St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Newsletter - January 2026

Headteacher News

It has been lovely to see you and welcome all of the children come back after the Christmas break ready to learn. On behalf of the staff, we would like to say a big thank you for your kind words, cards and gifts at the end of last term. They are all truly appreciated.

The term has started positively with trips to the theatre and Science museum as well as a wonderful assembly led by our Year 2 class. There are lots more events to look forward to so please keep an eye on dates in the newsletter and on the website.

Please do book for the parents teacher meetings on 10th and 12th February (3:30-6:15pm) as these are important opportunities to find out how you can support your child at home as well as hear how well they are doing in school. The meetings will take place in the **school hall** and will I look forward to seeing many of you then.

God bless, Mrs Flower

OFFICE HOURS

8.30-4.00 Monday-Friday – closed during school holidays.

SCHOOL HOURS

Registration begins 8.50a.m. (gates open from 8.40am) School finishes 3.15p.m. (Infants/KS1) 3.20p.m. (Juniors/KS2)

Nursery – morning session 8.30-11.30a.m. – afternoon session 12.20-3.20p.m.

CHANGES TO FAMILY DETAILS

For changes to your address, telephone numbers or email address please let the office know either in person or by e-mail.

MEDICATION

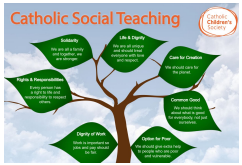
If your child needs to receive prescription medicine (4 times a day), medicines need to be brought to the office and parents are asked to complete a 'permission to administer' form.

R.E:

The end of the Christmas season marked the end of the Jubilee year of Hope and classes joined with the rest of the diocese in a special assembly to mark this important occasion. We are committed in school to continuing to spread hope in our own communities an those further afield.

Special thanks go to Fr Michael for meeting with our Year 6 pupils to discuss vocations as part of their RE topic, speaking openly about his journey to priesthood and his life as a priest.

This term we will revisit the principles of Catholic Social Teaching explicitly in our collective worship in school.



Class attendance for January 2026

R = 92.6%
Yr1 = 92.8%
Yr2 = 96 %
Yr3 = 95.3%
Yr4 = 96.9 %
Yr5 = 94.6%
Yr6 = 96.4%

Congratulations

Y4



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, The Fairfield, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2UP
Phone: 020 8546 7178 Email: office@stjosephs.rbksch.org Website: www.stjosephs.kingston.sch.uk

Spring Dates - February 2026

Weds 4th Feb- Y6 Junior Citizen
Fri 6th Feb- Y3 Library visit
Mon 9th Feb- Y4 Rose Theatre
Tue 10th Feb- Parent evenings 3:30 - 6pm
Thurs 12th Feb- Parent evenings 3:30 - 6pm
Fri 13th Feb- Y2 Library visit
Monday 16th- Friday 20th - HALF TERM
Fri 27th Feb- Y1 Library visit

Coffee Morning
March 6th - Parent Coffee Morning 9-10 am - please respond to let us know you will be coming with this link - https://forms.gle/KFom6XQzPmY54YKn7

Fun Plus Out of School Club
Breakfast Club 8:00-8:40am
After School 3:15-6pm
Please book using the QR code below

Attendance Policy

Our School attendance policy can be viewed on the School website.
There is a direct link between attendance and attainment. Absence from school interrupts teaching and learning, and affects children's progress and wellbeing.
New legislation states that head teachers may only grant a leave of absence in 'exceptional circumstances'.

Holidays or unauthorised leave in term time will not be granted.

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

Follow us on instagram

@STJOSEPHS.KINGSTON

Appointments

We ask that where possible any appointments are booked outside of the school day. Where this is not possible, or for emergency appointments, please share the appointment confirmation with the school office prior to the appointment in order for the absence to be authorised.

