee Morning. Foundation Stage parents are welcome to attend. More information to follow. 9.15a.m.

October	Month of Mary
Tuesday 3 rd October	Year 4 Multiplication Meeting for Parents. Starting at the following times: 2.30pm. or 5.00p.m.
Wednesday 4 th October	Year 1 Phonics Meeting for Parents. Starting at the following times: 2.30pm. or 5.00p.m.
Friday 6 th October	Welcome Mass in school at 11.00.a.m. TBC. All parents welcome.
Friday 13 th October	Pink Non Uniform Day to support Breast Cancer Appeal (Children may wear pink). £1 voluntary donation
Tuesday 17 th October	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 18 th October	Parents' Evening
Thursday 19 th October	Harvest Assembly: All Parents are welcome to attend. Approximate start times for class performances:
	Foundation 1 9.10a.m.
	Foundation 2 9.15am.
	Year 1 9.20a.m.
	Year 2 9.25a.m.
	Year 3 9.30a.m.
	Year 4 9.35a.m.
	Year 5 9.40a.m.
	Year 6 9.45a.m.
Thursday 19 th October	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
Friday 20 th October	School Closed – Deanery Inset Day
23 rd October – 27 th October	Half Term Holiday – School Closed
Monday 30th October	Start of term

November	
Wednesday 1 st November	All Saints Day Mass 9.15am in Church
Friday 3 rd November	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m. (after assembly)
Friday 3 rd November	PFA Fireworks Night. Parent Volunteers needed to help at this great event. Gates open at 6.30p.m.
Tuesday 7 th November	Year 5 Remembrance Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 5 parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 16 th November	Year 4 Refugee Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 4 parents are welcome to attend.
Friday 24 th November	Occasional Day – School Closed
Monday 27 th November	Flu Vaccination Session
Thursday 30 th November	St Andrew's Non Uniform day (children may wear blue, white or tartan).
Thursday 30 th November	Year 6 Advent Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 6 parents are welcome to attend.

December	Advent
Friday 1 st December	Foundation Stage, Key stage 1 & 2 Christmas PFA Disco

	Parent volunteers needed for this event to go ahead.
Wednesday 6 th December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play (dress rehearsal- parents and toddlers welcome). Starts at 9.30a.m
Thursday 7 th December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play. Starts at 9.30a.m. All parents welcome to attend .
Friday 8 th December	Feast of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass in church at 9.15a.m.
Friday 8th December	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 4
Wednesday 13 th December	Pantomime Trip, Watersmeet Theatre
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day (children may wear a Christmas jumper/teeshirt).
Monday 18 th December	KS2 Advent Service. Starts at 1.30p.m. at church
Tuesday 19 th December	Whole School Christmas Quiz & Foundation Stage Party
Wednesday 20 th December	Mass in church 9.15a.m. All parents welcome to attend. End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.
21st December – 3rd January	Christmas Holiday – School Closed

January 2024 Spring Term	
Thursday 4th January	Start of term
Friday 5th January	Epiphany Mass in Church (No Celebration Assembly)TBC

February	Lent
Thursday 1 st February	Parents' Forum at 5pm
Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 6 th February	Parents' Consultations
Wednesday 7 th February	Parents' Consultations
Wednesday 14th February	Ash Wednesday Mass in Church at 9.15a.m.
Friday 16th February	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
19th – 23rd February	Half Term holiday – School Closed
Monday 26th February	Start of Term

March	Lent
Friday 1 st March	St David's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green, red, white or yellow).
Thursday 7 th 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 8 th March	Mother's Day Assembly starts at 9.00a.m. All F1 – F2 mothers/carers welcome to attend. More information to follow.
Friday 15 th March	St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green or

	white).
Tuesday 19 th March	St Joseph's Day Mass – 9.15am in Church All parents welcome to attend
Monday 25 th March	Holy Week Liturgies Lenten Cake Competition (all children may enter by baking a cake). Cake sale.
Tuesday 26 th March	Lenten Toy Sale (please donate old toys).
Thursday 28th March	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	Eastertide
Monday 15th April	Start of Term
Tuesday 23 rd April	St George's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear red, white or blue).

May	Month of Mary
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday. School closed.
Thursday 9 th May	Ascension Mass at 9.15am in church All parents welcome to attend
Friday 10 th May	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
1 st – 24 th May	KS1- Year 2 Assessment
Monday 13th – 16th May	KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests (free breakfast club for Year 6 pupils all week, starting at 8.00a.m.)
Monday 13th May	KS 2 Spelling, punctuation and Grammar Paper 1 & 2 tests
Tuesday 14th May	KS2 Reading Test
Wednesday 15th May	KS2 Maths Paper 1 & 2 Test
Thursday 16th May	KS2 Maths Paper 3 Test
Thursday 16 th May	Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend)
Monday 20 th May	Walk to School Week
Tuesday 21 st May	KS2 Sports Day at 9.30a.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Tuesday 21 st May	KS1 Sports Day at 1.20p.m. KS1 parents may attend.
Friday 24 th May	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.
27 th May – 31 st May	Half Term Holiday – School Closed

June	
Monday 3rd June	Inset Day – school closed.
Tuesday 4th June	Start of Term
Tuesday 4 th June	Year 1 Phonic tests commence Year 4 Multiplication tests commence
Wednesday 12 th June	Class Photographs
Tuesday 18 th June	KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 9.30p.m. KS2 parents may attend.
Tuesday 18 th June	KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 1.15p.m. KS1 parents may

	attend.
Tuesday 25 th June	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Tuesday 25 th – 28 th June	Year 6 Trip to Bournemouth
Friday 28 th June	St Peter and St Paul Mass in school TBC

July	
Monday 1 st July	F1 new children and parents visits 1.30p.m.
Tuesday 2 nd July	Reserve date: Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. F1 & F2 parents welcome to attend.
Tuesday 2 nd July	Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting at 2.30p.m. (All Year 2 parents are welcome to attend)
Wednesday 3 rd July	New to Year 2 Transition Meeting at 2.30pm (All Year 1 parents are welcome to attend)
Thursday 4 th July	New to Year 1 Transition Meeting at 2.30pm (All Foundation 2 parents are welcome to attend)
Monday 8 th July	F1 new children and parents meeting 1.30p.m.
Thursday 11 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 12 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass in school at 11.00a.m. Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting)
Tuesday 16 th July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Wednesday 17 th 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
Friday 19th 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.