



NEWSLETTER

St. Joseph's is a joyful community which follows the example of Jesus, helping, accepting and respecting everyone, as we learn and grow together, safe in His love.

The second half of the autumn term is officially in full swing, and as always, our school is buzzing with activity! In this newsletter, we're excited to share updates on everything that's been happening. November has been a month of reflection and respect as we marked Remembrance Day in meaningful ways. You'll also read about our students' achievements in various sporting events, along with all the other wonderful activities taking place across the school. Looking ahead, preparations are now underway for the festive season! Our Christmas nativities, carol services, and the much-anticipated Funday are all just around the corner. We can't wait to celebrate the joy and spirit of the season with you all. Thank you for your continued support, and we hope you enjoy reading about the highlights of this busy term!

REMINDERS

UNIFORM Yrs1-6

- Our winter uniform requires shirts with ties (not polo shirts)
- Water bottles should contain **WATER ONLY**
- Black school shoes are required—not trainers.

Thank you for helping us maintain high standards of uniform at school.

STAFF CAR PARK REMINDER

We kindly remind you that the staff car park is **not to be used** for drop-off or pick-up when attending the before and after school club. This policy is in place to ensure the safety of all our pupils, parents, and staff during busy times.



KEY EVENTS

- Sun 1st Dec- First Sunday of Advent
- Wednesday 4th December, 9:30am- Reception Nativity
- Thurs 5th Dec- Year 6 Funday
- Sat 7th Dec, 12PM- 3PM- PFA Christmas Bazaar
- Tues 10th Dec, 2pm- Year 1/2 Nativity
- Weds 11th Dec, 2pm- Year 1/2 Nativity
- Thurs 12th PFA Secret Shopper day
- Weds 18th Dec, 2pm- Year 5/6 Carol Service in Church
- Thurs 19th Dec- Christmas Lunch
- Fri 20th Dec- Last day of term.
- Mon 6th Jan- Spring Term begins

Attendance

Class	Attendance
5M	95%
4B	94.9%
1B	94.7%
6H	94.8%
2F	94.4%
2P	94.3%
3T	94.2%
3R	94.1%
5C	93.9%
RD	93.8%
4A	91.3%
1C	90.8%
RW	90.3%
6B	90.2%

Good attendance is vital for academic success and a positive learning environment. We aim for all classes to maintain at least 97% attendance to ensure students stay engaged and on track. Let's work together to achieve this goal for the benefit of all.





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Catholic Social Teaching

This half term, our Star of the Week assemblies have focused on the theme of "Solidarity and the Common Good," key principles of Catholic Social Teaching. We have explored how we are called to stand together as one community, supporting each other and working for the well-being of all. Through our time of prayer and reflection, we've considered ways we can show kindness, compassion, and unity in our everyday lives, recognising that by helping one another, we strengthen the common good. We encourage everyone to continue reflecting on how we can live out these values in our school and beyond.



St. Paul's message of "one body, many parts" teaches us that true solidarity means recognising we are all part of one body, each of equal value.

Just as every part is essential, we are called to support one another. When one person suffers, we all feel it, reminding us of our shared responsibility to show compassion and unity.

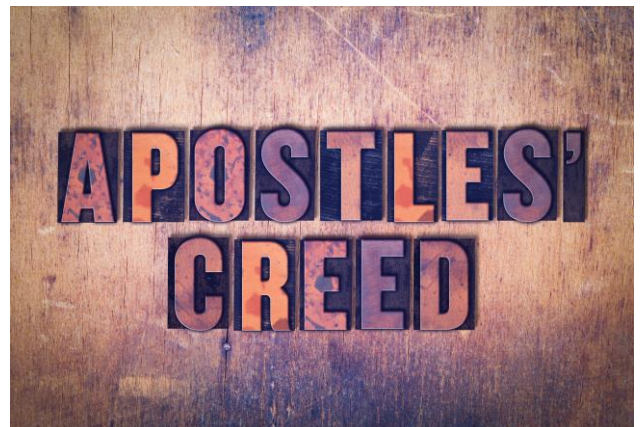


What we do isn't just because it feels like 'the right thing to do', it is because it is what we are taught to do by our Catholic faith.

