



# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

# 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.*

As we step into the final few weeks of the school year, June has certainly been a month to remember! With the summer sun (mostly!) shining, our school has been bursting with energy, excitement, and memorable moments.

Our Year 6 pupils had an unforgettable adventure on their PGL residential trip – a fantastic way to round off their primary school journey. Back at school, the fun hasn't stopped either. We've had lively sports days filled with team spirit and friendly competition, and even a surprise musical treat from a ukulele band featuring one of our very own staff superstars! There's been something for everyone this month, and we're thrilled to share it all with you. Enjoy reading about the highlights of June!

## HELL<sup>o</sup> Summer

### Attendance

Class	Attendance
1C	96.6%
5C	96.2%
1B	96.1%
4A	95.5%
2F	95.3%
3R	94.9%
5M	94.8%
RW	94.5%
6B	94.0%
4B	93.8%
3T	93.5%
RD	93.1%
6H	92.5%

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.



### KEY EVENTS IN JULY

Tues 1st	Year 4 Stay and Pray Reception Taster Session 1 (3:30–4:15)
Weds 2nd	Chess Tournament at La Salette Year 2 Library Visits Reception Taster Session 2 (3:30–4:15) Year 5 PGL Meeting (on Zoom) 6pm
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri 4 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Puzzle Company Workshops
Mon 7th	INSET DAY (School Closed for Pupils)
Weds 9th	Year 5 Trip to Walsingham House
Thurs 10th	Year 4 Trip to Museum of Power
Fri 11th	Campion Mini-Olympics (some Year 6 children)
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	Young Entrepreneurs Pizza Express Year 6 Leavers' Mass– 7pm
Weds 16th	Young Entrepreneurs Pizza Express
Mon 21st	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9am
Tues 22nd	Final Day Year 6 finish 1:15pm Rec– Year 5 finish 1:30pm
<b>SUMMER HOLIDAYS!</b>	
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> & Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	INSET DAY (School Closed for Pupils)
Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Pupils return to school

### REMINDERS

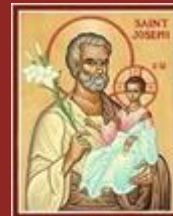
As we approach the end of the academic year, please ensure that all outstanding balances are cleared and all payments for the 2024–2025 school year have been completed. This includes the voluntary donation for the school levy.

### House Points– Running Total

St. Anne's	St. Edward's	St. Helen's	St. Paul's
15	9	14	12



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## Year 6 Unite for Jubilee Pledge Day at St. Mary's Church – 10th June

On 10th June, Year 6 children from Deanery schools across Havering came together for a special celebration at St. Mary's Church and School in Hornchurch to mark Jubilee Pledge Day. The event began with a joyful and reflective Mass led by Father Mark, a previous St. Joseph's pupil, who spoke beautifully about the symbolism behind the Jubilee logo and what it represents for our community. Representatives from each school played a role in the service, contributing to a truly collaborative and spiritual experience. At the conclusion of the Mass, each school shared their own Jubilee pledge—a heartfelt promise to live out the values of faith, service, and unity. Afterwards, we were warmly welcomed onto the field at St. Mary's School, where the children enjoyed a picnic lunch. While the sun may not have shone, we were lucky to avoid the rain—a bonus we truly appreciated after becoming quite used to less-than-perfect conditions during our recent week away at PGL! It was a lovely opportunity to relax, reflect, and connect with friends from across the Deanery before heading back to school.

## Cafod Assembly

We were delighted to welcome a visit from **Peter Jones**, a friend of the school and **CAFOD volunteer**, who led an inspiring assembly to thank us for our work with the Pilgrims for Pennies appeal. He explained how our World Gifts would be used to help others and spoke movingly about the impact of our giving. We were proud to share our Jubilee Pledge with him and felt encouraged by his kind words and blessings.



