

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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Newsletter
May 2026

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we move through May, I want to take a moment to celebrate our school community and share a few reflections.

First, a huge well done to our Year 6 pupils. We are immensely proud of their calm, determined attitude throughout the SATs period. They approached each paper with resilience, kindness to one another, and a real sense of purpose. SATs assess a narrow slice of learning; they do not measure creativity, curiosity, empathy, teamwork, humour, or the many leadership qualities our pupils show every day. In those wider measures, our Year 6 children truly excel. They have been wonderful role models for our younger pupils—showing how to work hard, support friends, and keep things in perspective.

That spirit runs through the whole school. I am consistently proud of the way our children conduct themselves, and visitors regularly comment on the calm atmosphere, purposeful learning, and kindness they see in our corridors and classrooms. Strong “behaviour for learning” is a real strength of our community. Of course, children sometimes get things wrong—that’s part of growing up—and we’re here to help them put it right. Our approach is restorative and relational: we listen, help children understand the impact of their choices, and support them to repair any harm. Together, we agree clear next steps so everyone can move forward feeling safe, valued, and ready to learn. It’s about high expectations, consistent routines, and the belief that every child can learn from a mistake and try again.

Feeling safe underpins all of this. Safeguarding is part of everyday life in our school, and we all play a role in it. Our children can confidently explain how they are kept safe—around school, on trips, and online—and what to do if something doesn’t feel right. They know the trusted adults they can speak to and the simple steps for getting help for themselves or a friend. We build this understanding through regular conversations in class and assemblies, and through our PSHE and online-safety curriculum. Our staff are well trained and always ready to listen, and we encourage families to talk with us too.

Thank you to all our pupils, families and staff for everything you do to make our school such a warm, purposeful place to learn.

Best Wishes and God Bless

Sarah Pascoe and the St. Joseph’s Team

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL - ASCENSION DAY LITURGY

To celebrate Ascension Day, we came together for a school liturgy led by Deacon, Tim, Deborah and our chaplains. We remembered that the Ascension isn't Jesus leaving us but sending us: He returns to the Father so the Holy Spirit can come, and we carry on His work here and now. Through prayer, readings, and song, we found fresh hope, a clearer sense of purpose, and a nudge to live our faith in everyday ways—how we learn, treat friends, and serve others. Leaving the liturgy, we felt encouraged to be people of faith, joy, and courage in our school and beyond.



THE BRITISH VALUES OF OUR SCHOOL

Living out British values comes to life across our calendar, especially through the sporting fixtures each year group attends at Newton Abbot College. Throughout the year, every child has the chance to visit our local secondary school to take part in events alongside pupils from neighbouring primary schools. It is an opportunity to show mutual respect for teammates, opponents, and officials; learn the rule of law through fair play and clear rules; grow individual liberty by building confidence, teamwork, and resilience; and celebrate diversity as every pupil contributes their unique strengths. Together, these experiences teach a consistent lesson: British values are not just words on a poster but habits we live—in lessons, in competition, and in how we support one another.

STARS OF THE WEEK



VALUE GUARDIANS

<p>Bentley Noah R Brianna Noah M</p>		<p>Noah R Bentley Zoey Brianna</p>
<p>Harley Jack Izzy</p>		<p>Lucy Ashleigh Tobias</p>

STARS OF THE WEEK



VALUE GUARDIANS

Archie
Harry
Gracie
Lilia
Willow
Jayda
Freddie
Layla
Kevin



Theo
Violet
Noah
Gracie
Lilia
Arabella
Phoebe
Oliver K
Oliver J

India
Frankie
Year 6
Kyleigh

Nicolas
Evie
Maisie
Bella



CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



May in St Francis

This half term the children have been growing Runner beans and Strawberries, they have been fascinated at how they have been growing and can identify parts of the plants. We had a surprise visit from a Giant who was in our focus story- "Jack and the Beanstalk". The children's imaginations have been incredible when reciting the story. We have enjoyed spending so much time outside in the sunshine, noticing differences in our environment and have been on nature scavenger hunts. We even made some kites to fly when we had a windy day! In PE we are practising for Sports Day, the children have been very competitive!

May in St Vincent

In Science, we planted cress seeds and carried out our own experiment to help us learn what plants need to grow. We planted one set of seeds with both light and water, one without water, and one without light. We have enjoyed observing the changes and discussing our predictions and results together.

We also had our Teddy Bears' Picnic this month. Although the weather meant we had to move our picnic indoors, we still had a wonderful time! The children especially enjoyed focusing on their oracy skills by sharing ideas, speaking clearly, and listening carefully to one another during our activities.

In Music, we have loved exploring different instruments, including the jumbie jams. The children have been learning about rhythm, beat, and how to play together as a group.

In Art, we have continued developing our sculpture skills. After lots of practice and creativity, the children completed their final bird sculptures, and we are very proud of their fantastic work and attention to detail.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you all have a lovely half term break!



CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

In Geography, we have been busy learning about Europe! We had a European day where we enjoyed dressing up, bringing in food and presenting facts to the class on our chosen country. Can you tell which countries we are representing?



