

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.

Welcome to February's Newsletter!

February has flown by in the blink of an eye, with the half-term break giving us all a chance to rest and recharge. Now, as we turn the page to March, we find ourselves journeying quickly into the sacred season of Lent. This year, our Lenten reflections are even more significant as we embrace the Holy Year of Jubilee—a time of renewal, mercy, and deeper communion with God. Lent calls us to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, guiding us to grow in faith and compassion. As we prepare our hearts for Easter, let us use this time to seek God's grace, extend kindness to others, and walk in the light of His love.



General Reminders

- ◆ **Supervise Younger Children** – Please keep a close eye on younger siblings after school. They should not play on the equipment or ride scooters until they are outside the school gates.
- ◆ **Scooter Safety** – If children are not old enough to push their own scooter safely, we kindly ask that adults carry them instead.
- ◆ **No Dogs in the Playground** – For the safety and comfort of all children, dogs are not allowed inside the playground, even if they are being carried.

Thank you for helping us keep our school a safe and welcoming place for everyone!

March's Key Events

- Weds 5th – Ash Wednesday
- Thurs 6th– World Book Day
- Fri 7th- JTAs trip to MyPlace
- Wb 10th– Science Week
- Mon 10th– Year 4 Reconciliation
- Tues 11th– Year 2 Stay and Pray
- Thurs 13th @ 2:30– 2P Class Assembly
- Weds 19th– St. Joseph's Feast Day
- Mon 24th– PFA Mother's Day Secret Shopper
- Tues 25th– Year 1 Stay and Pray
- Sun 30th– Mother's Day

April's Key Events

- Tues 1st– EYFS Stay And Pray
- Weds 2nd @ 1:30pm– Yr 3 and 4 Easter Service
- Thurs 3rd @9:30– Yr 3 and 4 Easter Service
- Fri 4th– Last Day of Spring Term

Attendance

Class	Attendance
1B	98.8%
1C	98.3%
2P	97.4%
4B	97.4%
5M	97.1%
2F	96.9%
4A	95.9%
6B	95.9%
5C	95.9%
RD	94.8%
RW	94.4%
6H	94.0%
3R	93.9%
3T	92.8%

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

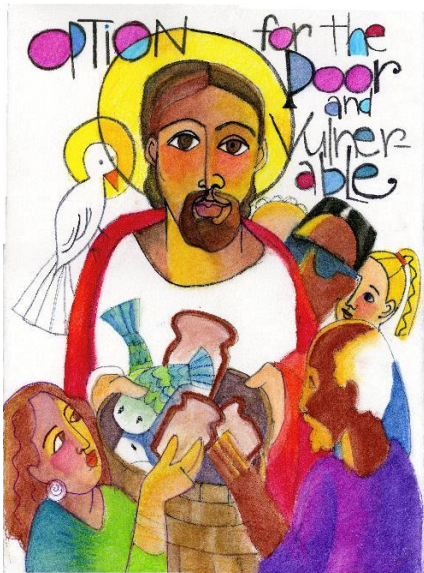


At St. Joseph's, we follow the teachings of our faith to help guide us in living good lives.

This half term, we are focusing on the Catholic Social Teaching principle of the **Preferential Option for the Poor**. This principle reminds us that we are called to care for those in need, just as Jesus did. The Bible teaches us,

“Speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves... defend the rights of the poor and needy” (Proverbs 31:8-9).

This means looking out for people who are struggling, sharing what we have, and making sure everyone is treated with kindness and fairness. In our school, we can live this out by helping others, supporting charities, and standing up for those who need a voice. When we care for the poor and vulnerable, we are following Jesus' example and making the world a kinder, fairer place for everyone.



Gospel Values

Congratulations to the following children who were nominated for modelling the Gospel Values



KS1	KS2
Angel Mellysa (RW)	Jude (3R)
Edward (RW)	Melania & Finley (3T)
Caoimha (1B)	Tommy & Thomas (4A)
Cian (1B)	Maia and Denzel (4B)
Joseph (1C)	Emmy and Macey (5C)
Juliemariah (1C)	Buddy (5M)
Sereena (2F)	Lucy and Libby (6B)
Harry (2F)	Oliver & Catherine (6H)
Daria & Franklin (2P)	



KS1	KS2
Ava (RW)	Albie and Sophia (3R)
Arabella (RW)	Molly and Joey (3T)
Emilia (1B)	George and Jenson (4A)
Antonio (1B)	Rachel and TI (4B)
Levi (1C)	Mateo & Gabrielle (5C)
Keira (1C)	Amelia-Cate & Sophia (5M)
Charlie (2F)	Maria and Sophie (6B)
Mitia Eha (2F)	Jacob and Anastazja (6H)
Grace (2P)	
Rosa (2P)	



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Pennies for Pilgrims – A Lenten Charity Initiative

This Lent, our school is joining all Deanery Catholic schools in Havering for a special fundraising initiative supporting CAFOD's **World Gifts**. Together, we aim to make a real difference by providing essential resources to families in extreme poverty.