Year 1 Signing the Creed

Mrs. Shepherd was delighted to be invited into the Year 1 classes to see what they have been learning in their RE lessons. The children proudly recited the first part of the Creed, the Catholic profession of faith, using British Sign Language. Mrs. Shepherd was thrilled to see how much they had learned and was incredibly impressed by their enthusiasm and dedication. Well done, Year 1!

*We believe in one God,
Father Almighty,
Creator of Heaven and Earth
of all things visible and invisible.*





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Gospel Values

At St. Joseph's, Gospel values are at the heart of everything we do, shaping the way we behave and how we treat each other. We are committed to fostering a school community where everyone is encouraged to live out the teachings of Jesus, following the example He set for us.

Our values are based around St. Luke's Gospel, which guides us to love, respect, and serve one another, just as Jesus did. St. Luke's Gospel reminds us to show kindness, compassion, forgiveness, and humility in our daily actions.

Congratulations to the following children who were nominated for showing COMPASSION and LOVE to others around school:



KS1	KS2
Monique (RD)	Evie (3T)
Sophia (RW)	Joseph (3T)
Freya (1B)	Tallulah (4A)
Alex (1C)	Flaurie (4A)
Chloe (1C)	Nancy (4B)
Tilly (2F)	Toby (4B)
Sienna (2F)	Charlie (5C)
Chigozie (2P)	Lissy (6B)
Connor (2P)	Lois (6H)
	Edie (6H)

KS1	KS2
	Sophie (3R)
	Harriet (3R)
Kobe (RD)	Isabelle (3R)
Anna (RD)	Teddy (3T)
Frankie (RW)	Jesse (3T)
Andie (RW)	Henry (4A)
Grace (1B)	Florence (4A)
Enoch (1B)	Emilija (4B)
Eve (1C)	Arthur (4B)
Elliot (1C)	Alfie (5C)
Kyan (2F)	Stanley (5M)
Evelyn (2F)	Gabriella (5M)
Ivy (2P)	Florence (6B)
Jimi (2P)	Arthur (6B)
	Libby (6H)
	Honor (6H)

House Points- Running Total

The house with the largest total at the end of term will win a prize!

St. Anne's	St. Edward's	St. Helen's	St. Paul's
25	12	21	31



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REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Remembrance Day, our school came together to commemorate Armistice Day. Joined by Father Matthew, we began with a short prayer service, reflecting on the sacrifices made by so many. Following this, the whole school community gathered on the Junior playground for a respectful two minutes of silence. Each class created a beautiful wreath, which was displayed on the school fence as a tribute to those who have served. Together, we honoured the message: "Lest we forget."



They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow
old:

Age shall not weary
them, nor the years
condemn.

At the going down of
the sun and in the
morning

We will remember
them.





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THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you to Libby (6H), Albie (4B), and Mrs. Hearne for their wonderful artwork created to mark Remembrance Day: a wooden silhouette of a soldier with the words "St. Joseph's Remembers." Libby's passion for creating meaningful designs over the years has been truly inspiring. This year, for her final Remembrance Day at St. Joseph's, she crafted this incredible piece that will remain at our school for years to come, even after she moves on to secondary school. Thank you so much for this lasting tribute.



Upminster Memorial Service

Mr. Ross, accompanied by four Year 6 pupils, attended a memorial service at the Upminster memorial alongside representatives from other local schools. During the ceremony, they laid wreaths to honour those who served and sacrificed for our country. Father Matthew was also present, offering prayers and reflections to mark the occasion. It was a meaningful opportunity for our students to connect with the community and pay their respects on Remembrance Day.





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Primary Maths Challenge

Well done to the Year 5 and Year 6 children who demonstrated incredible effort and enthusiasm when taking part in this year's Primary Maths Challenge. From solving tricky puzzles to demonstrating impressive problem-solving skills, every participant has shown a true passion for learning and a brilliant understanding of maths.



Admissions September 2025

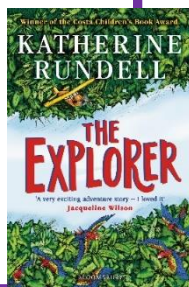
The initial window for applications to Reception in September 2025 is open until 15th January 2025. **Please encourage friends and family with children in this age cohort to apply.** Applications no longer require a 'Certificate of Practice' (*thought of as a priest reference.*) which had previously deterred families from applying.

