



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

Newsletter – Friday 12th September 2024

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a lovely summer break. The children have come back to school, settled in really well to their new classes and are raring to go.

A big welcome too to our new parents and reception children. It was lovely to meet some of you at our coffee morning on the first day of school. The reception children are settling in well and learning all about life in reception. Their phased transition is already done – they are in full time next week!

We are all looking forward to a busy and productive autumn.

Thank you

I would like to thank all of the parents and children for their kind and generous gifts at the end of the summer term. That is from myself and the staff too. We had some beautiful cards with lovely messages from many of our families – thank you all.

Smart and Ready to Learn

Thank you so much for your support in making sure that your child is in the correct school uniform. The children have returned to school looking very smart.

- ✓ Please label all of your child's belongings so that if they get lost, we can return them
- ✓ The only jewellery allowed in school is one set of small stud earrings
- ✓ School shoes must be worn – no trainers
- ✓ Hair should be shoulder length or longer should be kept off the face by tying back. This is for your child's safety and to keep head lice to a minimum.
- ✓ The uniform policy also states that hair styles should be plain, a completely shaved head would be deemed unsuitable as would partially shaved heads, tramlines/designs. Hair should be no shorter than a no.2. No oversized bows or unnatural colours.
- ✓ No nail varnish or tattoos
- ✓ PE kit is navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms, no logos or zip up hoodies (for health and safety reasons)
- ✓

Thank you for your co-operation with this; helping us to hold high expectations and take pride in our appearance. If on the odd occasion your child is not in their school uniform, please let the Admin Team know, then staff will not try to catch you on the playground after school.

Friendship – be kind.

We have come back to school talking about the important of friendship, what a good friend is and how those little acts of kindness make a big difference. The emphasis being the way that we speak to others, how we can make them feel. This is something that we will be returning to throughout the term. Important too for all adults, to act as role models. Please do join us in reinforcing this with your children at home.



Need help with school uniform?

Is your child constantly losing their tie? There isn't a requirement for the children to wear a tie until after the October half term, but just to let you know, we are now keeping a stock in the school office should you need to replace a tie at any point.

Just a reminder that Batemans offer free delivery service to school. You can order over the phone/online and they will deliver to us on a Tuesday – might save you a trip to Stroud!

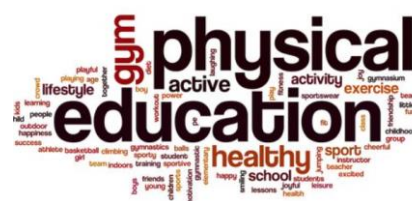
Finally, the PTA organise quality second hand uniform for items with a logo. If you have any uniform that is too small for your child in good condition (no holes or stains) then please do bring it into the school office/give it to Naomi in the playground. Or, if this is something that your child needs please contact the PTA or speak to Naomi.

PE and Health and Safety

PE Plans 2025

We are delighted to welcome back Ali Dixon this year,

She will continue to develop our Gymnastics curriculum with the class teachers. We hope that Sarah will return later on in the year to support the delivery of dance. Just to remind you that your child/children will have 2 time tabled PE slots throughout the year, class teachers will let you know which days they are at the start of a big term.



Swimming will continue and will take place during the summer term. Swimming lessons are back to normal now and many of our children are competent swimmers – which is fantastic. Swimming is such an important life skill. By the end of Key Stage 2, the children need to be able to swim 25 metres. To this end, swimming lessons this year will be targeting children in Key Stage 2 who are not yet able to do this. More information about this will be sent to the relevant parents nearer the time.

Just a reminder, if your child wears a small pair of studs, they must be removed for PE lessons. Please try to remind your child to remove them at home on a PE day to avoid any losses and upset, or to be ready to remove and replace independently before and after the lesson. If your child has recently had piercings that they are unable to remove for PE, current guidance states that they should **not** be taped. Teachers will risk assess the PE lesson and your child will be asked to sit out if they feel that the activity proves too high a risk for them to be involved if they are unable to remove their earrings. Please email the Admin Team should your child have newly pierced ears that cannot be removed.

Reception and Year 1 Parents Phonics Evening

Reading is the most important skill that we teach our children - confidence, competence and fluency. Together with your support, we aim to give all children the best start with this. On **Tuesday 23rd September**, we will be holding a meeting for our new reception parents at **6.30pm** to share how we teach phonics and the ways that you can support your child at home to make sure they get off to a flying start.

This will be followed at **7pm** by a meeting for our Year 1 parents. The aim of this meeting is to share with parents how the phonics will change as the children move into the Key Stage 1 curriculum and to explain the phonics screening – a statutory assessment that all children in Year 1 will take in June. Most importantly, the support that parents need to offer their children to support their success. Please email the Admin Team to let us know if you will be joining us.

Reading Help!



