

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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Newsletter
February 2026

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been a productive start to the new half term. The children have returned refreshed and ready to learn, and it has been a joy to see their enthusiasm across the school. Recently, pupils have been especially excited to take part in hands-on learning experiences with animals, which sparked curiosity, care, and plenty of thoughtful questions.

This month we marked Children's Mental Health Week, focusing on the importance of expressing feelings and supporting one another with kindness. We also recognised Safer Internet Day, helping children understand how to stay safe, respectful, and responsible online.

As we move through February, signs of spring are beginning to appear around us. The first flowers are emerging, bringing a welcome sense of hope for brighter, sunnier days ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best Wishes and God Bless Sarah Pascoe and all the St. Joseph's team

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL

Although Ash Wednesday fell during the half-term break, we gathered this week to recognise the beginning of Lent with a special Ashes Service led by Deacon Tim Deborah and supported by our chaplains. The service offered a quiet and reflective time for pupils to think about forgiveness, renewal, and the importance of making positive choices. It was a meaningful opportunity for our school community to mark the start of the Lenten journey together.





THE BRITISH VALUES OF OUR SCHOOL

During Children’s Mental Health Week, pupils explored how British Values support positive wellbeing for everyone, linked to this year’s theme, “This Is My Place.” Through discussions and activities, children reflected on how mutual respect and tolerance help create a safe environment where everyone feels they belong and are valued. They considered individual liberty by recognising that each person has a voice and a right to express their feelings, while also showing care and responsibility towards others. These learning experiences continue to strengthen our inclusive school community, where every child understands their place and the importance of supporting one another.



STARS OF THE WEEK



VALUE GUARDIANS

<p>Zoey Brianna</p>		<p>Brianna Bentley</p>
<p>Max U Maks Aiden</p>		<p>Lily-Mai Beauden Maya</p>

STARS OF THE WEEK



VALUE GUARDIANS

<p>Theo Layla Isaac W Kevin</p>	 	<p>Willow Jayda Gracie Kevin Archie Harry</p>
<p>Evan Tori</p>		<p>Tori Frankie and Leo</p>



CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



February in St Francis

This month, we have been noticing the changes in our growing area, as Spring is on its way. We have been talking about what is growing and we have some beautiful daffodils blooming.

The children have been budding mathematicians, identifying numbers and how to make them using a range of objects.

We have been reading "Mr Wolfs Pancakes" and together we wrote our list of ingredients and cooked some delicious pancakes.

The children were so exciting to have a visit from "Animals2U". They were able to see and hold a frog, snake and even a mouse! It was such a treat!

The children have returned to School after the half term break, refreshed and keen to learn new skills.

February

What a fantastic and busy month it has been in St Vincent Class! The children have shown great enthusiasm, curiosity and teamwork in all their learning.

In Forest School, we enjoyed baking pancakes over the fire, building confidence and independence outdoors. In Science, as part of our *Animals Including Humans* topic, the children handled snakes, mice, frogs and stick insects, asking thoughtful questions and showing great care.

In Computing, we designed, built and launched our own rockets, testing how far they could travel... there were some very exciting countdowns! In RE, we brought Bible stories to life through drama, with some wonderful acting and storytelling.

We are so proud of the children and look forward to another exciting month ahead. Thank you for your continued support! 😊



CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

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Year 3 and 4 were super excited to have an educational animal encounter, where they handled a range of creatures from stick insects, tree frogs, mice and snakes. We discovered lots of interesting facts ready for our learning on food chains, habitats and life processes.



We have been developing our understanding of the world, whilst learning new map skills and working collaboratively with resources!

We shared our knowledge and skills and were amazed to see the different countries some of us have been to.

As designers we had to research structures in order to design a helmet for safety. We learned about shell structures and made a base from paper mache. We then trialled different strengthening techniques to further improve our designs. Finally evaluating our work. We loved making our helmets.





CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

Our school chaplains led the school in an ashes service to mark the beginning of Lent.



What a fabulous visit we had from Animals2U. We were able to recap our learning from last year and everyone enjoyed being able to touch and hold the animals and be able to ask questions about their classification.

Breakfast Club

- Available **Monday – Friday** from **8:00 AM**
- Cost: **£4 per session**



Booking Information:

All bookings should be made via **ParentPay** prior to the session. For any last-minute bookings, please call the **school office**.



