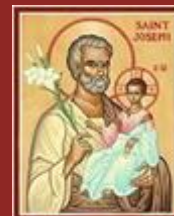




# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## 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.*

Welcome to our April/May school newsletter! This half term has been bursting with activity, energy, and achievements. From exciting outings around our local area that brought learning to life, to SATs week where our children showed tremendous focus and determination, it's been a time of growth and celebration. We also enjoyed the joy and creativity of our summer concert, where pupils shone on stage and shared their talents with the school community. Read on to discover more about what we've been up to!



### Attendance

Class	Attendance
4B	99.6%
5C	98.1%
RD	97.8%
5M	97.6%
2P	97.4%
3R	96.9%
6B	96.9%
1C	96.7%
RW	95.6%
1B	95.6%
4A	94.9%
3T	94.8%
6H	94.8%
2F	93.4%

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.



### JUNE'S KEY EVENTS

- Wb Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> June: PGL Residential trip for Year 6
- Wb Mon 9<sup>th</sup>: Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
- Weds 4<sup>th</sup>: 4A Trip to Windmill
- Thurs 5<sup>th</sup>: 4B Trip to Windmill
- Mon 9<sup>th</sup>: PFA Father's Day Secret Shopper
- Tues 10<sup>th</sup>: Year 1 and 2 Stay and Pray
- Tues 10<sup>th</sup>: Year 6 Pledge Mass at St. Mary's
- Thurs 12<sup>th</sup>: 4A Class Assembly @ 2:30pm
- Fri 13<sup>th</sup>: International Day
- Tues 17<sup>th</sup>: EYFS Stay and Pray
- Tues 17<sup>th</sup>: Junior Sports Day (morning)
- Weds 18<sup>th</sup>: Infant Sports Day (morning)
- Wb Mon 23<sup>rd</sup>: Year 6 Transition Week
- Tues 24<sup>th</sup>: Year 2 Great Fire of London Day
- Tues 24<sup>th</sup>: Year 5 Stay and Pray
- Thurs 26<sup>th</sup>: 1B Class Assembly @ 2:30pm
- Thurs 26<sup>th</sup>: New Reception Meeting @ 5:30pm
- Fri 28<sup>th</sup>: Junior Music Festival–Queen's Theatre
- Sat 28<sup>th</sup>: PFA Summer Fair– 12pm–3pm

### Half-Termly Attendance Raffle

Well done to all the children who have been working hard to maintain excellent attendance this half term! As part of our ongoing commitment to encouraging good attendance, we held our half-termly **Attendance Raffle**, with winners selected from each key stage. Congratulations to our KS1 winners: Alfie (1C), Zach (1C), Fifi (2P) and Oliver (1B). In KS2, our winners were Christopher (4A), Elizabeth (6H), Harrison E (6H) and Anastazja (6H). A big thank you to Zen for generously supplying the vouchers once again—we truly appreciate your continued support!

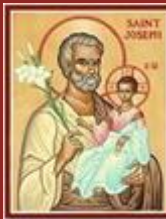
**zen**  
EDUCATE

#7 April/May 2024–2025



# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



### Catholic Social Teaching: Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

As part of our focus on Catholic Social Teaching, we have been learning about the principle of the **Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers**. We believe that everyone's work has value and that all people have the right to fair treatment, respect, and appreciation for the contributions they make. In our **Star of the Week** assemblies, we've been reflecting on how we show gratitude to all those who work so hard to keep St. Joseph's running—our teachers, support staff, cleaners, lunchtime supervisors, and many others.

As St. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Colossians: *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters"* (Colossians 3:23).

We are learning to recognise and celebrate the dignity in every role and the importance of treating all workers with kindness and respect.

This learning came to life during **Gratitude Week**, which we marked in the final week of this half term. Children went out of their way to express their appreciation to those in school who work hard behind the scenes and in the classroom. It was heart-warming to see children delivering notes, drawings, and spoken words of thanks to staff across the school. Our teachers also joined in, sending postcards of gratitude to colleagues who have supported them throughout the term. These simple but powerful gestures served as a reminder that acknowledging others' efforts brings dignity and respect to all forms of work—living out our Gospel values in a tangible way.



### Honouring Mary in the Month of May

Throughout the month of May, our school community has come together in faith and devotion to honour **Mary, the Mother of Jesus**. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents who joined us for the **morning Rosary sessions**. Your presence and support helped create a special, prayerful start to each day, bringing our community together and highlighting the importance of this sacred month.

