St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter Autumn term 1
October 2026

Message from Head of School.

Thank You for a Wonderful First Half Term!

As we reach the end of our first half term, we would like to thank all our children, parents, carers and staff for making it such a positive start to the year. It has been a busy few weeks, and we are so grateful for the enthusiasm, support and teamwork shown across our school community. It is wonderful to see such a strong sense of pride and togetherness growing.

During this term, we have celebrated our first school fundraising disco, which was a huge success and a fantastic opportunity for everyone to have fun together! Our Harvest Festival charity event has also helped nurture kindness, generosity and a spirit of giving in our children, encouraging them to think about others and the difference we can make by helping those in need. Additionally, we were very pleased to have had a positive experience with His Majesty's Inspectors (Ofsted). We are immensely proud of the progress we have made as a school and of all our pupils. We hoped to have the report back to share by half term but it has not arrived yet. As soon as it does, we will share it with you all.

Together, we are making positive changes to our school environment. From the welcoming planters at the front entrance to our refreshed dinner hall, with its calm, café-style atmosphere, we are creating spaces that feel warm and inviting. We are delighted to see children taking greater responsibility for their school by looking after resources and keeping classrooms and shared spaces tidy. These small actions make a real difference and help everyone feel proud of the place where they learn and work.

Above all, we want our school to be a place where children feel safe, valued and listened to, families feel welcome, and staff feel supported. Thank you for embracing new ideas, sharing your views and playing your part in making this happen.

We have made a fantastic start, and we look forward to building on this next half term as we continue to improve our school, celebrate our children's ideas and achievements, and strengthen our wonderful sense of community.

Wishing all our children, families, carers and staff a happy and relaxing half-term break.

God bless,

Mrs Day and Mrs Soby

The Catholic life of our school



At the beginning of each academic year, we intentionally establish and promote the Catholic ethos and culture of our school. As a community, we reflect on our mission statement: *"Live, Love and Learn in God's way,"* ensuring that all staff and pupils understand how this is to be lived out in everyday school life. We revisit and explore our Gospel Values, considering how they are embodied through our words, actions, and relationships across the school.

High standards of behaviour, mutual respect, and care for one another are embedded in our expectations. I am proud of the exemplary conduct and attitudes consistently demonstrated by our pupils, which reflect the school's strong Catholic identity.

Pastoral care is central to our mission. We place a strong emphasis on supporting pupils who may need help making the right choices, ensuring that every child feels valued, supported, and guided in their personal development. We recognise that education is not solely about academic success but also about forming the whole child — spiritually, morally, socially, and emotionally.

Through this approach, we aim to develop resilient, empathetic, and morally grounded individuals who are equipped with the life skills and values to contribute positively to society, in accordance with the teachings of the Gospel.

Harvest festival 2026

What a wonderful Display of Kindness and Generosity.
We have been so lucky to receive some lovely donations for our schools Harvest Festival, and we would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed.



Shout Out

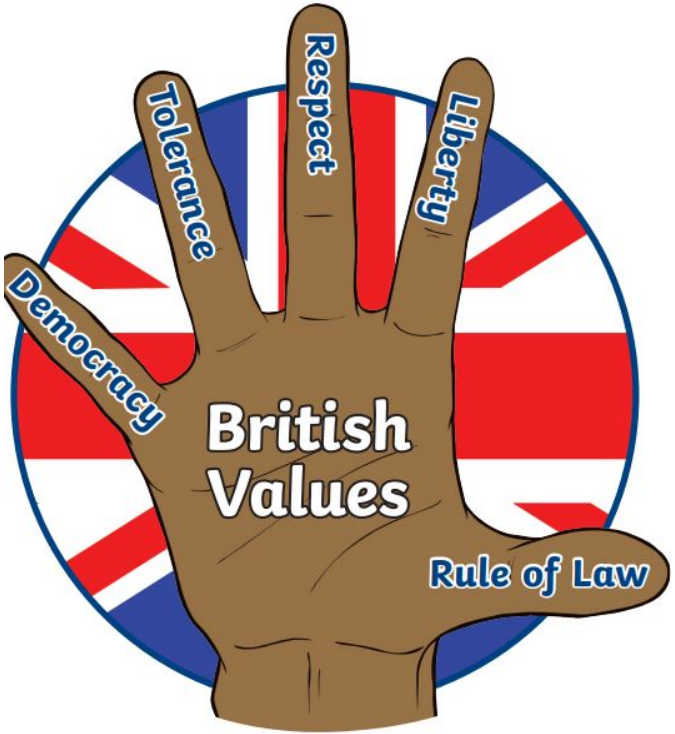
Big shout out for all our lovely parents who helped transform the front of school !❤️
Our planter box was collapsing and needed a new lease of life.
Thank you for all your hard work collecting donations and revamping this area for the children to enjoy up-keeping!
Thank you to Sally and Steph particularly! Great job! A special shout out to Granny Pats who donated many of the plants - if you happen to pass tham, please pop in and say you are from St Joseph's!