In Science, we have been learning all about how light travels and is reflected from different surfaces. We have spent some time investigating and proving how light from the sun can be dangerous. As Scientists, we are learning different ways to record our results.

As designers, we investigated torches, sketched our ideas, and chose materials with a user in mind. We then built simple circuits with batteries, switches, and LEDs. Using safe tools, we crafted and assembled the torch bodies, tested brightness and beam focus, —finishing with working torches we evaluated and proudly used. We found this quite a tricky experience. But it is always good to have a challenge.



CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



St Oscar have had a fantastic half term and we are so proud of how hard everyone has worked. Our Year 6 children have been amazing in the lead up to their SATs, showing great determination, confidence and a really positive attitude throughout. To celebrate all their hard work and achievements, we enjoyed a lovely trip to the park together.

As Scientists, we have begun our learning about 'Following in Darwin's Footsteps', making fossils to show how we know that different life forms existed.

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**.

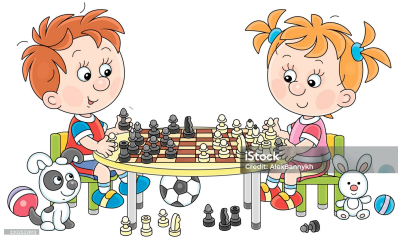


After School Club

- 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

After School Clubs

New After School Clubs coming after half term

Wednesdays - Football Skills 3.30 - 4.30pm £3.00 per session

Thursdays - Wild Tribe / Forest School - 3.30 - 4.30pm £3.50 per session





Fridays - Cooking Club - 3.30 - 4.30pm £3.50 per session

Children collected at 4.30pm will only be charged the club fee, those that wish to stay on later will also be charged the usual After-School Club fee

Attendance Matters



Attendance May

	92.00%
	96.11%
	96.67%
	92.54%

Important Notices & Reminders

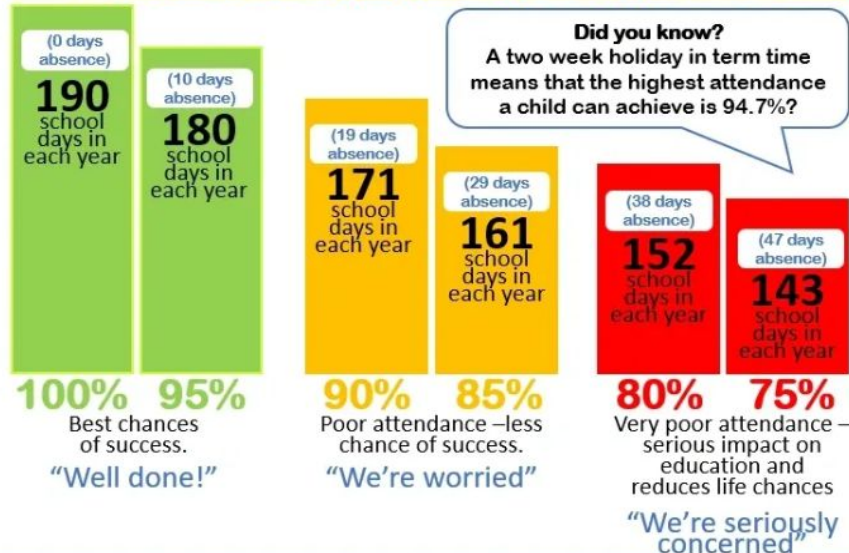
If your child is late for morning registration, arriving late at school after 9am, please ensure you or their accompanying adult reports to the school office to ensure that they are registered.

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'.

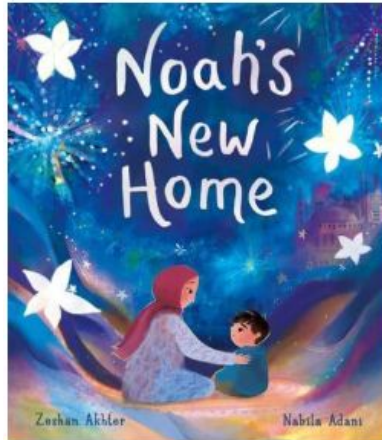
PENALTY NOTICES & LEGAL ACTION

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.

22.05.26	Break Up for Half Term	24.06.26 - 26.06.26	Year 5/6 Residential - Barton PGL
01.06.26 02.06.26	Non-Pupil Day Summer Term 2 Begins Year 4 Multiplication Table Check Week	25.06.26	Inspire ICF World Cup School Festival Yr5 Coombeshead - Hands-on in the Science Lab
05.06.26	World Environment Day	01.07.26	SPORTS DAY & FAMILY Picnic
07.06.26	First Holy Communion at St. Joseph's Church - 11am	01.07.26	NAC Intake Parent's Evening
08.06.26	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Week	02.07.26 - 03.07.26	Year 6 Step Up Day - Transition Day Coombeshead
16.06.26	Yr5 Coombeshead - Performing Arts Workshop	02.07.26	NAC Transition Day
18 - 19.06..26	Coombeshead Rising Stars Days	22.07.26	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly - 9:15 BREAK UP FOR SUMMER HOLIDAY
19.06.26	Yr5 Coombeshead - Intro to Food & Nutrition	07.09.26	New Academic Year Starts