Applications can be made by anyone, regardless of faith or address and we warmly welcome families from a range of backgrounds. Queries can be sent to admissions@st-josephs.havering.sch.uk There is an open day tour date left on 8th January – contact the address above to book a space.

Anti-Bullying Week- Choose Respect



During the week beginning 11th November, we marked Anti-Bullying Week with a special focus on the theme of "Choosing Respect." As part of this important initiative, our school collaborated with other Upminster schools to create an inspiring video highlighting the importance of kindness, respect, and inclusion. This project provided a wonderful opportunity for our students to come together and share a powerful message. If you would like to view the video and see the incredible work from our local school community, please scan the QR code.



4B Class Assembly

Well done to 4B for their wonderful class assembly. They spoke beautifully and showcased their learning on lots of different topics including rivers, the water cycle and Jesus' family tree. It was great to hear about their hopes and dreams for the future, just like in the book Farther from their English lessons.



Year 6 Class Assemblies

6B and 6H have worked really hard on their class assemblies and we're really proud of each one of them for their confidence and commitment to doing their best. 6B's assembly included a moving section about Remembrance, and 6H took us on a journey to Italy. Both classes presented some wonderful drama about their class novel, The Explorer. Thank you to all the family members who came to support them by watching their assemblies. Well done, year 6!



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Road Safety Week



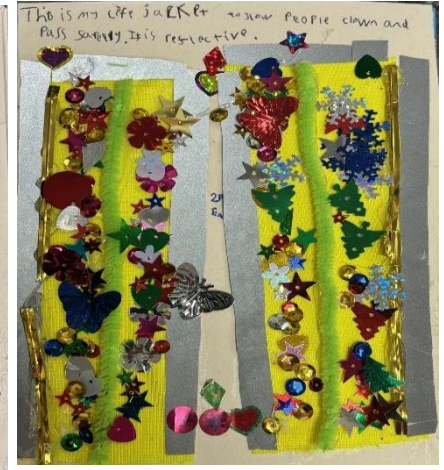
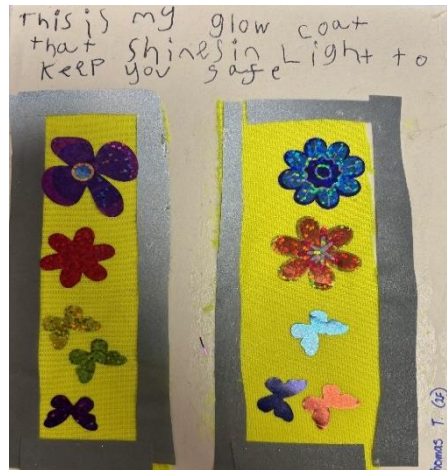
The JTAs chose winners from KS1 and KS2. Thank you to all of the children who participated.

A special well done to their winners; Emily and Thomas T in 2F and Lara in 5C!

Our Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTAs) led an assembly to promote safer travel, particularly during Road Safety Week and the winter months.

They encouraged the whole school to create a brightly coloured jacket for a school crossing patrol officer.

Thank you Sophia, Lily, Elsa and Darcey (Year 6) for your continued hard work as ambassadors for our school.



Reception News

Mrs Dare and Hermoine visit Reception

As part of our R.E Prophecy and Promise topic Reception had a lovely visit from Mrs Dare and baby Hermoine. We were able to ask lots of questions about caring for a new baby. We are thinking about how Mary felt when she was caring for baby Jesus.



Stay and Play!

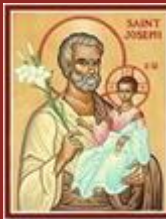
The Reception children were very proud to welcome their grown-ups into class to take part in a Phonics lesson. The children enjoyed demonstrating their phonics skills and loved giving their grown ups tours of the learning environment!

Christmas Cards

The Reception children have been learning about their local community. They are understanding the importance of the people in our community so have carefully made beautiful cards to deliver to some of our neighbours. We will be delivering them

soon!