Reading, as you are aware, is always a priority. If you are able to stay at school drop off to support the regular reading of children, or come to school 20-30 minutes before the end of the day, please let your class teacher/the Admin Team know so that we can get you joining us as soon as possible. Your help with this would be greatly appreciated.

Prayer Garden

I would like to say a huge thank you to Rachel and Mark Barron and Michelle Jenkins, who spent the first week of the summer holidays turning a dream into reality. At last we have a prayer garden. This has been an ongoing project for several years, raising money, developing ideas. The Chaplaincy Team and School Council have been working collaboratively to make this happen for our children.

Rachel, Mark and Michelle, were also joined by Mrs Allin, Hattie and Pippa, Mrs Hamlin, Miss Gardiner, Rosie and Lucas (Mrs Knight's children) Calum, Mrs Jenkin's son, and Mrs Pinnock, who came to help at points during the week. Thanks to the kind and generous donations and the grant that was secured by the MAT the project came in under budget. We would like to also thank Mrs Smith, Arthur and Fred's mum, for the hard core, paving slabs and bricks. Mrs Smee for the lining and Mrs Smith-Wallace for the paving slabs used for the cross.

Every child painted a pebble, which has been cemented into the path, to capture the children who are at St Joseph's at the moment. There is still a bit of path work to be completed and Mrs Steele, Austin's grandma, has been consulted on the planting. The garden is not yet finished and open, but we are hoping that it will be ready for Little Way Week which is the first week in October.

For pre-school children who are on the site at the end of the school day, please make sure that they are not entering that area - it is not yet safe.

Goal posts and more!

I am sure that you have seen the goal post that have appeared over the summer. The children, as you can imagine are delighted! I would like to thank Mark Barron and Rob

Gemma Sims' (our SBM) Dad, who kindly spent a day putting them together - a bigger job that you might expect!

I am sure that your children have also told you about the new playground equipment too. There are lots of new and exciting things for them to engage with during their free time. As you can imagine, this all comes at a cost. So, looking after the equipment and keeping it in good working order for as long as possible is our aim.

To that end, we have spoken to the children and asked that they do not use the equipment after school. Too often, when the whistle goes, items are dropped and left on the field/playground where they get lost or become damaged – as was the case last Friday. Please can you also enforce this expectation with any younger children who are on the playground before school finishes at the end of the day. Thank you for your support with this, ensuring that the new play equipment lasts as long as possible.

Music Opportunities at St Joseph's



The children at St Joseph's are so lucky to have the opportunity to take individual music lessons in such a wide range of instruments, should they wish to. We offer piano, singing, violin, clarinets, guitar and electric drums!

I know that there are spaces for piano lessons and I am sure there will be in the other instruments too.

Lots of our children are enjoying their lessons, if you would like your child to start to learn an instrument, please contact the Admin Team, let them know the instrument and they will put you in touch with the right teacher.

Attendance



As you can imagine, attendance remains a focus and we will continue to track and monitor your child's attendance and punctuality. Our Policy has been updated with a few minor changes (this will be sent out to parents soon). Just a reminder, if you need to apply to school for a leave of absence during term time, please send in the form (found at the end of the policy) at least **7 days prior to the requested date**. Thank you for your support with this.

Please see the links below for information about when you should keep your child off school.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

House Captains 2025-26

New academic year, new House Captains. The Year 6's have been busy this week, they have delivered their speeches, put up their posters and campaigned in an attempt to secure their position as the leader of their House. We were so impressed with all of the speeches - congratulations to all of the Year 6 children who wrote and delivered their speeches with such confidence to the rest of the school.

The children have voted and this year's House Captains are:

Hawkes	Finlay & Millie
Kestrels	Marmaduke & Kian
Eagles	Harry & Emilia
Falcons	Hebe & Marianne

Well done to all and good luck in leading your House this year

SEND

There has been some exciting progress over the summer for the SENDCOs across our MAT, who have been working together to produce a clear flowchart to help parents/carers to understand the process that are in place to support the identification of SEND needs, and importantly timescales for this, then what we do as a school to support children in addition to our extensive universal offer. Mrs Ponting will be offering all parents the opportunity to meet with her so that she can explain this and answer any questions that you may have on Tuesday 21st October at 9am.

For all of our SEND parents, please see the link for the families in partnership newsletter - [Families in Partnership newsletter August 2025 | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Communication



Just to remind you all that communication between home and school is vitally important – keeping us informed about your child helps us to adapt, observe and most importantly enables us to meet their needs.

In most cases, the class teacher is the person that you need to speak to. Whilst they are not available at the start of the school day, they will be on the playground at the end of the day until 3.30pm (unless they are on a course/PPA) please do catch them then to speak to them about your child.

If there is something more pressing at the beginning of the school day that the class teacher should know about then please call or email the Admin Team who will be able to pass a message on. Our updated communication policy will be sent out soon!