The British Values of our school

We also ensure that we reestablish the British Values that are deeply embedded within our Gospel Values. Principles such as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance reflect the teachings of our faith and help shape a welcoming, respectful, and inclusive school community. Through assemblies, lessons, and daily interactions, we encourage our pupils to live out these values, fostering kindness, understanding, and responsibility. By connecting British Values with our Catholic mission, we support our children in becoming compassionate and respectful citizens who contribute positively to both school and society.



Stars of the week

Value Guardians

Daisy Albie Hans		Jasper Willow Olleigh
Noah M Perfection Maya Beauden Harley Caleb Lily-Mai		Kaden Lily-Mai Elijah Aiden Isaac HM

Stars of the week

Value Guardians

Tobias Maks Jack Arabella Sam Laura	 	Maks Matilda D Matilda C Violet H.J. Willow
Ebru Kyleigh Eliza		Andrii Jason

Curriculum Highlights

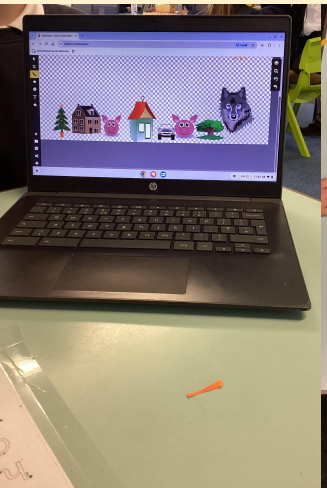
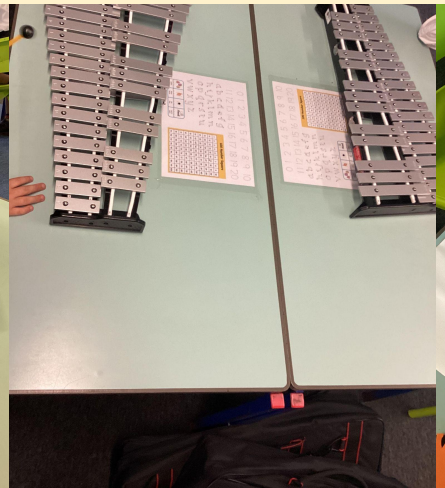
In St Francis in RE we have been learning about how God created the world and all of the things in it. The children have been fascinated by this and we have created our very own creation story where the children have been able to retell the story.
We have been working hard on our phonics skills and have been starting to say sounds together to form words.

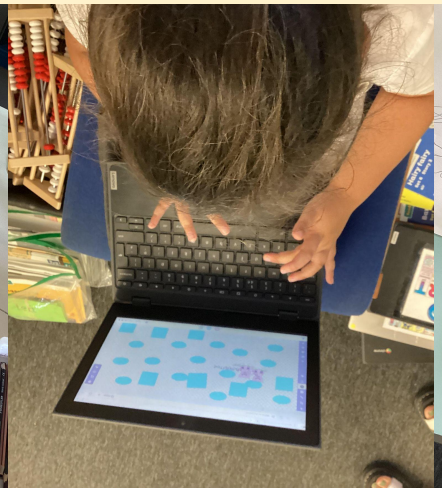
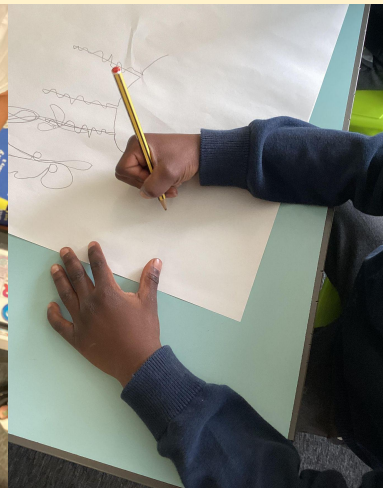
We have been practising our counting skills and being able to recognise quantities and patterns without counting them.
We created our self portraits by looking in the mirror at ourselves, we spent lots of time making sure the features were perfect.