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'Miles the Mole' Air Pollution Workshop

On Friday 22nd November, Year 5 enjoyed an engaging and interactive workshop all about air pollution. Miles the Mole and his friends joined the children to discuss important ways we can work together to improve the air quality in Upminster. The workshop was both fun and educational, leaving the children inspired and full of ideas. No doubt they'll be eager to share with family and friends some great suggestions for helping our community breathe cleaner air. A big thank you to Miles and his team for such a memorable experience!



Digging Into the Past: Year 3's Stone Age Discovery!

In Year 3, the children explored what Stone Age people ate by studying coprolites—fossilized human or animal poo! By carefully examining these ancient remains, the children found tiny clues, such as seeds, meat, and grains, that revealed the diets of people from long ago. Since the Stone Age was a time of pre-history, the children used this evidence to predict where these people might have lived and what their roles could have been within their communities. This hands-on investigation brought history to life and sparked their curiosity about the past!





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Year 6 Book Club

Mrs Partridge is thoroughly enjoying Book Club with a group of Year 6 children. We are reading 'Wonder' by R. J. Palacio, and we are enjoying how the story is told from the perspective of different characters. We have had some thought-provoking discussions and are looking forward to reading the rest of the book.



We are excited to be promoting oracy across the school, encouraging pupils to become confident speakers and attentive listeners. As part of this focus in **Key Stage 2**, we will be asking pupils to speak in their own words during our Star of the Week assembly on Fridays, explaining why they have received their award. If your Key Stage 2 child would like to bring in an award, please encourage them to practise at home what they will say. Some useful sentence starters could be:

- "I got this award for..."
- "To get this award, I had to..."
- "I am really proud of because..."

Improve Oracy on the Walk to School!

Looking for a simple way to boost your child's oracy and conversation skills? Transform your school run into a fun and educational experience with **Walk and Talk Trail Cards**, developed by the National Literacy Trust!

These handy cards are packed with engaging questions and prompts to spark meaningful conversations with your child during your walk or car ride to school.

For more information and to download the cards, visit:

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/walk-and-talk-trail/>



Change your story



Reading Ambassadors

Our Reading Ambassadors met this week and discussed how we can encourage children to read at home. The Reading Agency is running The Winter Mini Challenge from December to February. It is a fun online challenge that encourages children to keep up their reading. It's free to take part on wintermini.org.uk, where children can collect rewards for logging and reviewing books. Whatever your interest, it all counts.

Unlock special badges and earn a certificate of achievement once you meet your reading goal! Children who earn a certificate can bring it to Star of the Week assemblies, and receive 10 house points too!

Chess Club

This term, our Chess Club has been buzzing with excitement as our young strategists gathered each week to learn, play, and sharpen their skills on the board. It has been wonderful to see so much enthusiasm and focus as the children tackled everything from opening moves to tricky endgames.





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Sports' News



Year 6 Netball League

The Year 6 netball team competed in a thrilling tournament at Noak Hill Leisure Centre, showcasing incredible resilience, skill, and determination throughout. Facing some tough schools, the girls fought hard in every match, keeping their heads held high and scoring numerous times despite the challenges. Their efforts paid off as they secured third place in their group, a testament to their teamwork and perseverance. Their outstanding attitude and grit did not go unnoticed, as the organizers presented them with the prestigious 'Determination' award. Well done, girls—we are so proud of you!



Year 3 and 4 Boys' Football Tournament

On Wednesday 20th November, our Year 3 and 4 boys took part in an exciting football tournament, showcasing their skills and passion for the game. Coach Tommy and Mrs. Johnson were particularly impressed by the boys' fantastic sportsmanship, teamwork, and determination on the field. Well done, boys—you made St Joseph's proud! For our budding football stars, there's more to look forward to—a girls' tournament will take place in the spring term, so watch this space!



Year 2 Football Festival

Our Year 2 children had an amazing time at the recent football festival, enjoying a fun-filled day of matches and activities. Their enthusiasm and teamwork shone through as they embraced the spirit of the event, making it a day to remember. The children were fantastic representatives of St Joseph's, demonstrating great sportsmanship and positivity throughout. Well done to all who took part—you made us so proud!





