St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Newsletter - December 2025

Headteacher News

December is always my favourite time in the school calendar and at St Joseph's we aim to make it a memorable time for the children. Thank you for joining us at our nativity plays and the carol concert. They really were such a joyful way to launch the festive celebrations and remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. A huge thank you to all our staff members for their hard work in making them happen again this year. Please remember that any photographs or film you have taken of your child must only be used for personal use and should not be shared more widely on any social media sites.

A huge thank you to our group of willing volunteers who ensured our children had a Christmas treat and organised the cake sale and raffle on Tuesday. There was such a lovely atmosphere and raising money for the school is an added bonus! We will be looking to launch a new PTFA in the new year so please watch out for details of the upcoming AGM.

This month we bid farewell to Miss Charlotte who has been with us since January. Thank you for all you have done for our current Year 5 class and we wish you well in your new role.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed and holy Christmas. I hope you all manage some rest and relaxation and some quality time with your families.

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:

This month we have been preparing in school for the coming of Christmas during Advent. Children have been thinking of ways they can prepare for the coming of Jesus this Christmas. Examples have included being kind to each other, being helpful, praying each day and helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Year 6 led the readings and reflections at a very special Advent Reconciliation service for KS2, celebrated by Fr Michael who also led confessions with the children.

Throughout this month, we have been raising money for CAFOD - thank you for your generosity.



Class attendance for December 2025

N = 92.2%
R = 92.7%
Yr1 = 93.3%
Yr2 = 97%
Yr3 = 96.3%
Yr4 = 97.5%
Yr5 = 95.7%
Yr6 = 96.6%

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 - January 2026

Christmas break 22nd Dec - 5th January 2026

Mon 5th Jan- Inset Day
Tues 6th Jan- **All children return to school**
Fri 9th Jan - Y1 Trip to Polka theatre
Wed 21st Jan - Y4 Science Museum
Tue 27th Jan - Y2 class assembly 9:10am

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

Congratulations to all the children that achieved 100% attendances this term!





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Safeguarding:

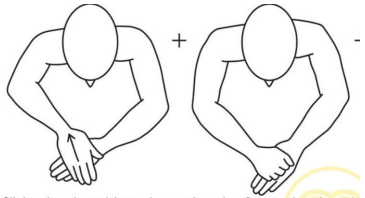
Should you ever have a concern about the welfare of a child or adult, please come and speak in confidence with the school's safeguarding leads. Our Designated Safeguarding Leaders for the school are Mrs Flower, Mrs Luccioni, Miss Kate and Miss Aziz. If you cannot speak to us in person we can be contacted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



Slide dominant hand over back of non-dominant hand towards body, then close dominant hand and place on back of non-dominant hand

Merry Christmas

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/

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.

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is to inform you that our School is working in collaboration with the Metropolitan Police Service as part of their legal commitments under Operation Encompass.

Operation Encompass is the notification to schools that a child (under 18) has been exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident. This includes incidents where the child/young person was not present but is part of the household. This will ordinarily be done by the start of the next school day.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a specially trained member of the school staff, known as a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), is informed. The DSL can then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to ensure the wellbeing of the child.

The school may be able to make provisions or adjustments to assist the child and their family.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

If you would like more information, please visit https://www.operationencompass.org/

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Head Teacher

Nursery



This month in Nursery has been full of fun, learning and festive excitement. We began December exploring Space through stories, role play, singing and creative activities, which the children really enjoyed. As the month went on, our focus turned to Christmas and the children have been very busy preparing for our Nativity, practising songs and actions with great enthusiasm. We enjoyed lots of festive activities, including decorating the Christmas tree, making Christmas cards, exploring winter-themed sensory activities and taking part in music and movement sessions. We also learned about different celebrations, including Hanukkah, and talked about how people celebrate in different ways. We finished the term with a lovely Christmas pyjama party to celebrate together!





Reception

Reception have been celebrating Advent and learning about the story of Jesus' birth through Luke's gospel.

Nursery and Reception performed our Nativity 'Humph the Camel' for our families. There were tears of laughter and joy.















We made our own advent promises and decorated our classroom to prepare for Christmas.

We wrapped presents to put under the tree.

Reception had a wonderful Christmas pyjama party to celebrate the end of term.

Year 1

The past few weeks have been incredibly busy with all of the festive activities we have been lucky enough to enjoy. The children worked so hard to memorise their lines and practice singing their songs and performing their scenes for our Christmas Nativity. They did such a fantastic job performing Barmy Bethlehem in front of two separate packed audiences and have continued singing the catchy songs up until the last day of term.

We have also been lucky enough to enjoy a lovely trip to the Kingston library where members of staff read some beautiful stories to the children, and afterwards we were allowed to spend some time browsing the children's section before each choosing a book to check out and bring back to school to read.

I also want to mention how beautifully the children have behaved this term and how hard they have all worked. Due to this they earned a few marble treats including a trip to Fairfield Park and also a Christmas Party on the last day of term which included squash, popcorn, a Christmas movie and some party bags.

