

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have been busy with their learning this week and the Gospel Value we have been looking at is Courage. As you will see below, our Oaks have been very courageous this week as they have been taking part in Balance Bikeability! It has also been lovely to see so many children taking pride in their work and having the courage to try their best, even when they feel a little bit nervous. Well done to those who managed to get a Head Teacher award too! I hope to give out more next week!

Mr Willcox

Balance Bikeability – Oak Class

This week the children in Oak Class have had a fabulous 3 day training of balance bike ability. The children learnt so much from developing their confidence when riding a balance bike to using the brakes and staying safe. It was lovely to see the children progress over the 3 days. Kathryn (from bikeability) was amazed at how attentive the children were and how great they were at listening and following instructions.

Next week is Year 6's turn for bikeability.



NSPCC Number Day

On Friday 7th February we will be celebrating NSPCC National Number day by inviting parents to join our number learning. We will send out more details nearer the time of what times each class will be hosting their workshops. We hope you can join us.

Lunch Times at St Jo's

We have been conducting a review into activities we can offer at lunchtime here at St Jo's, and we have found several ways we can make things even better for our children. As part of this process we tasked the School Council to find out what the children would like in some new **playground zones** (that we are going to create soon). The zones will mean children can choose what sorts of activities they would like to do and be in an area where they can do these without fear of other activities getting in the way. With this in mind, we are going a bit old school... If your child would like to, they are welcome to bring in Top Trumps (not trading cards though please), Elastics (the game usually played with 3 children that is a little bit like skipping) and Cats Cradle loops of wool. Please feel free to explore how these games are played with your children at home and then they can introduce them to their friends here – Elastics can become very advanced! (Please also label Top Trumps/Elastics with your surname so we have more chance of returning them if they get lost)

Attendance

As good attendance is linked to improved outcomes and opportunities for our children, if you are struggling with getting your children in to school for any reason, Mr Willcox would be happy to meet and see if there are ways we can support you further. If you would like this, please email admin@stjo.uk and we will find a time we can have a supportive meeting, where we will find out more about the challenges and see if there are ways we can make things easier.

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>

Online Gaming

It has come to our attention that there are several groups of children who enjoy gaming online together in the evenings and weekends. Please can we remind **parents and carers to provide carefully thought through boundaries and safeguards** to enable this to be a fun and exciting time that does not adversely affect your child's sleep; opportunities for in person activities; or lead to children speaking to each other in a way that is disrespectful. If you need support this website is helpful: [A Parent's Guide to Dealing With Fortnite - Child Mind Institute](#)

This Year's academic Attendance

So far this year our attendance is **95.2%** 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 **Maple Class**.

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

20th – 24th January – Yr.6 Bikeability – Please complete online form 7th February – NSPCC number day – details to follow

7th February – Yr3 assembly @ 9.10am

10th-14th February – Parents Evening Week – info to follow

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 – Erin, Rowan – Sophia, Sycamore – Joseph, Cherry – Noah W, Maple – Brandon, Willow – Jensen, Beech – Daisy.

Headteacher Awards: Cosette, Douglas.

10 star reading Awards: Emma, Elodie.

Bronze Awards: Alyssia, Isaac, Noah B, Poppy B, Caitlin, Flossie, Jude S, Arlo S, Jonah.

Gold Award: Arnie.