**CAFOD**  
Just one world

## Here is St. Joseph's Jubilee Pledge:

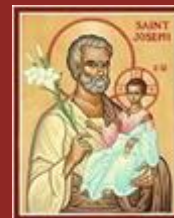
As Pilgrims of Hope, we will:

- Care for creation and sharing our food by giving to a local food bank during the Harvest Festival. (Stewardship of God's Creation)
- Raise money to help those in need. (Solidarity and the Common Good)
- Reach out to our local area, including care homes and parish groups, to show we care. (Family and Community)
- Support Catholic charities like CAFOD, Missio or Caritas to help those most in need. (Preferential Option for the Poor)
- Say thank you to all who help in our school and in our community. (Dignity of Work)
- Be, responsible and knowing that everyone has a voice. (Rights and Responsibilities)
- Live out our Gospel Values by treating everyone with love, respect and kindness. (Human Dignity)





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## Year 6 Take on Windmill Hill!

Our wonderful Year 6 children recently returned from an unforgettable week at Windmill Hill, and as always, they were an absolute credit to the school. From adventurous activities to team challenges, they brought energy, laughter, and positivity to every moment—and were even one of the best groups we've ever had when it came to bedtime! There are so many lovely things to say about the trip, but who better to share the experience than the children themselves? Read on to hear their highlights from a week full of memories!

PGL was a fun experience packed with exciting activities. Some of my favourites were the giant swing, trapeze and aquafun. At night there were fun games to do with our leaders. I thought that PGL activities would be scary but they're not. Whether you like heights, climbing, being independent or not, you'll love it! – Elsie 6H



PGL was an amazing adventure. A week of fun, friends and memories. My personal favourite activity was Zip Wire. Everyone was extremely kind and welcoming. It was genuinely a week to remember. On the last day, I was very emotional because it was such a magical time, and the people made it even better. But most importantly... the food was divine! – Rhoda, 6H

## A Spectacular Trip!

From the 2<sup>nd</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> June, Year 6 went to an amazing PGL trop. We challenged ourselves to do all the activities, from swimming to buggy-building to trapeze, we tried every task and faced our fears. This was an incredible time to bond with our class before we leave St. Joseph's. We made memories we will treasure forever! Thank you to all the staff who spent their week helping us to have the best time ever! – Maria and Libby, 6B

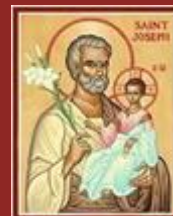


Thank you to all of the staff who gave up their week to give the children a week they will never forget!



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## Year 4 Explore Local Heritage at Upminster Windmill

As part of their local history topic, Year 4 recently enjoyed a fascinating visit to the historic Upminster Windmill. This trip offered a wonderful opportunity for the children to deepen their understanding of the local area's past and brought their classroom learning vividly to life.

During the visit, the children learned about the history of the mill, how it was used over the years, and the vital role it played in the local community. They explored the different parts of the windmill and discovered how each area functioned—from grinding grain to storing flour.

One of the highlights was learning about the Abraham family, who once owned the mill. Their story gave the children a real sense of how life and work in the area have changed over time. The knowledgeable guides also showed us the mill's facilities and explained how the machinery operated—some of it still in working order today!

The visit was not only educational but also thoroughly enjoyable. The children asked thoughtful questions, showed great curiosity, and came away with a deeper appreciation for our local heritage.



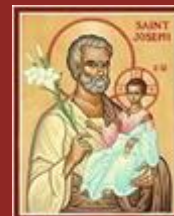
## London's Burning!

Year 2 had a fantastic day launching their new History topic all about *The Great Fire of London*. The children travelled back in time to 1666 and experienced what life was like. They took on roles as seamstresses, bakers, perfumers, and more, fully immersing themselves in the sights, sounds, and smells of 17th-century London. The children discovered how the fire began, the reasons it spread so quickly, and the lasting impact it had on the city. One of the children's favourite facts of the day was discovering that Samuel Pepys buried his cheese to keep it safe from the flames! It was a brilliant start to the topic, with lots of fun and learning along the way.