I would lastly like to say a special thank you to the PTFA and Rayden's mum for organising a lovely box of crafts for the children and for pulling together to get them a few little gifts. It was so lovely to see their faces light up when they received their little gifts from the Christmas elf. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and Happy New year and look forward to welcoming you all back in January.

Year 2





During the past few weeks Year 2 have been extremely busy learning their lines and songs for their Nativity. They were amazing during the performances, and their singing was so professional.

In RE the children really enjoyed learning about the Gospel of Luke and connections between the people mentioned within the Gospel. They showed wonderful engagement in the story of Advent and activities during their visit to the Cornerstone Church and talked about how much fun they had during the visit. The staff were very complimentary about all of the children in Year 2!

In mathematics the children have quickly become knowledgeable about 2D and 3D shapes. They have embraced learning their 'Greek' to remember the names and properties of shapes.

In English, the class have explored the story 'Room on the Broom' to write their own version. They have had fun changing parts of the story and developing their own characters.

In science the class have continued to learn about habitats and how a food chain works. They know the difference between carnivores, herbivores and omnivores and discovering why the food chain is important to the circle of life.

Year 3

During the past few weeks, Year 3 have been extremely busy learning their lines and songs for their Christmas show. In class, they are already performing so beautifully. They also thoroughly enjoyed going to the Rose theatre to see a performance of Cinderella.

In English, we are finishing our adventure story based on our class book, "Leo and the Place Between". The children have used a range of strong verbs and lots of sensory details to bring their stories alive.

In Maths, the children are feeling very confident with multiplication and division and have shown a good understanding of arrays, sharing, and grouping.

In Science, the children have really enjoyed learning about rocks and identifying their properties.

In RE, the children loved our Advent lessons, where they have learned about how Christians prepare for the birth of Jesus and how this connects to scripture.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a very busy and productive time this month. The children have been enthusiastically practising their lyrics in preparation for the Christmas Carol Service, showing great focus and confidence as they get ready to perform.

In Maths, the children have been learning how to use column multiplication to multiply 3-digit numbers by a 1-digit number. They have worked hard to apply this method accurately and are growing in confidence with more challenging calculations.

In English, Year 4 have been writing their own chapter of *Beowulf*. They enjoyed changing different aspects of the story, such as creating their own monsters and choosing new weapons for Beowulf to use. The children have used a wide range of descriptive language and have focused on using correct speech punctuation, which has helped make their writing engaging and successful.

Year 5

Year 5 have had a busy end to term, building on their amazing singing at the Lifting Young Voices event at All Saints Church by learning their Christmas carols for the service at St Raphael's. It has been great to hear such wonderful singing from Year 5 during this time.

In Maths, we have continued our work on fractions, with the children diligently working on equivalent fractions and using this to compare and order, as well as add and subtract fractions. Well done to the class for winning the Times Tables Rockstars award so many weeks in a row this half term - a good reflection of their willingness to improve their maths abilities!

In English, the class have continued reading Kensuke's Kingdom and have begun drafting their travel itineraries for an around the world sailing trip, working hard to include all their persuasive devices with which to convince parents to go!

In Science, we have completed experiments on properties of materials and in Geography, we have learned about the Grand Canyon and how it was formed. Our R.E unit on advent has seen the children understand how we wait and prepare for the birth of Jesus, with children creating their own mini advent calendars in recognition and celebration of this time of year.

Year 6

Year 6 have had another busy month, with lots going on in the lead up to the Christmas break.

We ended November with a wonderful performance at All Saints Church for the Lifting Young Voices choir concert. The children were very well behaved and represented the school incredibly well.

We started December by welcoming Father Michael into class, to answer a variety of questions the children had regarding the vocations of a Priest; our RE topic.

Our Year 6 girls football team had their first ever match against Ellingham in the District Cup. An exceptionally tight fought game saw St Joseph's come out as winners, with Julia bagging the only goal of the game to secure a 1-0 win. We now travel to Lovelace in the second round. Details of this game to follow.

In class, we have completed a great amount of work, including short stories and narrative round our class story 'Rooftoppers', experiments with 'light and reflection' in our science topic where we made periscopes, conversions and fractions in Maths, gymnastic performances during PE…and much more!

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2026!

PE

Our Year 6 girls had a fantastic result in the **District Cup match** against Ellingham Primary. They are through to the next round!
We are very proud of their efforts and the way they represented our school.



We are proud to announce that St Joseph's has been recognised with a **FA Equal Access School 2025**.This award recognises schools that offer equal access and opportunities for girls in football.



WELLBEING NEWS

Future coffee mornings

If you have any suggestions for future coffee mornings that you would like us to hold, please complete the feedback form - https://forms.gle/zFQf2YLDGY63HWut9

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

https://spanishamigos.co.uk/book-a-class/

External clubs booking details