As part of our celebrations, the whole school took part in a **Marian Procession**, a beautiful expression of our devotion to Our Lady. Led by **Father Matthew**, we sang hymns to Mary, listened to the **Gospel**, and prayed the **Litany of Loretto** together. The procession concluded with the **crowning of our statue of Mary**—a moving and memorable moment of reflection and joy for all involved.



A special thank you to Mrs. Morgan for crafting a beautiful crown for Mary and to Mrs. Johnson for adding vibrant new plants to our prayer garden—your contributions have made these spaces truly special.

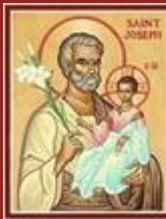






# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



### 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 forgiveness & humility (KS1 only):

KS1	KS2
<b>Forgiveness</b> Teddy and Evie (1B) Liam and Cameron (1C) Lidia and Aritha (2F) Cian and Abigail (2P)	<b>Forgiveness</b> Joe R (3T) Skye (3T) Joshua (4A) Emma (4A) William (4B) Isla (4B) Ethan (5C) Rae (5C) Jack C (5M) Amy (5M) Lena (6H) Aoife (6H) Hugo (6B) Elsa (6B)
<b>Humility</b> Jessica and Emma (RD) Edward and Ivy (RW) James and Jacob (1C) Hallie and Florence (1B) Emily and Eleonor (2F) Lasya and Joshua (2P)	

We await to hear about the KS2 nominations for humility after half term!



Like millions of Catholics across the globe, we watched and waited with eager anticipation for the white smoke to rise from the Vatican. The next day, excitement buzzed through the school as news spread that our new Pope, Pope Leo, had been chosen. We offer our heartfelt prayers for the soul of Pope Francis, who was a true model of compassion, humility, and care—for one another and for God's creation. May his legacy continue to inspire us, and may God bless and guide Pope Leo as he begins his sacred mission.



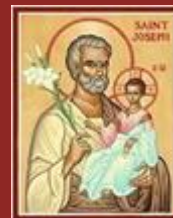
### House Points– Running Total

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
12	7	13	8



# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## Conductive Music

On 6th and 7th May, we were lucky enough to have a visit from a Conductive Music tutor – Fran. She taught Years 3 and 4 about STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. We put Arts into STEM by introducing music. We used Makey Makey technology to play music on the computers but had to make sure we completed an electrical circuit. We used the facts that the human body is 70% water and water is a good conductor of electricity to complete circuits and were able to play a piano using a ruler. Year 4 were able to build on their knowledge from the session last year. We really enjoyed our sessions.



## Rotary Quiz Success

Congratulations to our brilliant Year 6 quiz team—Elizabeth, Maria, Somto, and Robert—who have progressed to the finals of the Rotary Quiz! In a fiercely contested round against several local schools, including a strong team from Engayne, St. Joseph's came out on top. We're now eagerly looking ahead to the final, where we'll face Gidea Park Primary for the second year running. The whole school is behind our team, especially Mrs. Shepherd, who has an extra reason to cheer us on—her twin brother is a Year 6 teacher at Gidea Park! Good luck, team!

*Congratulations!*

## Year 3 Rock and Soil Adventure at Lesnes Abbey

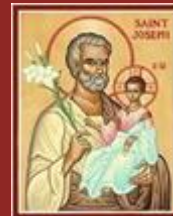
To kick off our topic on rocks and soil, Year 3 enjoyed a fascinating visit to Lesnes Abbey in Kent. With the help of Steph and Nadine, we carried out exciting experiments to identify different types of soil, used microscopes to examine the properties of various rocks, and even dug for fossils. The experiments were great fun—we got to use real scientific equipment and act like detectives, using clues to make discoveries. One of the highlights was exploring the fossil pit, which is now on top of a hill but was underwater millions of years ago. Using sieves, we searched carefully and were thrilled to find lots of shells and even some shark teeth! We had a wonderful day—thank you to the parents who came along and supported us.







# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day

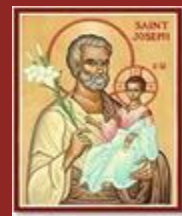
To mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, St. Joseph's held a special celebration filled with learning and remembrance. Pupils came to school dressed in red, white and blue for a patriotic non-uniform day, and the school was beautifully decorated with bunting. At 11am, the entire school paused to observe the national two minutes' silence, honouring those who served and sacrificed during World War II. During lunchtime and playtime, the playground came alive with VE Day party music, creating a joyful atmosphere. In class, children took time to learn about the significance of the day and why it remains such an important moment in our history. It was a thoughtful and memorable day for all.







# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## New Lunchtime Setup

The children have been adjusting wonderfully to our new lunchtime system, where classes have set eating times and are encouraged to spend time chatting with friends instead of rushing off. This new routine has been embraced really well, and we've already noticed big improvements in manners, the amount of food being eaten, and the tidiness of tables. It's great to see the children enjoying a calmer, more sociable lunchtime!



# WELL DONE!

## Year 6 SATs

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils for the effort, focus, and resilience they showed during SATs week. Each morning began with a relaxed breakfast, giving the children a chance to chat with friends and settle their nerves with some toast and cereal. A heartfelt thank you to all the school staff who supported the children—both in their preparation and by helping to create a calm, welcoming start to each day. Well done, Year 6!

## Year 4 Visit to Thames Chase – A Day of Outdoor Discovery

On Friday 16th May, Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic trip to **Thames Chase** as part of their Science topic. The weather was kind, and the children took full advantage of the beautiful outdoor setting. Throughout the day, pupils took part in a range of engaging activities, including a **tree trail**, a **bug hunt**, and the creation of **nature-inspired art**, drawing inspiration from the work of artist **Andy Goldsworthy**.

It was a wonderful day filled with **hands-on exploration**, **creative expression**, and an even deeper appreciation for the natural world.

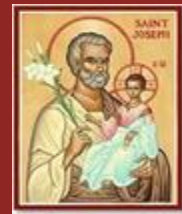
A huge thank you to all the adults who accompanied us and helped make the day such a success!







# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## KS1 Exploring Our Local Area

**Key Stage 1** have been making the most of our local area to enrich their learning across the curriculum.

**Year 1** enjoyed a fantastic walk around **Upminster**, where they explored and identified **human and physical features**, as well as spotting a variety of **different types of homes**. It was a great opportunity to bring their Geography learning to life.

Meanwhile, **Year 2** kicked off their new **local history** topic with a visit to **Upminster Park**, where they began to explore how the area has changed over time.

A big **thank you to the parents** who supported these trips and helped make these valuable experiences possible!



## Scientist Visit at St Joseph's – Inspiring Futures in STEM

We were delighted to welcome **Mrs Janda**, one of our school parents, for a special visit to speak to the children about her fascinating work as a **biomedical scientist**. She shared her educational journey, the skills involved in her role, and the path she took to achieve success in the field of science.

The children were captivated by Mrs Janda's engaging talk and asked thoughtful, insightful questions, clearly inspired by her story.

We would love to **welcome more parents working in STEM careers** to visit and share their experiences. These valuable opportunities help to spark curiosity and encourage our pupils to dream big about their **future aspirations**.

## KS1 Road Safety Roadshow

This week, KS1 welcomed the Road Wise Rangers for an engaging and important session on road safety.

Through interactive activities and clear demonstrations, the children learned how to cross the road safely and the key rules to follow as pedestrians. The Roadshow was both fun and informative, helping our pupils become more aware of how to stay safe near roads. Thank you to the Road Wise Rangers for their time and energy!

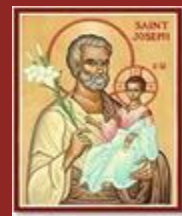






# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



### Year 2 – Creativity in Art and Design

Year 2 have had a wonderfully creative time recently, taking part in exciting projects across both **Art** and **Design & Technology**.

During a special **Art Day**, the children were joined by **Mrs Bourne**, who led a session focused on **sculpture**. Pupils explored different techniques and materials used to make three-dimensional art and had the opportunity to design and create their own vibrant **bird sculptures**. The results were as colourful and unique as the young artists themselves! A huge thank you to Mrs Bourne for sharing her time and expertise, inspiring our budding sculptors.

In **Design & Technology**, the children turned their attention to textiles, designing and making their own **hot water bottle covers**. In true British fashion, we managed to pick one of the hottest days of the year to sew them! Nevertheless, the children showed fantastic **focus, creativity, and perseverance** as they cut, stitched, and assembled their colourful creations. A big thank you to the parents who kindly came in to lend a hand—your support made all the difference.



### Year 4 Maths Competition

We are incredibly proud of the Year 4 children who recently represented our school in the HfL Maths Competition! They demonstrated excellent teamwork, tackled complex problems with determination, and showed a strong understanding of mathematical concepts. It was a joy to see their enthusiasm, collaboration, and resilience shine through. Well done to all involved—you were fantastic ambassadors for our school!