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## Science Workshop

Our children took part in an exciting science workshop titled "*Change and Adapt.*" The session was packed with hands-on experiments and engaging demonstrations that helped the children explore a range of physics-based concepts.

The workshop began with an investigation into how bubbles behave on different surfaces. The children compared how bubbles reacted when placed on smooth versus rough materials, sparking great curiosity and discussion. They were also fascinated by the illusion of colours, especially when exploring Newton's colour wheel and the science behind rainbows.

One of the highlights was learning about water vapour and air pressure using an *air bazooka*! This fun demonstration helped the children understand how vapour travels through the air. The importance of hygiene was also brought to life as we observed how easily germs can be transferred from one surface to another.

To finish, we explored the absorbency of materials by investigating the super-absorbent powder found in nappies. The children were amazed at how much liquid it could hold!

It was a fantastic workshop that brought science to life and encouraged the children to ask questions, think critically, and have lots of fun along the way.



## Year 6 Visit to Young Citizens Event

On Monday 23rd June, our Year 6 children attended the Havering Young Citizen afternoon—a fantastic opportunity to meet police officers, fire service workers, and others who play vital roles in our community. The event provided valuable information to support their transition to secondary school, including the importance of wearing cycle helmets and how to stay safe when travelling independently. The children behaved impeccably and thoroughly enjoyed the experience, gaining confidence and knowledge for the next stage of their journey.

## Victory for St. Joseph's in The Havering Rotary Quiz!



We are thrilled to share that our brilliant Year 6 quiz team from St. Joseph's has been crowned champions of The Rotary Quiz in Havering!

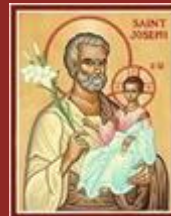
After securing victories in two earlier rounds against local schools, the team faced their toughest challenge yet in the final last Friday. It was a close contest from start to finish—at half-time, Gidea Park, St. Joseph's, and Suttons were all tied on an incredible 30 points out of 32, with St. Mary's just one point behind. With only four rounds remaining, the pressure was on—but our team stayed focused and showed great determination and teamwork to pull ahead and clinch the win by a single point!

A huge congratulations to our incredible team members: Somto, Maria, Elizabeth and Robert. Well done, champions!



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### Creep, Crawl, and Explore!

Year 2 had a fantastic time on their school trip to Thorndon Country Park, which linked to their Science topic on habitats. The children enjoyed exploring the great outdoors by searching for minibeasts, building shelters for animals, and taking part in pond dipping. Their enthusiasm and knowledge truly stood out, and the park rangers were incredibly impressed. They could hardly believe the children were only in Year 2!



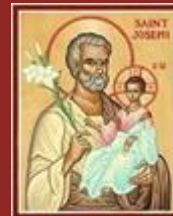
### International Day - 13th June 2025

A huge thank you to the parent volunteers who supported our International Festival. We loved celebrating the diversity of our school community and learning more about the individual cultures. The children and staff enjoyed sharing information about their families and celebrating in their classes and year groups.





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## A Musical Treat from Los Amigos!

We were absolutely delighted to welcome the ukulele band *Los Amigos* to our school this week! How lucky we were to be treated to some fantastic live music—and with a familiar face leading the group: our very own wonderful caretaker, Colin! The band entertained us with a selection of well-known hits that had everyone tapping their toes and smiling along. A huge thank you to Colin and the *Los Amigos* band for sharing their talent and bringing such joy to our school community.



## Young Entrepreneurs Shine at the Summer Fair!

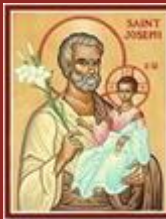
Our incredible Year 5 and 6 *Young Entrepreneurs* proved themselves to be talented business men and women at this year's Summer Fair! They worked hard to create and sell a fantastic range of products, showing impressive creativity, teamwork, and entrepreneurial spirit. Their persuasive sales skills paid off, with many stalls selling out and a great amount of money taken on the day—over £1000. Staff received numerous compliments on the children's excellent behaviour and business acumen throughout the day. We can't wait to see what exciting ideas they choose to spend their hard-earned profits on—well done, future CEOs!