"Pennies for Pilgrims",

We invite children to **collect spare change** from home and bring it to school, where each class will have a collection box. The money raised will go towards life-changing gifts, such as:

- £5 – A vegetable garden for a family.
- £10 – Literacy lessons for someone in need.
- £40 – An emergency shelter for disaster victims.

Classes will decide how to spend their donations, either as they reach milestones or at the end of Lent for a bigger gift.

Thank you for supporting our mission to be **Pilgrims of Hope** and help those in need. Every penny counts!



Here are some examples of what classes can choose to spend their money on:



New This Year!

Watering can

£7.00



New This Year!

Safe at sea

£26.00



New This Year!

Back to school

£60.00



Top Gift!

Teach someone to read

£10.00



Weatherproof crops

£12.00



Clever self-watering garden

£20.00



Wonderful worms

£10.00



Therapy through play

£20.00

For more information, visit Cafod's World Gift website: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>
Let's see how we can bring **HOPE** to the world this Jubilee year by filling the world with gifts!



NEWSLETTER

First Holy Communion Celebrations

A heartfelt congratulations to Remy, Joey, Aisling, and Isla from the English Martyrs parish who celebrated their First Holy Communion this month! This special milestone in their faith journey marks the beginning of a deeper relationship with Jesus through the Eucharist. We are incredibly proud of them and pray that they continue to grow in faith, love, and kindness. May this joyful occasion bring them many blessings now and in the years to come. Well done to all!



First Holy Communion

Lent Resources for Families:

Cafod: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/lent-family-prayer-ideas>

Ten Ten Parent newsletters:

- February- <https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/V4bE8M7ykGjDR/>
- March- <https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/FkyD27LPwB0ZW/>
- Caritas Brentwood- Photo Challenge and Giving Calendar
- <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent/>

Heavenly Father,

We lift up in prayer our Holy Father, Pope Francis, as he faces illness. Grant him strength, comfort, and healing, that he may continue to guide Your Church with wisdom and love.

We also pray for all those who are in hospital at this time, especially those suffering from pain, uncertainty, or loneliness. May Your healing hands be upon them, bringing peace to their hearts and restoration to their bodies.

Bless the doctors, nurses, and caregivers who work tirelessly to bring comfort and care.

May they be strengthened in their mission of healing and compassion.

We remember, too, the families of the sick, who carry the weight of worry and sorrow.

Surround them with Your love, give them courage in difficult moments, and renew their hope each day.



Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.



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
19	10	10	21



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Safer Internet Day 2025 | Tuesday 11 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

Internet Safety Day

During the week beginning 10th February, our school took part in Internet Safety Week, with the main focus on Tuesday 11th February. This year, the theme was **protecting ourselves against scams**. Students learned how to recognize online scams, safeguard their personal information, and stay safe while using the internet. We encourage parents to continue these discussions at home to help reinforce these important lessons. Thank you for your support in promoting online safety!

To begin our week, on Monday 10th February, The 2Johns led various online workshops throughout the day for Years 1 – 6 and for the teachers and parents too. We all learnt so much from the sessions. A big well done to our Digital Leaders who led a whole school assembly for Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 11th February. They taught everyone how to spot a scam and gave some great advice on what to do if they thought something looked suspicious. All classes also took part in lessons during the week on internet safety and how they should always talk to a trusted adult if something ever makes them feel uncomfortable.



Online Safety with The 2 Johns

We were delighted to welcome The 2 Johns, experts in online safety, who delivered a series of **online workshops** throughout the day. Our children took part in engaging sessions, joining pupils from other **Upminster cluster schools** to learn how to stay safe in the digital world. After school, our staff participated in a dedicated training session, ensuring they are well-equipped to support online safety in the classroom. In the evening, parents from across our cluster schools attended an informative session, gaining valuable advice on protecting children online. **A huge thank you to all the parents who joined us**—we hope you found the session insightful and helpful in navigating the challenges of online safety.



The 2 Johns
E – Safety Training



NEWSLETTER

Deputy Mayor of Environment Visit

The Eco Team and Junior Travel Ambassadors met with **Mete Coban MBE** (Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy) to share the fantastic work they have been doing at St Joseph's to help care for the environment. **Councillor Oscar Ford** (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People) and **Keith Prince** (Assembly Member for Havering and Redbridge) also attended.

