

10th November 2023

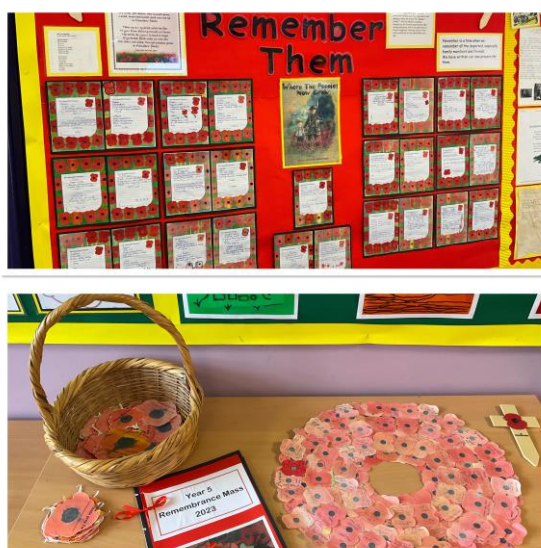
Dear Parents and Carers,

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.

The children have been learning about the significance of Remembrance Day. Children have written poems, made poppies, and created a beautiful batik artwork display. In addition, Year 5 pupils led a beautiful Remembrance Mass.



Caritas Ambassadors

In Year 5, our pupils from John House visited each class and told the children about our Poppy Appeal. The children have been selling poppies every day. Thank you to everyone who has supported our Poppy Appeal and well done, Year 5 John House.

Date	Key Dates
22/11/23	Year 5 Mass
24/11/23	School Closed
27/11/23	Year 6 Mass
30/11/23	St Andrew's Non Uniform day
1/12/23	School Disco
5/12/23	Crazy Sock Day
6/12/23	KS1 Play (dress rehearsal)
7/12/23	KS1 Play
8/12/23	Gift Shop Day
8/12/23	Immaculate Conception Mass
13/12/23	Pantomime Trip,
14/12/23	Christmas Jumper Day
15/12/23	KS2 Advent Service.
21/12/23	End of Term Mass School closes at 1.30p.m.



All Saints Day

All Saints Day honours all the saints, known and unknown. It provides an opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of their faith, learn from the examples set by the saints, and reflect on their own spiritual journey. It is a day to celebrate the communion of saints and inspire pupils to strive for holiness in their own lives.

On the 1st of November, we celebrated All Saints Day by going to Mass at St Joseph's Church. Many parishioners commented on the pupils' exemplary behaviour. Well done, children. It was a wonderful Mass. Thank you to our Year 6 Class Apostles for tidying up the church after Mass.



Headteacher's awards

Well done children, for achieving a Headteacher's award for their fantastic work.



Curriculum Updates

Spotlight on Religious Education

In RE, this week, the children have been learning the following new skills.

Year Group	RE
Foundation 1	God's Family- God loves us.
Foundation 2	God's Family – Learning about their family.
Year 1	Retelling the story when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary.
Year 2	The Trinity. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
Year 3	Learning about the Annunciation.
Year 4	How we use the Bible and what the Bible means to us.
Year 5	To understand Catholic Social Teaching – Peace and Solidarity.
Year 6	Retelling the 'Jesus feeds the five thousand' making links with what we as Catholics believe and church tradition.

Spotlight on RSE

As a Catholic school, our mission is to support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all of our pupils, rooted in the wisdom and teaching of the Church. The aims of RSE are:

- To give children the information they need to help them develop healthy and nurturing relationships.
- To enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a



successful marriage or other types of committed relationships.

- To teach what acceptable and unacceptable behaviours are in relationships.
- For pupils to understand the positive effects that good relationships have on their mental wellbeing. Identify when relationships are not right and understand how such situations can be managed.

This week, the children have been learning about the following topics:

Year Group	RSE
Foundation 1	Created and Loved by God. What do you like?
Foundation 2	Created and Loved by God. I like, you like, we all like
Year 1	Feelings, likes and dislikes
Year 2	Created and Loved by God. How we are all welcome.
Year 3	Created to love others. Friendship. Being a good friend.
Year 4	Designed for a purpose: Similarities and differences
Year 5	Created to live in a Community. Mini Police- Keeping our Community Safe
Year 6	Made to Grow. Body changes

Catholic Social Teaching - Mini Police

The Mini Police program is an initiative implemented by Hertfordshire Police to engage pupils in promoting safety, citizenship, and community involvement. Each year, our Year 5 pupils serve as Mini Police officers within their school community.

The Mini Police officers are given specific responsibilities and tasks such as: assisting with traffic management; promoting road safety; supporting school events; raising awareness about important issues like bullying prevention, antisocial behaviour, online safety drug and substance misuse.