After School Club

- Available **Monday – Friday**
- Until **5:00 PM** – **£6.75**
- Until **5:30 PM** – **£10.00**
- **Fridays close at 5:00 PM**



**** Please inform the staff of any food allergies as food will be served ****



Important Notice:

Any accounts with arrears of **£50 or more** will not be permitted to use the **Breakfast Club** or **After School Clubs** until the balance is cleared.



BREAKFAST AND AFTERSCHOOL CLUB ACTIVITIES

Weekly Schedule:

Monday: Football



Tuesday: Netball



Wednesday: Art



**Thursday: Forest
School**



Friday: Games



Snacks Provided

Attendance Matters



Attendance January

	88.57%
	94.83%
	92.59%
	96.60%

Important Notices & Reminders

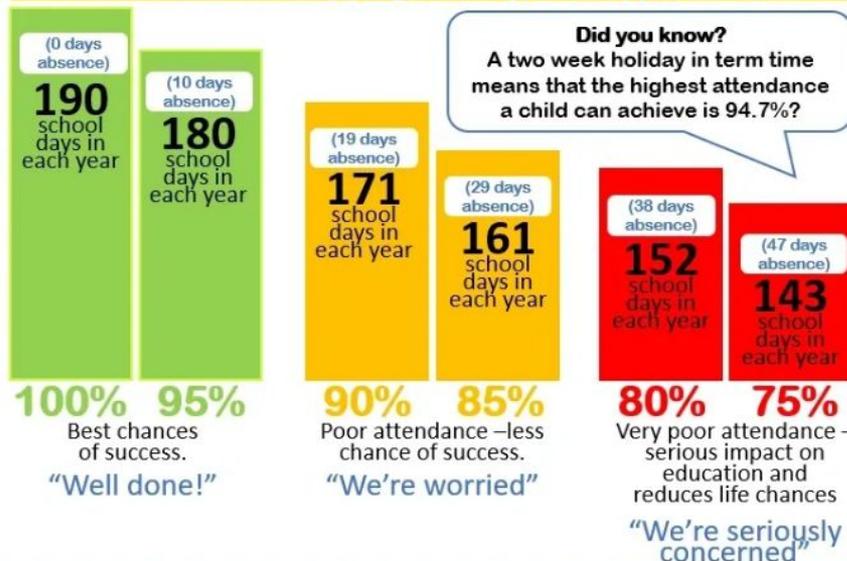
If your child is late for morning registration, arriving late at school after 9am, please ensure you or their accompanying adult reports to the school office to ensure that they are registered.

Good attendance means...
being in school at least 95% of the time or 180 to 190 days

175 days not at school!

All this time for shopping, holidays and appointments

365 days in a calendar year



Did you know?
A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance a child can achieve is 94.7%?

Attendance Roadmap

In line with the DfE Statutory Guidance (in force from 19th August 2024) we offer a supportive, stepped, attendance approach. We will offer a welcoming ethos with high expectations for all. We will assess data to identify absence trends & use preventative discussions/meetings with families to listen, understand & support to remove barriers. Where needed, we will formalise support to nurture improvement with Attendance Contracts & as a last resort we will consider intensifying support &/or enforce legal sanctions.



Did you know, arriving after the register has closed (30 mins from school starting) = an absence?



Did you know, 90% attendance = approx. 95 missed lessons/hours of learning?

STEP 1 - Identify, Assess & Prevent

Our daily actions & processes aim to promote relationship building with children & families to prevent absence. This involves monitoring data trends & absence patterns to inform our conversations with you (& your child where age allows). The trigger for conversations is where absence is at risk of reaching the new National Threshold (**10 sessions (10 half days/5 days) within a 10 week rolling period**). Other daily actions involve promoting attendance positively, using praise & incentives, swift absence follow up, email &/or letter communication to raise your awareness of emerging concerns, processing requested or unrequested 'Term Time Exceptional Absence' & doing Home Visits to meet our safeguarding duties as required.

