



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Pre-School Newsletter

Friday 16th January 2026

Headteacher Message

Headteacher Awards

Elijah (Year 2) for supporting younger children with their play skills.

Brody (Year 6) for ensuring that all the children could enjoy music as part of Opal Play.

This week, children in Reception and Year 3 classes took part in a national programme to improve children's oral health. They had a talk from the local dentists and then some children had their teeth checked. On Thursday, some pupils from Year 6, participated in a morning of maths with children from the other primary schools in the town - well done for good behaviour and great maths! Have a lovely weekend.

Miss North



Catholic Life and Mission

This week, the children learned how St John the Baptist sees Jesus walking towards him. He says "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" He is pointing people towards Jesus. Together, the children reflected upon how we can point people to Jesus and also how he is always moving towards us.



Terrific Teddy

Pre-School - Josiah, for impressing Mrs Collins with his cutting skills and enthusiasm to learn new things.

Reception - Stella

for settling so well into our class routine and making so many new friends.
Mrs Huish says well done!

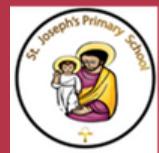
Reminders



Toast Tuesday 50p

Wednesday 21st - Year 5 to WdF for a science lesson.





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Pot of Gold

Year 1: **Clemency**, for being an excellent role model in class this week - consistently showing others how to prepare their workspace and transition to the next activity as we continue to focus on our organisational skills. Well Done!

Year 2: **Aria**, for working very hard to develop her independent recording skills and now completes tasks in good time and with care. Well done, Aria!

Year 3: **Laz**, for showing kindness to others and being a good friend. He has been a very good role model this week. Well done!

Year 4: **Finley**, for demonstrating great maturity this week . Well done!

Year 5: **Vinny**, for suggesting some great ideas during our discussion on the reliability of historical sources.

Year 6: **Kennedy**, for making a big effort to develop structure and consistent punctuation within her extended writing. Well done, and keep this up!

Attendance

Reception - 98%

Year 1 - 95%

Year 2 - 95%

Year 3 - 83%

Year 4 - 96%

Year 5 - 97%

Year 6 - 90%

Well done Reception, Year 4 and Year 5 who have the highest attendance this week, they will receive extra playtime.

PTA Events

Thank you for all your support with the different events.

The PTA have raised £2000 in just one term - thank you!

They will use some of this money for new ipads and some for Computing equipment - Crumble Kits and Data Loggers.



Attendance

How does attendance affect outcomes for pupils?

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. [Evidence](#) shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

Our research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and [secondary school](#) missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well.

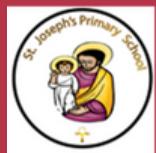
The data also shows that in 2019, [primary school](#) children in Key Stage 2 who didn't achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths missed on average four more days per school year than those whose performance exceeded the expected standard.

Similarly, in the same year, secondary school pupils who didn't achieve grade 9 to 4 in English and maths missed on 10 more days on average over the key stage than those who achieved grade 9 to 5 in both English and maths.

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This week, we had a lovely assembly, where Mr Blackman, who is one of our school governors, talked about his work with Guide Dogs for the Blind. Mr Blackman brought his current guide dog, Theo, into school and showed the children how he can support people. The children loved the opportunity to greet Theo and they asked good questions about the work that he does.



On Thursday 15th January, six pupils from Year Six visited Elmwood School to take part in a maths session with other local schools (Elmwood, Trinity St Mary's and Collingwood). The children took part in a range of activities led by teachers from each school. Overall, it was a successful morning and we are hoping to organise more events like this. Well done to Theo, Buddy, Alicja, Sienna, Isabella and Sophie for showing an excellent attitude and being a credit to our school.





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Your paragraph text

Diary Dates

Tuesday 20th January - after school, Years 5 & 6 Netball

Wednesday 21st January 9:15am – 9:30am EYFS & KS1 Come and Celebrate

Friday 23rd January 10:00am Year 6 to attend Parish Mass

Wednesday 28th January 9:15am – 9:30am KS2 Come and Celebrate

Friday 30th January 10:00am Year 5 to attend Parish Mass

Monday 2nd February 1:30pm Year 5 to lead Mass
(Reception & KS1 to attend)

(am) Nurses completing national height and weight check for pupils in Reception and Year 6

Tuesday 3rd February - after school - Year 5 boys and girls football

Friday 6th February All day NSPCC Numbers Day – Whole School
(Parents to be invited in for a Maths workshop)

Tuesday 10th February - after school - KS2 Cross Country

Wednesday 11th February All day Chinese New Year workshop for the whole school.

Wednesday 11th February (pm) - Gymnastics for selected children.

13th February All day INSET Day

St Joseph's After School Club



Children will be able to access a range of age appropriate activities and crafts.

A healthy snack and drink will also be offered.

Session timings and cost



3:20 -4:15pm - £5.00

3:20-5:00pm – £7.00

3:20-5:30pm - £9.00

3:20-6:00pm - £12.00

If you would like your child to attend, please complete the Microsoft Form.