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## Year 4 Art Day

Year 4 had a wonderfully creative day recently when Mrs Bourne joined us for a special Art Day. Inspired by our English text *The Butterfly Lion* by Michael Morpurgo, the children worked alongside Mrs Bourne to create their very own lion artworks – and the results were truly fantastic!

Throughout the day, pupils explored a range of artistic techniques including painting, using ink, creating layered effects, and even adding a touch of 3D texture to bring their lions to life. Mrs Bourne encouraged the children to experiment and express themselves, resulting in a stunning collection of lion faces, each bursting with personality and emotion.

Every piece is unique, reflecting the individuality and creativity of each child – from bold and fierce expressions to gentle and curious eyes. It was a wonderful way to link art with our class reading and deepen our connection to the story.

A big thank you to Mrs Bourne for leading such an inspiring day – we're incredibly proud of what Year 4 have achieved!



A special mention to Mrs. Hazel for this incredible 3D Butterfly Lion! Now on display outside 4A.



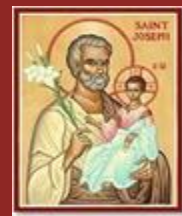
## Acts of Kindness: Florence and Franklin Make a Difference

We are incredibly proud of Florence in 4A and Franklin in 2P, who have each shown remarkable kindness and generosity by parting with their long hair in support of important causes. Florence raised sponsorship and donated her beautiful hair to be made into a wig for children who have lost their hair due to medical treatment—an inspiring act of compassion. Franklin, moved by the needs of a family friend aged just four, raised an amazing **£1,400** to help fund treatment for a rare illness, and also donated his hair. These selfless acts have truly made a difference, and we are so proud of both children for their thoughtfulness, bravery, and big hearts. Well done, Florence and Franklin!





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## KEY STAGE 1, SPORTS FUN IN THE SUN

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had a fantastic Sports Day filled with fun and energy! Children took part in a variety of events, including the egg and spoon race, beanbag throwing, and hurdles. A highlight for many was the space hopper race, which brought lots of laughs and excitement.

Well done to all the children for taking part so enthusiastically and for showing great support to their classmates. It was a great morning enjoyed by all in the sunshine. Thank you also to the tremendous Year 6 pupils who led activities so confidently and enthusiastically. What great role models you are for the school.

A big thank you to all the parents who helped us get to and from the park safely – we couldn't have done it without you!



## Junior Sports Day Success!

Our Junior Sports Day was a fantastic celebration of teamwork, determination, and fun! The children enthusiastically took part in a range of activities throughout the day, showing off their skills, energy, and positive spirit. The highlight came in the afternoon when pupils took to the track for some exciting competitive races. We were so proud of the way all the children supported each other and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship—true role models in every sense!

**While we always say it's the taking part that counts (and it absolutely is!), a little healthy competition adds to the excitement—and we're delighted to share that St. Helen's emerged as the winning house on both sports days! Congratulations to St. Helen's and well done to everyone who took part and made the events such a success.**

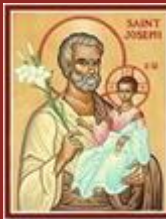


## **Congratulations to Our Year 5, 1 & 2 Quad Kids Team!**

A huge well done to our fantastic Year 5 and 1 and 2 *Quad Kids* team, who represented St. Joseph's brilliantly at the Blackshots Athletics Ground. The staff were immensely proud of both their excellent behaviour and their determination throughout the event. A special shout-out goes to **Thomas in 2F**, who achieved an incredible **second place in the long-distance run and first place in the sprint!**

We'd also like to extend a big thank you to **Coach Alex, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kelly** for accompanying the team, cheering them on, and providing such wonderful support and encouragement. Well done, everyone!