Curriculum Highlights

St Vincent Class (Year 1 and 2) have had a fantastic time learning across the curriculum! In Computing, we have been developing our mouse skills by creating self-portraits and retelling stories. In English, we have loved reading Meesha Makes Friends and have all written successful diary entries inspired by the story. In Maths, Year 1 have been exploring numbers to 20, while Year 2 have been focusing on numbers to 100, using a variety of different representations to deepen our understanding. In Geography, we have been learning about maps and even created a map of our own classroom. In Science, we have been investigating different materials and exploring their properties. Music has been full of fun as we have been learning about pulse and rhythm using a range of instruments. In Art we have been exploring different ways of creating compositions and all made our own final piece based on Autumn. We have also been learning about the importance of Black History Month and researching inspirational and significant people from Black history. We are very proud of all the enthusiasm, creativity and hard work the children have shown!

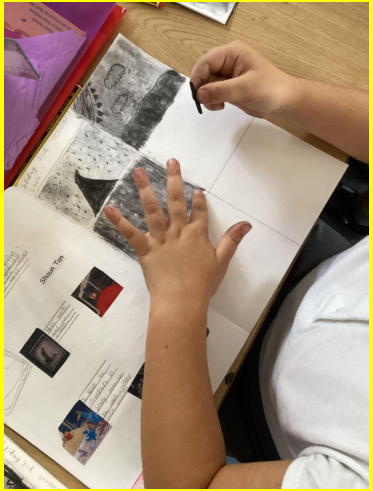



Curriculum Highlights

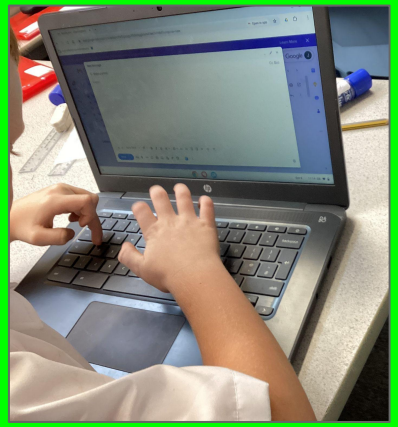
Art

In Art we have looked at how storytelling is done through drawing. We used charcoal to showcase this.



Computing

We have learnt about emails and how to send them using Gmail. We have learnt about cyberbullying, how to spot a fake email and how to send kind emails.

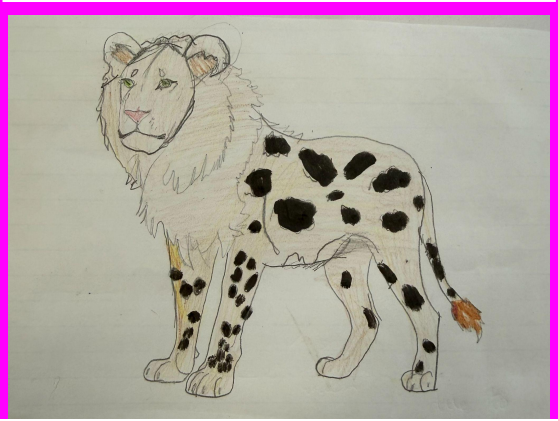


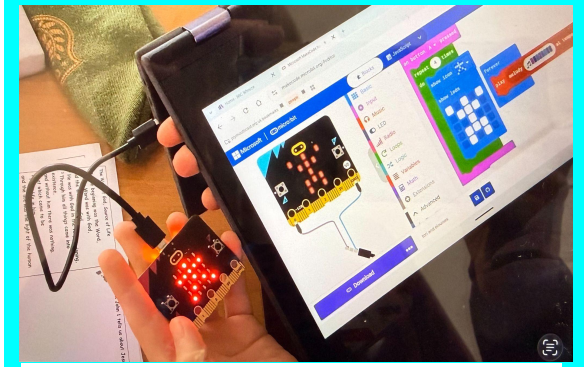
As Scientists, we have been exploring friction and magnets in science this term. They have investigated how friction affects the movement of objects across different surfaces and explored which materials are attracted to magnets. The children have enjoyed making predictions, carrying out experiments and discovering how these forces work in everyday life.



Curriculum Highlights

In English we have been writing persuasive reports based on hybrid animals we created!





In Computing we have been learning how to program a microbit. We were able to create an LED animation.

We planned our own sustainable cities in Geography and have started constructing them from cardboard.



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**



After School Activities

- **Friday - Cooking Club**



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.



Do you have any time you could spare?

Would you like to get more involved in your child's school?



Would you like to help out at school events?