New Books for everyone – how exciting!

Trying to keep up to date with high quality texts for children is no mean feat and as I am sure that you are aware, costly. But, with support from the PTA – thank you so much, we are so grateful - we have been able to buy a new box of 50 high quality texts for each class and some more progressive books for our Key Stage 2 classes. They have arrived and we need to say a huge thank you to Nona Rushton, who stamped them all for us! The children will be so excited when they get into the classrooms. Please support us by making sure that the books are treated well at home and come back to school in the condition



that they left us.

Secondary Transitions

I know that many parents of children in upper Key Stage 2 will be starting to think about what is next and how do you choose the right secondary school for your child. To help you with that process Charlotte Blanch has arranged for an information meeting for Year 5 and 6 parents. Please do join the meeting if you need support in pointing you in the right direction (link is in LWCET newsletter which was sent out earlier today to all).

Audience: Y5 and 6 parents (with children if they wish)

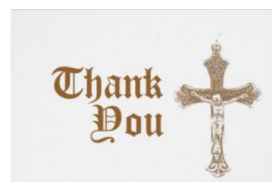
Purpose: to brief them on the application process for secondary schools and arrangements for open evenings and mornings - with a short talk from a secondary head

Date: Tues 16th September 2025

Time: 7-8pm online

Residential Meeting For Year 6 Parents

Mrs Knight will be holding a residential meeting on Friday 26th September at 3.30pm to share further information. We look forward to seeing our Year 6 parents then.



Thank you Mrs Tiley!

I am sure that many of you will remember Gabriella Tiley, who was our Chair of Governors. During the summer holidays she renamed all of our prayer bags to match the new class names. We cannot thank her enough for always being there to help when we need her.

PTA News

I would like to thank the PTA for the time and effort that they put into raising money for our school while providing many social events for the families and children of our school to enjoy. The money that they raise is needed more than ever before in the current financial climate. I would like to thank them for their contributions to towards the new play equipment, new tables for the Year 2 class and books that all children in school will get to use and enjoy. What a great difference you have helped us to make to all of the children this year.



The Team will be holding another quiz at the Fox, Coaley on Monday 20th October. This always proves to be a great night. If you would like to join in the fun, the teams are a maximum of 6. Please either speak to Jo Smee, PTA Chair or call the Fox, who will be happy to book you in.

Save the date – Saturday 22nd November 12-3pm – Christmas Market

Sadly, due to a variety of reasons there will be no fireworks this year. However, there will be a Christmas market instead! If you are creative and would like a table please do get in touch with the PTA who will be more than happy to book you in. Further information about this event will be shared with you all soon.

LET US PRAY



Mass Schedule

Mass begins at 10.00am

Thursday 11th September - Year 6

Thursday 18th September – Year 5

Thursday 25th Whole School Mass

Thursday 2nd October – Year 4

Thursday 9th October – Year 3

Thursday 16th October - Year 2

Wednesday 22nd October KS1 Harvest celebration – all welcome

Thursday 23rd October – Year 1

October Half Term

Thursday 6th November – Reception

Tuesday 11th November - Remembrance Service 10.30am – all welcome

Thursday 13th November – Year 6

Thursday 20th November – Year 5

Thursday 27st November – Year 4

Thursday 27th 1.30pm – Advent Retreat- all welcome

Thursday 4th December – Year 3

Tuesday 9th December 11.00am – KS1 Nativity rehearsal

Wednesday 10th December – 9.30am

Thursday 11th December – 2pm

Thursday 11th December – Year 2

Tuesday 16th December 6.30pm KS2

Carol Concert

Thursday 18th December – Christingle Service – all welcome

9.00am – KS1 10.00am – KS2



[September 2025](#)

Just a reminder that you are able to access and see the focus for our Liturgies through the Ten Ten monthly Parent Newsletter.

This week's prayer for love was written by Molly Year 5

Heavenly Father,
Come give us love please and bring us together.
Come get the world together.
Bless us O Lord,
Amen.



Dates for your



Autumn Term 1 - September 2025

Monday 15th - Staff led clubs begin
Friday 19th - Story time EYFS/Y1 at
Convent (parents invited too) 9.00am
Tuesday 23rd - Phonics Evening EYFS
6.30pm, Y1 7.00pm
Thursday 25th - New School Year Mass
9.30am
Friday 26th - European Languages Day
WB 29th - Little Way Week

October 2025 - Month of the Rosary (Month of Mary)