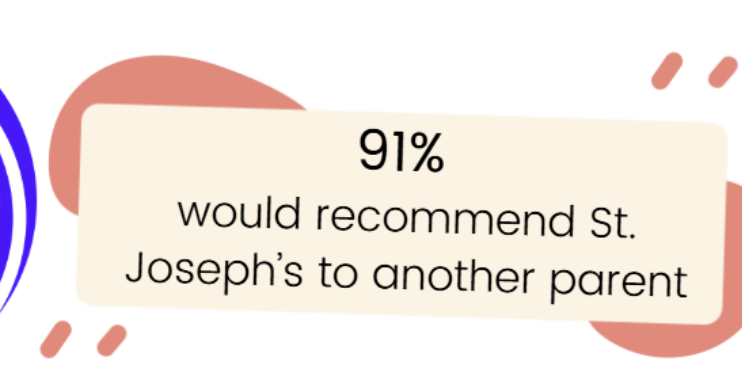
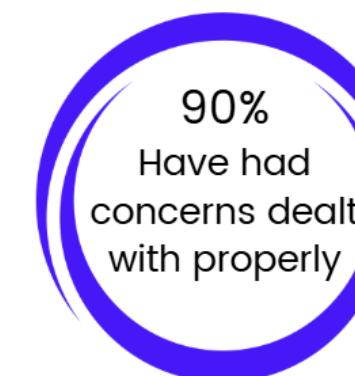
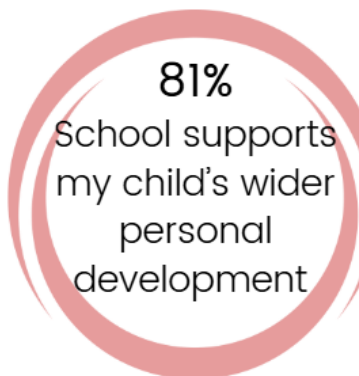
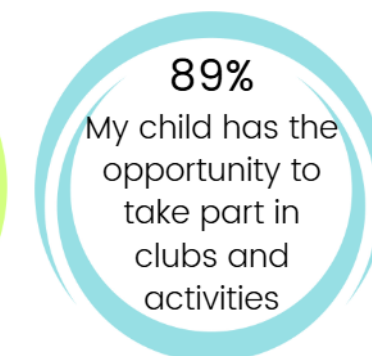
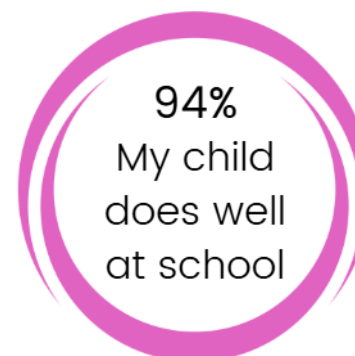
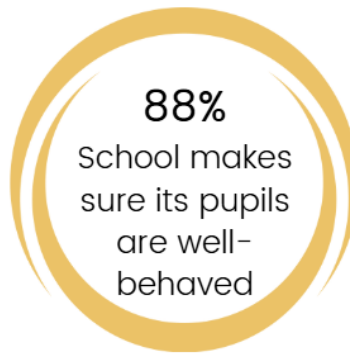


# NEWSLETTER

## Parental Survey Results – Thank You for Your Feedback

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the parents and carers who took the time to complete our recent parental survey. Your feedback is incredibly valuable to us and plays an important role in helping us reflect on our practice and continue to improve as a school. We truly appreciate your insights and support.

Here are the results from our survey, which show some very pleasing outcomes. The figures below represent the number of parents who responded with 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' to each statement.



There is still time to share your views in our uniform survey – we welcome all opinions. You can complete the survey by clicking the link below. The closing date is **Wednesday 9th July**:  
<https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/K0dwLnt8>