If you need to collect your child early from school due to an appointment, please inform the office in the morning so this information can be shared with the relevant class teacher.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Safeguarding:

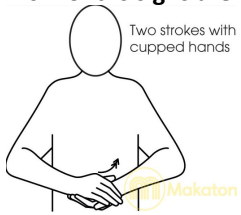
Should you ever have a concern about the welfare of a child or adult, please come and speak in confidence with the school's safeguarding leads. Our Designated Safeguarding Leaders for the school are Mrs Flower, Mrs Luccioni, Miss Kate and Miss Aziz. If you cannot speak to us in person we can be contacted via email at: dsl@stjosephs.rbksch.org

Should you not wish to speak to a member of the school team you can contact Kingston's Children's Single Point of Access (SPA).The SPA provides residents and people who work with children in Kingston with direct information, advice and guidance about where and how to find the appropriate support for children and families.

The Single Point of Access team is available from 8am to 5.15pm, Monday to Thursday, 8am to 5pm Friday.Call them on 020 8547 5008, or if you need to speak to someone urgently after hours or at the weekend, call the 'Out of Hours' team on 020 8770 5000.

Makaton

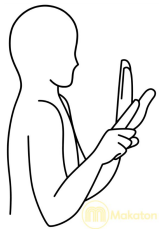
This months signs are…



Happy



New



Year

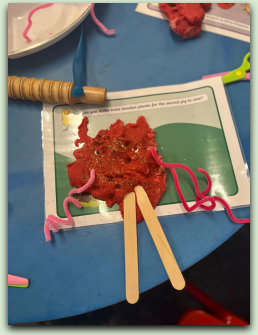
Check out Suzanne and Tracy at the Singing Hands who have lots of wonderful resources online. Please use the link below:
https://singinghands.co.uk/

Nursery



This month in Nursery has been full of excitement and learning as we welcomed the New Year and settled back into our routines. The children were happy to see their friends again and did a wonderful job helping new children feel welcome in our setting. We explored a range of traditional tales, including *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and *The Three Little Pigs*, through storytelling, role play, baking, music and creative activities. The children particularly enjoyed making porridge, building houses for the pigs and retelling stories during their play. It has been lovely to see their confidence, communication and friendships continue to grow throughout the month!

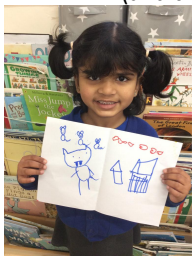




Reception

The Three Little Pigs

We built houses for the three little pigs by experimenting with different materials. We made our own versions of the story (and the characters).





Traditional Tales -

We have been learning about some traditional tales through immersive play.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

We became detectives and cracked the case of the broken chair and missing porridge.
We made baby bear's porridge and ate it all up - it was just right!









We're looking forward to learning more through stories and role play!

The Gingerbread Man

We helped the Gingerbread Man cross the river safely and baked our own Gingerbread men.



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Year 1

It has been a very busy start to the calendar year in Year 1. We kicked off the year with a fantastic trip to the Polka Theatre in Wimbledon to watch "The Snowflake" which the children absolutely loved!

In English we have started reading a new book called "Dogs don't do Ballet". The children have loved reading about the dog called Biff who really wants to become a ballet dancer even though everyone else thinks this is ridiculous. We have done some drama lessons where the children acted out some scenes from the story brilliantly.

In Maths we have been focusing on number lines to 20. The children have been adding and subtracting along the number line and also estimating where numbers should go. We have also introduced the terms "greater" and "smaller". In Science we have been looking at our 5 senses. Most recently we investigated our sense of smell where the children loved smelling what was inside different pots and trying to figure out what liquid was inside.

Finally in RE we have started looking at Jesus' journey to Galilee. The children have enjoyed reading through stories in the bible such as when Jesus meets the fishermen. Keep up the amazing work everyone!







Year 2

Since returning from the Christmas break, Year 2 have been exceptionally busy!

In English, the children have been exploring the story *Stone Age Boy* to deepen their understanding of different genres of writing. They have written diary entries from two contrasting character perspectives.

In Maths, the class has become confident in recognising and understanding the value of UK coins and notes. They have applied this knowledge to a range of money-based word problems, strengthening both their reasoning and problem-solving skills.

In History, Year 2 have been learning about Florence Nightingale and her significant contribution to nursing reforms. They also compared nursing in Victorian times with the profession today, gaining insight into how healthcare has changed over time.