Noah's New Home by Zeshan Akhter, illustrated by Nabila Adani

Noah's New Home by Zeshan Akhter follows a young refugee, Noah, as he adapts to life in a new country. While settling in, memories of his past and family resurface, and a fireworks display brings both joy and sorrow. With the support of his loved ones, Noah begins to heal. The book thoughtfully explores displacement, trauma, and the strength of community, beautifully brought to life through Nabila Adani's expressive illustrations. Memorable and powerful, It's ideal for discussion in Year 1 classrooms.

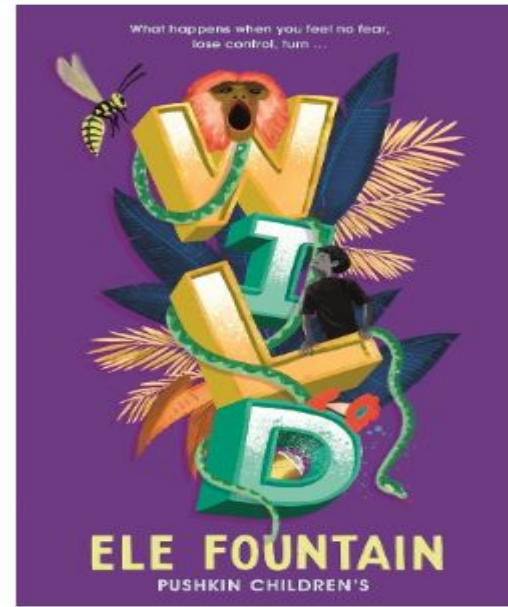


BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island." **Walt Disney**

Wild by Ele Fountain

Jack is out of control, getting into trouble at school and pushing boundaries. He thinks his mum doesn't notice until she invites him to join her on a surprise work trip, unexpectedly adventuring deep into the rainforest where real danger exists around every corner. Can Jack adjust and see what really matters in life? Covering themes of gang peer pressure, loss of a parent, attention-seeking behaviour and bravado, Wild is a book with bite – perfect for book club discussion and use as an impetus for creative writing.





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.



OPEN EVENING

23 JUNE 2026

WELCOME SPEECH AT 6.30PM
SUBJECT VISITS AND SITE TOUR
UNTIL CLOSE AT 8.30PM

BOOK YOUR PLACE VIA THE QR CODE BELOW OR AT
WWW.TGGSACADEMY.ORG/OPENEVENING

book here →





PLYMOUTH ARGYLE ACADEMY

OPEN SESSIONS

UNDER 6 & 7 (SCHOOL YEAR 1 & 2)

PLYMOUTH	SOUTH DEVON	EAST CORNWALL
<p>Date Friday, 21 June 2024</p> <p>Venue Marjon Sports Centre, 3G Astro Turf</p> <p>Capacity 100 spaces</p> <p>Time 5.30-7.00pm</p>  <p>NEW DATE ADDED!</p>	<p>Date Friday, 5 July 2024</p> <p>Venue Devon County FA, 3G Astro Turf</p> <p>Capacity 70 spaces</p> <p>Time 5.30-7.00pm</p> 	<p>Date Friday, 12 July 2024</p> <p>Venue Braninel School, 3G Astro Turf</p> <p>Capacity 60 spaces</p> <p>Time 5.30-7.00pm</p> 
PENRYN	OKEHAMPTON	
<p>Date Tuesday, 16 July 2024</p> <p>Venue Penryn College, 3G Astro Turf</p> <p>Capacity 60 spaces</p> <p>Time 5.30-7.00pm</p> 	<p>Date Thursday, 18 July 2024</p> <p>Venue Ashbury Golf Hotel, 3G Astro Turf</p> <p>Capacity 60 spaces</p> <p>Time 6.00-7.30pm</p> 	



COMMUNITY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



With our Qualified Instructor, Lucy

Seated Exercise for over 50s

Every Thursday 10am-11am

The Courtenay Centre, Newton Abbot, TQ12 2QA

- ✓ No need to book - just turn up
- ✓ £6 per class (first class free)

For more information call all us on 0333 241 2340

Registered charity number 1019018



**Churston Ferrers
Grammar School**
Learning to create a better world



OPEN DAY

Booking is required
via this link



THURSDAY 25th JUNE 2026

10.00am - 11.20am Presentation and Guided Tour
4.15pm - 5:45pm Presentation and Guided Tour
5:30pm - 7:00pm Presentation and Guided Tour

Parking will be available on-site for the afternoon Presentations and Tours

Churston Ferrers Grammar School, Greenway Road, Brixham, Devon, TQ5 0LN
T: 01803 842289 W: churstongrammar.com E: enquiries@churstongrammar.com