Wednesday 1st - School photos
Friday 3rd - Macmillan coffee morning
(PM)
Friday 3rd - Y6 Residential meeting for
parents 3.30pm
Tuesday 14th - Y5 STEM day (more
details to follow)
Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th -
Parents Evening
Thursday 16th - KS2 Soup kitchen 1-2pm
(early lunches)
Friday 17th - Story time EYFS/Y1 at
Convent (parents invited too) 9.00am
Saturday 18th - Cross Country race in
Dursley RFC
WB 20th - Y6 Residential Week
WB 20th - Week of Awe and Wonder
Tuesday 21st - SEND Information
Meeting 9am
Wednesday 22nd - KS1 Harvest
celebration am
Friday 24th October - Half Term ☺

Autumn Term 2 - November 2025

Monday 3rd - INSET day
Tuesday 4th - Sian Hughes visiting
school (author)
Tuesday 4th - PTA AGM at 7pm - all
parents/carers welcome
Wednesday 5th - Stroud Literacy
Festival
Wednesday 5th - Parent Forum 9am - all
welcome
WB 10th - Anti Bullying week
Tuesday 11th - Remembrance assembly
10.30am
Thursday 13th - whole school flu
immunisation
Saturday 15th - Cross country race (2)
Tuesday 18th - Chaplaincy Retreat
Thursday 20th - Chaplaincy
commissioning
Friday 21st - Story time EYFS/Y1 at
Convent (parents invited too) 9.00am
Saturday 22nd - PTA Christmas Craft
Market 12pm-3pm
Monday 24th - Non-Uniform day
Christmas hamper
Thursday 27th - Advent Retreat

December 2025

WB 1st - Last week for teacher led clubs
Saturday 6th - Cross country race (3)
Tuesday 9th - KS1 Nativity dress
rehearsal
Wednesday 10th - KS1 Nativity 9.30am
Thursday 11th - KS1 Nativity 2.00pm

Friday 12th - Story time EYFS/Y1 at Convent (parents invited too) 9.00am

Tuesday 16th - KS2 Carol Concert 6.30pm

Wednesday 17th - Music concert am-pantomime pm

Wednesday 17th - Christmas Dinner

Thursday 18th - Christingle KS1 - 9.00am KS2 - 10.00am

Friday 19th - Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children charity

Friday 19th - PTA Christmas and Breakfast with Santa

Friday 19th - Assembly 9.30am with PTA Hamper Raffle draw

Friday 19th - Key Stage parties in the morning

Friday 19th End of term 1.30pm ☺

Spring Term 1 - January 2026

Monday 5th - INSET day

Look Who's Talking competition this term

Monday 12th - Teacher led clubs start

Saturday 17th - Last cross country race and prize giving

February 2026

Friday 6th - PTA disco

Saturday 7th - Back up last cross country race (if January date is cancelled)

Monday 9th - Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 10th - Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th - Parents Evening

Thursday 12th - Lent Retreat

Friday 13th Feb - Half Term ☺

Spring Term 2 - February 2026

WB 23rd Feb - Awe and Wonder week

Monday 23rd - PTA non-uniform for Easter hampers

Thursday 26th - Parent Forum 9am - all welcome

March 2026

Thursday 5th - World Book Day

WB 9th - Science Week

Monday 16th - last week of teacher led clubs

Thursday 19th - St Joseph's Feast Day Mass 9.30am

Sunday 22nd - PTA Easter event

Thursday 26th - House Singing Competition

Friday 27th - Stations of the Cross 9.30am

Friday 27th - End of Term 1.30pm ☺

Summer Term 1 - April 2026

Monday 13th - Term 5 begins

WB 20th - Teacher led clubs start

May 2026

Monday 4th - Bank Holiday

Friday 8th - EYFS trip to Slimbridge

WB 11th - KS2 SATS

Friday 15th - PTA Fun Colour Run

Friday 22nd May - Half Term ☺

Summer Term 2 - June 2026

Monday 1st - MAT INSET day

Tuesday 2nd - Y6 Bikeability starts

WB 8th - Phonics Screening (KS1)

WB 8th - MTC assessments

Wednesday 10th - Class and leavers' photos

Wednesday 10th - Parent Forum 2pm - all welcome

Tuesday 16th - New Parent's Evening
EYFS

Thursday 18th - Leavers Mass

WB 29th - Show week Y6 (Tuesday 30th
dress rehearsal, Wednesday 1st July
Matinee, Thursday 2nd July Evening
performance)

Thursday 25th - EYFS Transition
afternoon

WB 29th - Last week of teacher led
clubs

July 2026

Thursday 2nd - EYFS Transition afternoon

WB 6th - Health Week

Tuesday 7th - Sports Day

Friday 10th - Reports out to parents

WB 13th - Week of Awe and Wonder

Tuesday 14th - Whole School picnic - Y6 Make £5 Grow stalls

Wednesday 15th - Music concert

Thursday 16th - Leavers mass 9.30am

Thursday 16th - Final celebration Assembly 2.45pm

Friday 17th - Leavers assembly 9.00am

Friday 17th July End of the Year 1.30pm 😊😊😊

Monday 20th July - INSET DAY