The RE topic this term has been *Galilee to Jerusalem*, with readings from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

A highlight of the term was Year 2's fantastic class assembly on the **Great Fire of London**. The children loved learning the songs and actions, and they delivered their lines with confidence, clarity, and real stage presence. It was a polished and memorable performance.

Well done Year 2!







Year 3

The children have returned to school in 2026 and have enjoyed a busy and exciting month. In English, we are enjoying our class book ***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane***. The children have been taking part in drama activities and role on the wall to deepen their understanding of the characters' feelings and emotions. We are currently writing a letter in role as Edward, and the children are working very hard on sentence structure and using precise vocabulary. Our focus is now on quality writing rather than quantity, and it has been wonderful to see their progress.

In Maths, we are finishing our topic on multiplication and division. The children have enjoyed learning column multiplication and exploring division using a range of concrete resources, such as counters and sticks, to support their understanding.

In Science, the children are learning about Light and Shadow. We have been observing and investigating how shadows behave through hands-on experiments and discussions.

In RE, we have been learning about the liturgical year and what it represents for Christians.

Year 4

Year 4 had a brilliant day out at the Science Museum's Wonderlab this month. The children got stuck into all the hands-on exhibits, but the real showstopper was the live demonstration where they watched **flames "dance"** along to the beat of the music! It was fantastic to see them so excited about science.











Year 5

Year 5 have had an excellent start to 2026. We began a new unit of English, focusing on the book, 'Skellig', which has involved children writing diary entries and working in pairs to form their own play script based on a dramatic chapter from the book. The children are looking forward to performing their scripts to the class later in the term.

In Maths, we have been focusing on the second part of our multiplication and division unit, as well as the next part of our fractions unit. The children have done well to work collaboratively in class, using a variety of manipulatives and methods with which to solve increasingly tricky problems.

We have been looking at the term 'Mission' in R.E and how that can relate to various individuals within the Catholic Church, in addition to learning more about its structure and our local diocese. In Science, the children have been finishing their work in Properties of Materials, conducting various experiments to learn why certain objects are suited to their purpose, before beginning a unit on Earth & Space, focusing on the solar system and how the planets interact with the Sun.

In P.E, the children have begun unit on Tag Rugby with Mr Upton and Mr Winn, as well as Dance where they have been putting together routines in pairs.

Year 6

We welcomed the children back to school in 2026 with a very busy month once again!
We have enjoyed writing our 'spooky stories' and produced some fantastic writing with very original ideas.
We have started focusing on a new topic of algebra in Maths, looking at how to form expressions and work out equations where values are missing. This has provided a great opportunity for the class to demonstrate their reasoning and problems solving skills, with great outcomes.
We have began our new RE topic of 'Sources' and have been getting to grips with both the Old and New Testament, where we have been focusing on a range of different Books and Gospels.
The children have enjoyed learning about their new Ancient Mayan topic with Ms Barkha, and the various rituals and traditions associated with ancient civilisations.
We have been very arty this term, creating our own Mayan artwork and handwriting graffiti, which the children were very proud of, linking to National Handwriting Day.
The children have also been enjoying their new PE topics of Rugby and Dance, where they have been lucky enough to enjoy the services of Jesper from KGS and Christina from Christina Marks School of Performing Arts.
The children have been looking closely at Inheritance in science and identifying traits gained from family genes and how this can affect the natural world.

PE

Our **Year 2** students had a fantastic time representing the school at the recent **Football Festival**! It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces showcasing their teamwork, sportsmanship, and growing skills on the pitch.





■ Tuesday Take Off! ■

Morning Activity Sessions for All Pupils

■ **Launching:** Tuesday 7th October

■ **Location:** KS2 Playground

■ **Time:** 8:25 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.

What is *Tuesday Take Off!*?

A fun, active start to the school day! Children can enjoy a variety of equipment and activities before heading into class, ready to learn.

■ Open to **all pupils**

■ **Voluntary** – join in if you'd like!

■ Supported by **Year 6 Sports Leaders**

Why join in?

