



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through
Faith, Hope, and Love

Newsletter – Friday 11th September 2026

Our first week

It is hard to believe that we have been back at school for only one full week. Already, the rhythms of school life seem wonderfully familiar: laughter on the playground, the hum of purposeful talk in classrooms and smiles as children greet one another.

There is also a sense of growth and new beginnings. Our youngest children are already exploring our wonderful grounds, now supported by their Year 6 buddies. Next week, Reception complete our family by joining us full time. Our new pupil leadership groups are taking shape. Year 6 candidates seeking to lead their houses gave exceptional speeches on Wednesday and results were announced this week. Next week there are elections to School Council and we select our Eco-committees, Chaplaincy Teams, Reading Ambassadors and Digital Leaders. The wide range of leadership positions we offer at St Joseph's is central to our mission to give children the courage, knowledge, skills and values to lead positive change in the world. I am very proud of everyone who put themselves forward and of the quality of speeches and applications.

Year 5/6 Transition Meeting

Dan Lieblich, the new Headteacher at St Peter's High School, will be hosting an online session on transition to Secondary school for parents of children in Years 5 and 6 on Monday 14th September. Even if you are not considering St Peter's for your child, the session will contain useful information about open days and choosing a school. The details are:
Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/322745224283398?p=5eS48vuUuv2I48HudO>
Meeting ID: 322 745 224 283 398, Passcode: uK6RT66C

Free fruit and snacks

We aim to provide all children with nutritious food and to develop their understanding of what healthy food is. Only children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 receive free fruit at break time. Children in Years 3–6 should therefore bring a healthy snack from home if they would like one at break. This is particularly important for families whose children have just moved from Year 2 into Year 3.

Attendance

Almost every child attended the whole of the first week back, enjoying rebuilding relationships with their friends, meeting new teachers and beginning to explore the term's learning. There were, however, still 38 sessions where children missed part of this important week. We welcomed back those who were unwell. Where children have missed school for other reasons, we will work closely with families to understand any barriers and provide support where it is needed. Regular attendance matters enormously, and we will always work with families to ensure that every child benefits from as much time in school as possible and are supported on their return.

Messages from our wider community

We choose to distribute information from external organisations where we believe their work aligns with our values and mission and where we think the information may be helpful to our families. This week we have sent information from: Brimscombe Mill, Forest Green Rovers, Dursley Rugby and Mr Tuttle, our guitar teacher. Please check your messages if this of interest to you.

Building work continues at the Rose and Crown and contractors need access to the site and often use the righthand side of the car park. Please respect this when parking to collect children.



WEEK AHEAD



TUESDAY

Years 3-6

Parents

**Coffee with
the Head
9am**



WEDNESDAY

Year 6

**School Council
Speeches**



Whole School

Pupil Voice



THURSDAY

Year 1

Village Walk



Years 1-2

**Parents
Coffee with
the Head
9am**



Year 6

**Mass
(Parents Welcome)
10am**



FRIDAY

Years 3/4

**National Schools
Singing Programme**



Parents are welcome to drop in for a coffee and meet me on Tuesday at 9am (KS2) and Thursday at 9am (KS1).

Year 6 will be attending Mass on Thursday. Parents are welcome to join us in celebration. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

On Wednesday we will mix the school for an hour so that children can speak to teachers who lead each subject about their experiences. This is part of our continued drive to shape our curriculum to the strengths and interests of our children.

Our curriculum blends high-quality explicit teaching with chances to explore and develop interests and skills beyond the usual in the classroom. This week contains several such opportunities across the school:

- Year 6 candidates will be addressing the school to seek election to School Council
- Years 3 and 4 will have an enriched Music curriculum as we are visited by Mr Robinson of the National Schools Singing Programme
- Year 1's exploration of the Geography curriculum will take them around the village to observe and explore our rural community and investigate its human and physical features.



DAY	LUNCHTIME	AFTER SCHOOL YEARS 1 AND 2	AFTER SCHOOL YEARS 3, 4, 5, 6	MUSIC LESSONS
MONDAY	 Cricket	 Cookery	 Learning for Peace	 Drums
TUESDAY	 Rugby	 Kids with Bricks	 With the Ball	 Piano
WEDNESDAY	 Netball and Choir	 Stop Motion	 Cross Country and Dance	 Violin
THURSDAY	 Rounders			 Guitar
FRIDAY	 Football			

Cookery Club in the first half term is for Year 2 only, and for Year 1 after the October break.

After School Clubs begin on Monday.

Clubs run until 4.15pm and children can be collected from the main gates.

Clubs are open to children in the appropriate year group, whether they are picked up from club or go from club to OOSC. If you wish to come to a club and have not signed up, please contact the school office to see if there is space. Spaces are still available on all clubs, especially Learning for Peace which would work well with more children.

Most teacher-led clubs are free, although there is a small charge for Lego and Cookery club to cover what is taken home.

We have two external providers enhancing our after-school offer: Ritchie Ball provides a football-based 'With the Ball' club, and Sophie Morgan a Dance Club. Although these take place in school, you will need to sign up and pay with these providers. If you no longer have contact details, they are available from the school office.

Lunchtime clubs offered a structured fun activity within our zoned lunchtime provision and are open to all on the day.

Our musical tradition is something we are proud of, and we enjoy supporting children in school. Please try and encourage your children to remember their instruments if they need to bring them in.