The Mini Police program aims to empower pupils, develop their leadership skills, and foster positive relationships between young people and the police. It also provides an opportunity for pupils to learn about law enforcement, community service, and the importance of safety and citizenship within their school and wider community. The program also promotes Catholic Social Teaching by teaching pupils that they are 'called to serve' by God.

Mental Health & Well-being

At St Joseph's, we recognise the importance of promoting positive Mental Health and emotional wellbeing. We want our children to be able to discuss Mental Health and Well-being and learn how to recognise and regulate their own emotions using zones of regulation.

Zones of Regulation is a framework that helps pupils develop self-regulation skills and emotional awareness. It categorises emotions and states of alertness into four colour-coded zones:

1. The Blue Zone represents low states of alertness, such as feeling sad, tired, or bored.
2. The Green Zone represents a calm and focused state, where pupils are ready to learn and engage in activities.
3. The Yellow Zone represents a heightened state of alertness, such as feeling excited.
4. The Red Zone represents an extremely heightened state of alertness, where pupils may feel angry, out of control, or overwhelmed.

The Zones of Regulation framework teaches our pupils to recognise and understand their emotions, identify strategies to regulate them and make appropriate choices based on their emotional state. It helps create a supportive and inclusive environment where pupils can effectively manage their emotions and behaviours.



The photograph shows Foundation 1 pupils telling the teacher how they are feeling.

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 English. Phonics involves matching the sounds of spoken English with individual letters or groups of letters. We use Read, Write Inc as our systematic synthetic phonic curriculum. 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 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>

During our daily spelling lessons, the children have been learning a variety of new spelling skills, which can be seen in the table and photographs below.

Year Group	Focus	Phonics/Spellings
F1	Environmental Sounds. These are environmental sounds, as they are common and they infer that something specific is happening - someone is calling or visiting the house. There are lots of environmental sounds that you can point out at home, such as the kettle boiling, the microwave beeping, a tap running or a door closing.	
F2	Set 1 sounds- sh shop, shell, sheep, shoe	
Year 1	Set 2 sounds- 'ee' & 'ay'	Bee, see, tree, three, green, sheep, day, hay, pay, say, may,
Year 2	Adding the suffix - y	Shiny, spicy, whiny, lazy, wavy, breezy, crazy, bony, smoky.
Year 3	Adding the suffix- ment	Agreement, amazement, attachment, basement, development, employment, government, judgement, payment, measurement, movement, merriment.
Year 4	Adding the suffix -ian	Musician, politician, electrician, mathematician, optician, magician.
Year 5	Revising prefixes and suffixes	prefixes dis- , in-, im-, re- , anti-, super-, sub-. Suffixes ous, ly, ture, ion, ian,
Year 6	Suffixes	-ing, -est, -ed, -er, -y, -ant, -tion, -ous ough -ible a-e

Music

In Music, the children have been very busy listening to various composers and genres of music. Here is a taster of what they have been learning about.

Year Group	Music Topic
Foundation 1	Recognising sounds and sound patterns, playing un-tuned percussion instruments and singing simple songs from memory. Learning songs linked to the topics of Autumn and Creation based on known nursery rhymes and learning about instruments in the orchestra through listening to sections from Carnival of the Animals.
Foundation 2	Focusing on musical elements of pulse rhythm and pitch through simple action songs and nursery rhymes involving repetition. They are now learning our Christmas songs for the Nativity.
Year 1	Pupils have focused on the beat, clapping improvised long & short rhythms and singing low & high sounds. They have performed songs from the pop genre and learned to play notes

	C,D, and E on the glockenspiel as an accompaniment. They are now learning our Christmas songs for the Nativity.
Year 2	Children have explored keeping a steady beat, clapping simple rhythmic patterns using long and short notes and singing simple melodic patterns using high and low notes. They have learnt about soul and jazz through songs and used glockenspiels to perform simple accompaniments. They are now learning our Christmas songs for the Nativity.
Year 3	Playing and singing R&B song 'Let your Spirit fly' on the glockenspiel. Notes:C,B,A,G,F and E.
Year 4	Introduction to the violin.
Year 5	Introducing left hand fingers on the violin.
Year 6	Studying the composer Anna Meredith.



Enrichment

Over the past term, the children have been very busy learning about various festivals, their class saint's feast day as well as other significant days celebrated in Britain.

