

Dear Parents and Carers,

The sun is finally shining, and the rain earlier this week has not dampened our spirits! Our children have been busy this week looking at the Gospel Value of Integrity. We have been thinking about how our choices affect others, and how we can consider Jesus' example to help us in our school mission to be the best that we can be. It has been lovely to see children demonstrating their talents this week, especially at lunch time, where the skipping zone has been very popular! With just a few more resources our lunchtimes could be even better, so if you happen to have an unwanted outdoor bean bag, or 2 or 3 outdoor plastic tables we would love to hear from you!

On Wednesday we were also blessed by one of our families with fortune cookies for all of our children to celebrate Chinese New Year, a big thank you to Citra and Djan for this!

Next week we have lots in the diary, and in particular we look forward to welcoming Father Philip on Tuesday, as we launch our "Pilgrim's of Hope" year of jubilee celebrations with the blessing of our hall doors. Preparations have been made, and the doorway is looking rather splendid! Thank you Mrs Cook and all the children who helped you!

Have a great weekend,

Mr Willcox



Number Day

Next Friday, 7th February, is the NSPCC Number Day. To celebrate we are hosting workshops for parents to come into class and experience number learning alongside their child. The times of the workshops are as follows. They will run for about 30 minutes. If you have children in more than one class you will be able to visit other classes within this time. Please come to the office to sign in before joining each class.

Oak Class – 9.45 Rowan Class – 9.45 Sycamore Class – 9.45 Cherry Class – 9.45

Maple Class – 9.15 Willow Class – 9.15 Beech Class – 2.45

Reporting illness

Can we please ask that if you leave a message on the absence line you give a brief description of why your child is not able to attend school. Saying they are poorly or unwell is not letting us know the reason. We need to be able to monitor what illnesses are going around school. We also need a phone call every day your child is off.

FarmLink

We would like to say a big thank you to our PTA who have funded our school membership to FarmLink for one year. FarmLink is a charity who provide hands on experience for children to learn about our countryside and all the things that live in it. They do this through planned and structured topics which are delivered on working farms and in schools. In school they provide a wide selection of assemblies and workshops which support the national curriculum, all delivered by experienced farmers, country men and women and teachers.

Our aim at St Joseph's is for every class to benefit from our membership across the year. Our first visit is scheduled for Tuesday 18th March where the whole school will meet for an assembly and workshops will then be delivered to years 1,2 and 5.

We are in the process of booking a June date for the next round of workshops and also hope to have 2 classes visit Backswood Farm for the day soon. We will update you with dates once confirmed. We really hope that the children will thoroughly enjoy these exciting opportunities ahead. Thank you to everyone for supporting and raising funds for the PTA, it really does benefit the children directly and we are grateful for this.

SENDCo

The first port of call if you have concerns about your child is always to speak to the class teacher. However, there are occasions when other professionals may advise you to speak to the SENDCo.

If you have concerns about your child's development and would like to book a meeting with Miss English, our SENDCo, she is now offering SEND appointments every Wednesday afternoon. Please follow the link to book an appointment.

<https://appt.link/meet-with-hattie-english-PMPQf4m7/send-co-general-appointment>

This Year's academic Attendance

So far this year our attendance is **94.6%** and our aspirational target is **97%**.

At St Joseph's, we think attendance is extremely important! Attending school helps children to prepare themselves for the rest of their lives.

The higher the attendance, the more opportunity for success! The class with the highest attendance this week is Sycamore Class.

Diary dates: *These, and future events, can be found on the website and downloaded to your Google calendar!*

4th February – Pilgrims of Hope with Fr. Philip 2pm – School celebration only

7th February – Yr3 assembly @ 9.10am

7th February – Number day details to follow

10th-14th February – Parents Evening Week – link to book appointments sent out 28/1/25

2025-2026 Term Dates are now available on the website https://www.stjosephsprimaryschool.com/web/term_dates__school_day/279773

Stars of the week: Oak – Arlo R-K, Rowan – Alyssia, Sycamore – Darcey, Cherry – Immy, Maple – Jack, Willow – Chloe, Beech – Demi.

Reading Awards: 5 – Daisy, Alice, Arlo P, 10 – Arlo R-K, Erin W, Frankie, Daisy, Alice, Florey.

Bronze Awards: Sophia, Timothy, Dexter, Iza, Anastasiia, Ruben, Finley H, Art, Sullivan, Alfie L, Jack, Liam.

Silver Award: Imogen, Remy, Catriona.