STEP 2 - Early Absence Support

We move to this step if the National Threshold for absence is met (authorised or unauthorised) to prevent further absence occurring. Discussions & meetings will be offered to identify if early support or reasonable adjustments are needed. This will be done using discussions &/or meetings to create a supportive action plan. An Early Help Assessment (EHA) may be required for some support to be accessed along with a Team Around the Family (TAF) Meeting Process

Please talk to us about how we can support you &/or your child at any time.

STEP 3 - Formalised Support

Where absence continues & initial support needs to be increased an Attendance Contract (AC) will be offered to formalise support. This is a 3-6 month nurturing plan of improvement to prevent further escalation. Achievable & individual targets will be set & reviewed regularly. Medical &/or other information will be actively sought at this point if required to work collaboratively with you & other agencies. An AC can run alongside other meetings e.g., TAF meeting.



Did you know, 90% attendance = 4 weeks of absence over a year?

STEP 4 - Warnings - Concerns Remain

Where STEP 2 or STEP 3 support has been unsuccessful &/or declined, a 'Formal Warning' if AC has failed, or a 'Notice to Improve' Letter if no AC appropriate, will be issued to reinforce the need for immediate improvement. A Family Court Order such as an Education Supervision Order will also be considered as an alternative to prosecution.



Did you know, good attendance increases academic success?



STEP 5 - Legal Action - No Improvement

Legal action (Penalty Notice or Prosecution) MAY be requested from the Local Authority (LA) if Unauthorised Term Time Absence is taken, or if overall absence continues to occur & reaches or exceeds the National Threshold for absence, despite STEPS 1-4 being attempted. Statutory Guidance States a Referral to Children's Social Care for children with 'Severe Absence' (less than 50%) should be considered to obtain 'Intense Support'.

PENALTY NOTICES & LEGAL ACTION

1st Offence (after 19th August 2024) of **Term Time Leave** &/or **Irregular Attendance** (10 sessions of Unauthorised Absence or more) = Fine of £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. If paid within 21 days fine is reduced to £80 per parent, per child.
2nd Offence within 3 years (from 19th August 2024) = Fine of £160 per parent, per child payable within 28 days, no reduction available.
3rd Offence within 3 years (from 19th August 2024) NO PENALTY NOTICE considered. The case will be presented to **Magistrates' Court** under s444(1) or (1a) of the Education Act. If found guilty, a fine of up to £2500 per parent, per child can be issued. Convictions for s444(1a) offences will show on DBS record.

Someone Special Pop-Up Gift Shop

10th & 11th March 2026

Say thank you to that special person in your life...
Mum, Nan, Auntie, Sister

*An amazing variety of gifts on offer.
Your child can choose their own gift &
have it wrapped for that special person in
their life!*

£3 per gift

Payment via ParentPay
'Someone Special'

The Friends of
St Joseph's

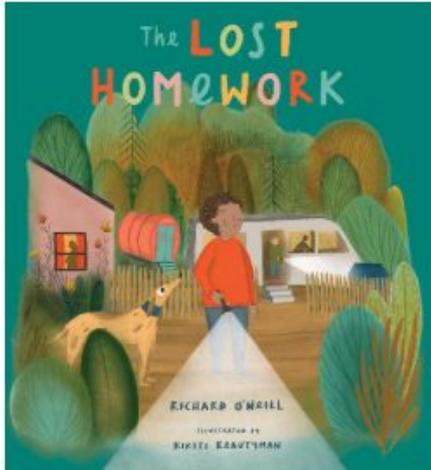
Catholic Primary School



03.03.26	St Oscar - Magistrates in the Community Visit	19.03.26	Feast of St. Joseph - Mass at Church 10 a.m Parties p.m
04.03.26	PE Impact Day - NAC teaching PE Yr5 Coombeshead - The Ivory Bangle Lady	20.03.26	Red Nose Day - Go red and silly
05.03.26	World Book Day - come dressed as your favourite character or in PJs for a cosy reading experience	24.03.26	St. Oscar Romero Day
09.03.26	Bug Workshop - St. Francis (TBC)	24.03.26	Yr5 Coombeshead - Hands-on in the Science Lab
10.03.26 & 11.03.26	Friend's Pop-Up Gift Shop	30.03.26	YR5 NAC Workshop - Easter
12.03.26	Yr5 Coombeshead - Discover Music : Rhythm & Pulse	31.03.26	Holy Week Liturgy - School Hall - All welcome
12.03.26	National Child Measurement Team in for Reception & Year 6	02.04.26	Break Up for Easter Holidays
17.03.26 & 18.03.26	Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30 - 6pm	20.04.26	All return for Summer Term 1