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Year 5 and 6 Football League

On 19th November, two teams of boys and girls represented St Joseph's in the Sport Collective's annual football league. Despite challenging weather conditions, both teams showcased incredible tenacity and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. While neither team progressed beyond the group stage, they put in a fabulous effort and made us all proud. Both teams secured third place in their respective groups, demonstrating skill, determination, and teamwork. A huge well done to all the children who took part—you are all winners in our eyes!

Campion Day Cross Country Run

Last week, ten Year 6 pupils represented our school at the Campion Day Cross Country event at Page's Wood. Braving the chilly temperatures, they showed incredible resilience and determination as they tackled the challenging course. Every runner performed brilliantly, achieving some fantastic finishing places. A special congratulations goes to Darcy (6B), who finished 1st out of all the girls—a truly outstanding achievement! Well done to all the children for their effort and sportsmanship—you made us very proud!

Year 5 and 6 Sportshall Competition



This week, some Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in an exciting Sportshall competition at Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre. They showcased their athleticism in a variety of events, including running, throwing, and jumping, giving their all as they worked together as a team. The competition was fierce, but our pupils displayed great determination and teamwork throughout the day. We're eagerly awaiting the final leaderboard results—watch this space to see how we placed! For our younger pupils, there's more to look forward to, with Sportshall events planned later in the year. Well done to everyone who participated!



Sport at St. Joseph's is supported by Tommy, a coach from Holloway Coaching, who also supply a number of our sporting after school clubs.







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Year 6 Fun Day

2024

On Thursday 5th December, our school hall will transform into a wonderland of festive fun and excitement, and we can't wait for your children to enjoy it! Here's a sneak peek at what's in store:

-  Festive Games and Challenges – test your skills and win prizes!
 -  Jewellery Stall – discover beautiful hand-made bracelets.
 -  Raffle Fun – win fantastic games and gifts!
 -  Toys, Books, and Games Stalls – shop 'til you drop for treasures!
- To join in the fun, pupils are invited to bring some spending money for games, shopping, or raffle tickets.

Fun Day has been a cherished St. Joseph's tradition for generations, and this year, all proceeds will go towards supporting families in need this Christmas.

Starting Monday, 2nd December, please send in any donations to the office or Year 6. We are so grateful for your generosity—it truly makes a difference.

Christmas Jumper Day!

To make the day even more festive, children can wear their Christmas jumpers with non-uniform! If your child has PE on the day, they can wear their usual PE kit with a Christmas jumper or non-uniform suitable for PE activities.

Let's make this Fun Day one to remember! Thank you for your support and kindness. 





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Advent

Next week marks the beginning of Advent, a special time of preparation and reflection as we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Here's how we have been preparing for this special time:

Pupils Visit Methodist Church

Four children from Year 4 have been to Upminster Methodist Church to decorate their Christmas Tree ready for the festival at the church. All Year 4 children have made their own decoration for the tree and they are looking forward to visiting the church next week to sing carols. The Christmas Tree Festival is open for all and it is particularly beautiful to visit the church when it is dark. If you do get a chance to visit, please vote for Year 4's tree, number 29, 'Have a Tree-mendous Christmas!' Thank you.



S.M.I.L.E Shoebox Appeal

We are thrilled to share the incredible success of our recent shoebox appeal in support of the homeless charity SM.I.L.E. Thanks to your generosity, we received an amazing 44 shoeboxes filled with thoughtful gifts for people of all ages. These boxes will bring joy to children and adults who may not otherwise receive presents this year, making their Christmas a little brighter. Your kindness and support continue to inspire us, and we are so grateful for your contributions. Together, we are making a real difference in our community—thank you!



Family Advent Resources

Below are some family-friendly resources that can help guide you and your loved ones in preparing for Christmas during the Advent season. These activities and materials will offer meaningful ways to reflect on the true spirit of Advent, strengthen your faith, and engage with one another as you count down to the celebration of Jesus' birth:

- Ten Ten Parent Newsletter for December: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>
- Mission Together Digital Advent Calendar: <https://missiontogether.org.uk/digital-advent-calendar/>
- SVP ['Reverse Advent Calendar'](#)