If the answer is 'yes' then please email friends@sjna.uk or contact Mrs Mariadas via Dojo for more information.

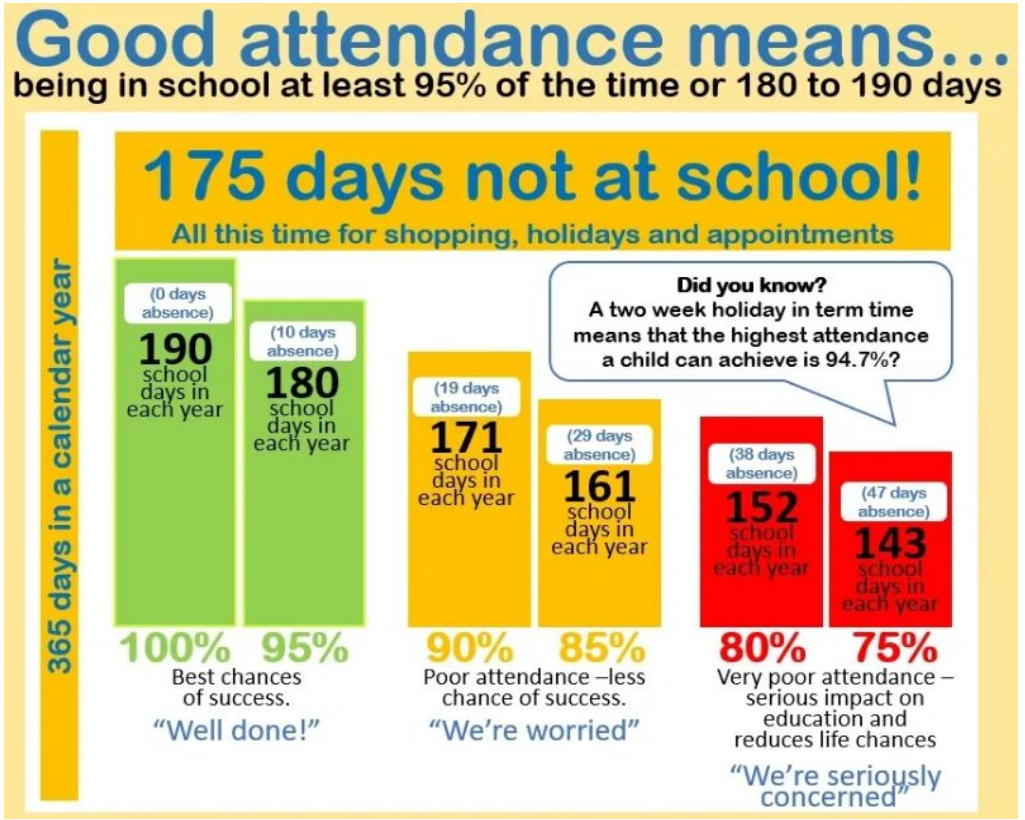
Attendance Matters

Attendance this half term

	94.9%
	94.8%
	94.8%
	94.6%

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.



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.



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

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.

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.

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.

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

23.10.26	Break up for Half term	03.12.26	Lantern Making Workshop Details tbc
02.11.26	Non Pupil Day	09.12.26	Lantern Parade Details TBC
03.11.26	Pupils Back	18.12.26	Last Day Of Term
05.11.26	Bright Colours,Non Uniform Day. Bring in a chocolate for the Christmas raffle		
09.11.26	Anti Bullying week Begins		
11.11.26	St Francis Parents Evening 2:30pm-5:30pm		
12.11.26	Buckfast Abbey Choristers		
16.11.26	Road Safety Week Begins		
19.11.26	Parents Evening Year 1 to 6 3:00pm-7:30pm		

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 Events & Activities



OCTOBER HALF TERM FOOTBALL

TORQUAY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB
COMMUNITY SPORTS TRUST

MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER, TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER AND WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2026

Location: **Torquay Boys Grammar School** Shiphay Manor Dr, Torquay, TQ2 7EL
Courses: Youth (5-14 years), Girls ONLY (5-12 Years)
Time: Youth and Girls: 09:30 - 15:00
Price: £18.00

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2026

Location: **Paignton Community Sports Academy - Sports Hall** Waterleat Road, Paignton, TQ3 3WA.
Courses: Youth (5-14 Years)
Time: Youth 09:30 - 15:00
Price: £18.00

PLEASE PROVIDE TRAINERS AND ASTRO BOOTS
NO MOULDED STUDS

SPECIAL DEAL
BOOK MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY FOR ONLY £40.00

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