- A healthy, energetic start to the day
- Fun with friends before lessons
- Builds focus and readiness for learning

■ Come along, get moving, and start your Tuesday with a boost! ■

WELLBEING NEWS

PARENT COFFEE MORNING DATES

All parents and carers can join us for coffee,tea and biscuits on the 6th March, 1st May and the 5th of June between 9 - 10am to meet other parents and hear from us about things happening in the school community

Rainbows

St Joseph's is a rainbows registered school. We provide a structured 12-14 week program to assist children and young people through grief and loss facilitated by trained staff with small groups of children. Rainbows provides age related materials and supports self-esteem, trust, confidence and resilience. It promotes emotional development and positive, healthy relationships for children who are grieving through a death, divorce, separation or any other painful transition in their lives.

Please get in touch with Kate Shaw Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead for more details Kshaw@stjosephs.rbksch.org 0208 546 7178.



Mental Health Support Team at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

The Mental Health Support Team are an early intervention service from Achieving for children, supporting children and young people's wellbeing across schools in Kingston & Richmond.

The MHST will continue to offer varied early intervention support for common wellbeing difficulties this academic year. You can view information about the upcoming parent workshops we are offering on the school website, under the Child & Family Wellbeing Lead section.

If you have any questions or would like further information on how to access support, you can speak with your child's class teacher or the Mental Health Lead; Miss Kate Shaw. Alternatively, you can complete the self-referral form on the school website.

https://www.stjosephs.kingston.sch.uk/child-family-wellbeing-lead/

achieving for children

WELLBEING NEWS

Places available on a number of parenting groups starting next term in Kingston

There are places available on free parenting groups which will be starting next term in the Kingston borough.

The Parenting Puzzle/Nurturing Program for parents and carers of primary school aged children.

Workshops for parents of children aged up to 10 years

Teen Life for parents and carers of children aged 10-16 years with a diagnosis of ASD

Please see attached posters for more information about each group.
Please contact **Karen Williams** for further information.

Wellbeing Mornings in the Community

Queen Mary Hall , Cambridge Gardens , Kingston upon Thames, KT1 3NJ

All welcome on the first Friday of every month at Queen Mary Hall, where volunteer-run charity RBKares and local partners support the mental, physical, financial and digital health of local residents in need. This free one-stop shop of vital services includes health checks, liver scans, haircuts, employment support, bike repairs, energy vouchers, benefit support, mental health support, Simcards, clothes, toiletries, as well as delicious soup and cake.



SKYLARKS

Skylarks offer a huge range of activities for children with SEND needs and their families such as -
events, activities, talks, workshops, clinics and therapies

https://www.skylarks.charity/whats-on?utm_source=Skylarks+main+mailing+list&utm_campaign=e75e550fcf-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_09_02_08_54_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-f58311dd8c-684049514

Warm Spaces www.kingston.gov.uk

In this time of crisis, Warm Spaces in the borough are opening up to the public. As part of Kingston's partnership response to the Cost of Living Crisis, there is a focus on using existing buildings and spaces across the borough which are easily accessible to residents, offering warm, welcoming and safe spaces for residents to come together. You can find more information via

Connected Kingston.

achieving for children



Dear Partners,

Following an incident involving children and the river Thames recently we would like to ask you to share the below information with your children and parents.Given the current weather conditions and the likelihood of further cold spells, we are asking all partners to promote water safety messages to the children, young people, and families you work with. This effort aims to reduce the risk of drowning both in the home and within the community.

Please remind your audiences that going into the river or on ice is extremely dangerous. Cold water shock, a primary precursor to drowning, can occur in water temperatures below 15°C. The River Thames typically drops to between 3°C and 9° C (37°F – 48°F) during January and February. If someone experiences cold water shock, they should float on their back rather than attempting to swim.

Below are resources to share based on the age group of your audience and the specific risks they may encounter:

https://capt.org.uk/drowning/

Water safety for Teenagers and young peoples

Staying safe around water

Water safety London Fire Brigade

Winter water safety- Royal Life Saving Society

Kingston & Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership (KRSCP) Phone: 07834 386459