### KS2 Summer Concert – A Musical Forecast!

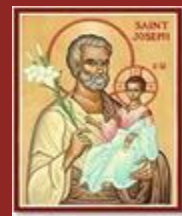
Our KS2 Summer Concert at St Joseph's was a joyful celebration of music and weather! With songs themed around rain, sunshine, and snow, pupils across the key stage delighted the audience with their energy, talent, and enthusiasm. Highlights included the musical brilliance of Alfie in 5C on the drums, and a fantastic performance by a group of Year 5 and 6 boys who led a heartfelt cover of *Travis' Why Does It Always Rain on Me?* We are so proud of all the children for their hard work and confidence on stage. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Harris, Ms Ramsey, and Mrs Calver for their dedication in preparing the children for such a memorable performance!







# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## Sports' News

### Cricket Fun in the Sun – Year 2 and Year 4

Year 2 had a fantastic time taking part in a **Three Tees Cricket** session—an exciting, simplified version of cricket designed to build skills and confidence. The **sun was shining**, and the children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to play, learn, and have fun together outdoors.

On the same day, **Year 4** took part in **Rapid Fire Cricket**, another fast-paced and engaging version of the game that encouraged teamwork, quick thinking, and energetic play. Both year groups had a brilliant time being active and exploring different formats of cricket in the sunshine.



### Year 4 Hockey Coaching Sessions

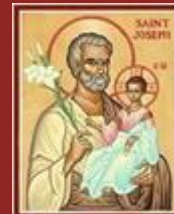
This term, Year 4 had the exciting opportunity to take part in some hockey sessions led by a professional coach. Everyone enjoyed learning new skills, including how to dribble, control, and pass the ball with confidence. The sessions were not only fun and energetic, but they also helped us work together as a team and build our coordination. We had a fantastic time and are looking forward to using our new hockey skills in future PE lessons!







# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## Year 2 Sportshall Athletics

After being postponed earlier in the year, **Year 2** were thrilled to finally take part in the **Sportshall Athletics** event—and it was well worth the wait! The children loved getting involved in a variety of exciting athletic activities, from running and jumping to throwing and team relays. It was a fantastic opportunity to get active, work together, and most importantly, **have fun**. Their energy, enthusiasm, and team spirit made it a memorable experience for everyone involved.



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



## Year 6 Netball Team – Hard Work and Great Sportsmanship

After lots of dedicated training, our **Year 6 netball team** finally had the chance to put their skills into action—and they did not disappoint! We kicked off with a **tournament at Sacred Heart**, where we proudly took **two teams**. One of our teams went on to **win the entire tournament**, an impressive achievement against some tough competition.

The team also had the opportunity to play matches against **Engayne**, a formidable opponent who recently won the **Havering netball league** and are now heading to the **London Youth Games**. Despite facing such a skilled and experienced team, our pupils showed incredible **resilience and sportsmanship**. **Mrs. Shepherd and Mrs. Garrett** were immensely proud of how the children held their heads high and played with heart and determination throughout.

A special thank you to **Mrs. Garrett** for all her time, effort, and commitment in preparing the team for their matches this year—it has truly paid off!







# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER



## Mini Marathon, Mighty Effort!

Well done to all the KS2 children who took part in the Mini Marathon! As part of their weekly PE lessons, classes headed over to Upminster Park where the children showed fantastic endurance, cheered each other on with great encouragement, and gained a real sense of what it feels like to be a marathon runner. It was a brilliant celebration of fitness, teamwork, and determination. Great job, everyone! We'd also like to give a huge congratulations to the children who took part in the real Mini Marathon event in London—what an amazing experience and achievement! And a very special shout-out to the dedicated parents who completed the full 26.2-mile London Marathon. Your determination and commitment are truly inspiring for us all!

## Cricket Success: Year 5 & 6 Shine on the Field!

This half term, our Year 5 and 6 pupils showcased their cricket skills in two exciting tournaments. Both the girls' and boys' teams played with great enthusiasm, teamwork, and sportsmanship, making us incredibly proud. A special congratulations goes to the boys' team, who triumphed in their tournament and secured a place in the finals next month! We wish them the very best of luck as they prepare to represent our school-go team!



## Year 5 Enterprise

We now have two fantastic teams of budding Year 5 entrepreneurs who have set up their own businesses under the guidance of Mrs. Clay and Mrs. Morgan. They are currently busy preparing to launch their products at the upcoming summer fete. Last year's young business minds did an amazing job raising funds for thermal printing machines and a new speaker—so we're excited to see what this year's enterprising pupils will achieve. We can't wait to support our future business men and women in action!

## Reception Stay and Play!

The Reception children were very excited to invite some of their grown-ups in for a Stay and Play session. They shared some of their Mastering Number learning and completed some of the classroom challenges with the special visitors. We are looking forward to an exciting last half term in Reception!