The Lost Homework by Richard O'Neill, illustrated by Kirsti Beautyman

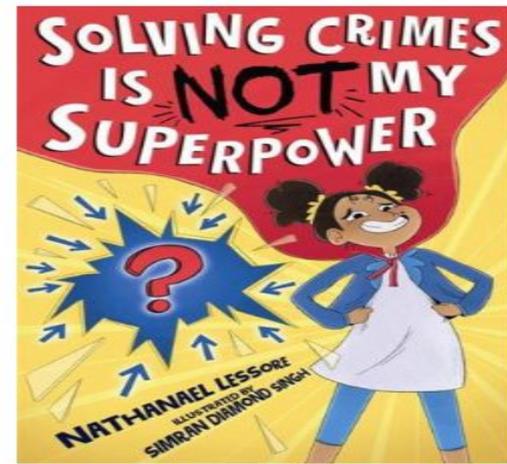
Sonny has lost his homework book and is worried about how his teacher will react. As he searches for the missing book, the reader learns about Sonny's life as a Traveller, which includes going to a traditional wedding, helping his neighbours, and repairing one of the caravans they live in. A good picture book to show children how all of our lives are different, this text includes wonderful illustrations and a clever twist.



**"Reading is to
the mind what
exercise is to
the body."**

Richard Steele

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Solving Crimes Is NOT My Superpower by Nathanael Lessore, illustrated by Simran Diamond Singh

In Walsham, superpowers are the norm – except for Sara, who feels like the odd one out. But when the school football trophy and her best friend's lucky charm vanish, she's determined to crack the case, powers or not. As she follows the clues, she starts to realise that being extraordinary isn't just about super strength or flying. A fun, fast-paced mystery about friendship, perseverance, and finding what makes you special – with no capes required! We think Solving Crimes Is NOT My Superpower will be very popular with children in year 4.



SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding at St. Joseph's is always a priority. Should you have any enquiries or concerns, please contact our Designated Senior Lead for Child Protection: Mrs Day or Mrs Pascoe on 01626 352559. Our named governor for child protection is Tim van Kroonenburg.

WELFARE

Our Family Support Worker is Julie . Please let us know if you would like her to contact you for ANY support. Everyone needs a Julie in their lives!



ATTENDANCE

Hi, my name is Natalie, I'm the Attendance and Welfare Officer here at St Joseph's. I monitor attendance regularly to ensure that, where possible, every child is in school on time every day. If you have any concerns around your child's attendance, please leave a message with the office and I will contact you.



CPOMS and Operation encompass

At St. Joseph's we use CPOMS as our system for recording information that we consider to be safeguarding information. Further information about the programme can be found here -

<https://www.cpoms.co.uk/privacy-statement/>

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICE



Every 2nd Wednesday
of the month

January 14th
February 11th
March 11th
April 8th



10:30am-
12:30pm



The Courtenay
Centre



Find us on
Facebook

Free help and advice for anyone struggling
with:

- Cost of Living Crisis (money)
- Employment and Training
- Teignbridge Citizens Advice
- Health and Social Care
- Being an Unpaid Carer
- NHS App Access
- Mental Health
- Housing
- And More ...



Walk-in Sessions
Everyone Welcome
No appointment required!

CRICKETFIELD
surgery

buckland Surgery

DEVON
SQUARE
SURGERY

KINGSTEIGNTON MEDICAL PRACTICE

EASTER SPECIAL



DAILY Football & Multi-Sport ACTIVITIES



FREE to ALL Children
aged 5-14 eligible for
Benefit Related Free School Meals

[£25 per day for pupils not eligible]

NUTRITION
Guides

**NUTRITIOUS
COOKED MEAL
EVERY DAY**

**ANIMAL
HQ Visit**

Magician & Entertainer

Certificates, Prizes ...and much more...

DAILY 10am to 3pm

For locations, dates and bookings please visit

SHEARSOCER.CO.UK



for more information contact
ADAM SHEARER 07967 124844



TORQUAY | PAIGNTON | TOTNES | NEWTON ABBOT | DARTMOUTH