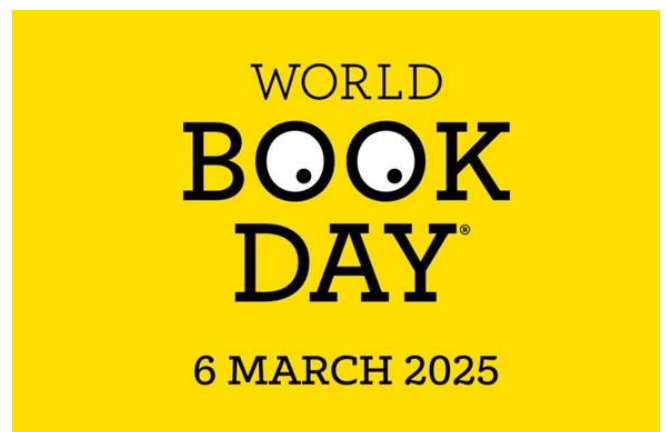
Mete Coban MBE was eager to hear their ideas for improving London's environment, and the children impressed everyone with their thoughtful suggestions. They were outstanding representatives of St Joseph's, showcasing their dedication and passion for making a difference.



World Book Day

A quick reminder that we will be celebrating **World Book Day on Thursday, 6th March** with a special **pyjama day!** Children are welcome to come to school in their cosiest PJs and bring along their favourite **book and teddy** to enjoy the festivities.

Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 parents: Please remember to sign up for a **reading session** with your child—we'd love to have you join us!





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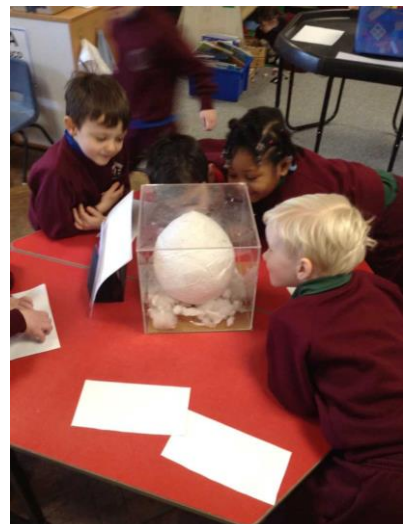
NSPCC Number Day: A Fun-Filled Celebration of Maths!

NSPCC Number Day was a fantastic success, filled with exciting maths activities that engaged and inspired the children. Throughout the day, they took part in a variety of number-based challenges, including puzzles, quizzes, and problem-solving games—all designed to make learning fun. A huge thank you to all the parents for their support, whether through donations or encouragement at home. Your involvement helped make the day both meaningful and memorable! We raised £293.76 for the NSPCC which is fantastic! Thank you.



Reception's Penguin Adventure!

In Reception, we read *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers. We became such great penguin experts that we were entrusted with looking after a lost Emperor penguin egg! From our research, we knew that our warm classroom wouldn't be the best place for a penguin, so we carefully packaged up the egg and asked the lovely office ladies to post it back to Antarctica. Now, we're eagerly waiting to hear news of its safe arrival!





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Year 3's Remarkable Roman Adventure!

Year 3 had an unforgettable journey back in time as they stepped into the world of the Roman Empire for a thrilling Roman Day! The pupils eagerly recreated ancient artefacts, immersing themselves in history. In the afternoon, they prepared for a grand feast and a spectacular performance fit for the gods. It was fantastic to see everyone—pupils, teachers, and even our wonderful parent volunteers—dressed in authentic Roman attire. A huge well done to all involved for making it a day to remember!



Year 3 & 4 Sportshall Event

Our Year 3 and 4 pupils recently took part in an exciting Sportshall Athletics event, competing against other schools in a range of running, jumping, and throwing events. They showed fantastic determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the competition. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and how brilliantly they represented our school. Well done to all who took part!



Year 3 & 4 Girls Shine in Football Tournament!

Our Year 3 and 4 girls' football team put on a fantastic performance at a recent tournament, competing against 24 other schools. Their skill, determination, and teamwork were truly inspiring, and we are thrilled to celebrate their incredible achievement—finishing in third place! A huge well done to Isabella (4A), Sophie (3R), Poppy (4B), Eva (4B), Keiti (4A), Georgia (3T), Rachel (4B), and Talei (3T) for their hard work and dedication. They played with great spirit and represented our school with pride—what an achievement!