Year Group	Festivals, Feast Days and Celebrations.
Foundation 1	Harvest Festival, Festivals of Light Diwali – Rama and Sita Story Bonfire Night Remembrance Day Mental Health Day
Foundation 2	Harvest Festival Diwali – Festival of light - Rama and Sita Story , making Diva lamps Bonfire Night Remembrance Day Mental Health Day
Year 1	Harvest Festival Bonfire Night/ Diwali – Festival of light Remembrance Day Mental Health Day
Year 2	Harvest Festival Bonfire Night/ Diwali – Festival of light St Martin De Porres Feast Day (Class Saint) Remembrance Day Mental Health Day
Year 3	Harvest Festival Bonfire Night/ Diwali – Festival of light Remembrance Day Jewish Festivals of Sukkot Mental Health Day
Year 4	Harvest Festival Bonfire Night/ Diwali – Festival of light Remembrance Day
Year 5	Harvest Festival Bonfire Night/ Diwali – Festival of light Remembrance Day Mental Health Day
Year 6	Harvest Festival Bonfire Night/ Diwali – Festival of light Mental Health Day Jewish Festivals of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot



Pupils in the Foundation stage have learnt about the festival of Diwali.

Foundation Stage making poppies and fireworks pictures.



Enrichment Activities: School Trips

Year 1

As part of the Science topic, Year 1 have been learning about the different seasons. Yesterday, they went to Aldenham Country Park and had a wonderful time looking for signs of Autumn, seeing the animals and riding on the mini tractors.



Year 4

Year 4 went to Verulamium Museum in St Albans as they are learning about the Romans in their history topic. The Year 4 class saint is also St Alban. They had a great day.



Year 6

Year 6 had a great day at Hudnall Park, measuring the width, depth, speed and pollution levels of the River Gade.



Parents & Friends Association (PFA) Fireworks Night

Last Friday, we had a fabulous fireworks night, and we made a staggering £906 profit, which will go towards the cost of new drains and playground equipment. Thank you to everyone who helped, especially to Mr Sullivan, who has helped with our fireworks display for over 20 years and to Krysia, who spent many weeks organising the event. A special thank you to the staff and governors, who kindly gave up their evening setting up, running stalls and tidying up. I would also like to thank the parents and pupils who helped run the stalls, went shopping, tidied up and helped with the fireworks display. Thank you to Ms Jones who kindly managed to get Wenzels to donate 100 gingerbread men.



Future Parents & Friends Association (PFA) Events

The Parents Forum suggested that different classes run different events throughout the year. To start, some Year 2 & 3 parents suggested they would lead the Christmas disco, which is very much appreciated. For the event to go ahead, we need parent volunteers to go food shopping, set up, serve and sell food, dance with the children and tidy up. DJ Ronan and DJ Jerry have already volunteered their service to be the DJs at the disco. Thank you very much. If you can volunteer, please let the School Office know.

Parents & Friends Association (PFA) Year 5 Christmas Present Appeal

If you have any unwanted gifts/toiletries, please send them to the school office for our Christmas shop. On the 8th of 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 'library refurbishment'. At the Parents Forum it was suggested that Year 5 parent volunteers will help wrap up and sell presents; therefore, please contact the School Office if you can help.

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 12×12 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.

Sports News

Basketball Competition

Years 5 & 6 competed in a Basketball Tournament at Croxley Danes. They won five of their matches, and overall, we came 4th. Fantastic teamwork by all.



Play Rangers

Three Rivers District Council offers 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 occurs 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.

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 that 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.

Or

3. Check our twitter feed @stjosephs775

Or

4. Contact the school office after 8.00a.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 2023. Applications for admission to our school opened on the 1st of November. You will need to apply for a school place if your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020.

Please 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 Baptism** is also required,

which you can get from your church. If you are unable to contact the church, please inform the school office if you require any help.
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. 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 2023.**

Nursery Admissions

We now offer full-time Nursery provision (9.a.m. to 3p.m.). Applications for admission to our Nursery Class will opened on the 31st of October for children who were born between the 1st of September 2020 and the 31st of August 2021.

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
Baptism Certificate (if applicable)

1. School Closed

The school will be closed on Friday 24th November.



Attendance Award

Year 1 had the best attendance last week. Well done Year 1!

Remembrance Day Prayer

Dear God

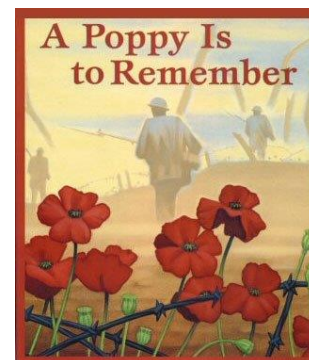
Please bless all the soldiers who fought and died in World War 1 and in all the conflicts elsewhere. Bless the people all the people who have lost their loved ones in the wars. The people who have fought in conflicts sacrificed their lives for us so that we all have a more peaceful life. We honour the fallen soldier who has been severely injured.

We will never forget the soldier who fought for us. May we remember them every 11th of November in a moment of silence. God bless all the soldiers.

Amen

By Nya Year 6

Have a great week
Mrs Linda Payne



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.

November	
Wednesday 22 nd 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).
Wednesday 29 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 8 th 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).
Friday 15 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 4 th January	Start of term
Friday 5 th 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 14 th 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.