- Newsletter -

Issue 6: Autumn Term **Friday 9th October 2026**

Dear Families of St Joseph's,

Firstly, I must start by saying a huge '**THANK YOU**' to the PTFA and the whole St Joseph's community who made last Sunday's '**International Food Festival**' such a success!

It was so lovely to see so many families enjoying being there and mixing with each other in a spirit of friendship.

If I tried to name individuals to thank I would inevitably miss someone, but a special thanks to our PTFA Co-chairs, Sonia and Raquel for bringing it all together. **Thank you**.

The event raised almost £2800 for the school; thank you families for your generous support of our school.

I enjoyed my (multiple) games of chess with the children; I must admit my brain was a little tired afterwards! I did message Tony (our chess coach) to thank him for developing our children's chess so well!

Well done to the Year 6 Football Team for their resounding 4-0 win over Holy Trinity this week! Special well done to Filippo R who scored a hat-trick!

We were visited by the team from our local homeless charity, **Glass Door**, last week - please see the 'Catholic Life' section for more information. Thank you in advance for any support you can give.

Next week, our staff are looking forward to the **1:1 parent/teacher consultations**. Please sign up on Arbor if you haven't done so already.

It was a great pleasure to welcome so many prospective families to St Joseph's yesterday for our **EYFS Open Evening**. A large crowd gathered to hear from Mrs Patel and I, and the Head Girl and Head Boy (well done Della and Eduard!). I have said it before, 'THANK YOU' for spreading the word about St Joseph's to friends, family and work colleagues. **You are fantastic ambassadors for St Joseph's**. In a period of time where lots of schools are really struggling for different reasons, St Joseph's moves forward with confidence about who we are and what we want to achieve. Onwards and upwards.

Thank you to all those who were able to make the '**It Takes a Village**' coffee morning today. We hope you enjoyed the presentation celebrating successes of the past year; yet also looking ahead to future plans. We never stand still, that's for sure!

For more details about how you could possibly help the 'It Takes a Village fund', please contact our Development Director, Suzanne Wheeler: wheels@cvms.sjscat.co.uk

Thank you for all your ongoing support - it means a great deal to myself and all the staff.

God Bless and have a restful weekend.

James Stacey

Head Teacher

Important Notices

Attendance

Please ensure that your children are in school on time, every day. **The doors open at 8.45 a.m. The register is taken promptly at 9.00 a.m.** The link between regular school attendance and improved future life chances is undeniable. Please know that when we talk to you about attendance it is because we want the best possible outcomes for your child. If your child is not going to be in school for any reason, it is your duty to contact the school to let us know this and the reason for the absence. This is a safeguarding matter.

Allergies

Please inform Mrs Bartley as soon as possible if your child has an allergy that the school needs to be aware of. Please kindly email, or phone the school office (or see Mrs Bartley at drop-off in the morning).

Medication

If your child requires any medication (e.g. auto-injectors, asthma pumps etc) - please ensure that these are always in school and in date. Please provide as much detail as possible and any paperwork that is required. Medication should be clearly labelled and in the original boxes.

Please know that when we talk to you about your child's medication we are trying to fulfil our duty of care to ensure every child is safe in school.

Snacks

Any snacks brought to school must be **NUT FREE**. Any product containing chocolate and fizzy drinks are not allowed as snacks in school or at after-school clubs. Thank you for your support in helping to keep our children with nut allergies safe and in promoting healthy food choices

Uniform

Please ensure that correct uniform is always worn so that St Joseph's children are as smart as can be in school and out of school (where they are our Ambassadors in the local community!). The full uniform list can be found on the school website, or through the school suppliers School Uniform Direct.

Trainers are **NOT** to be worn apart from PE lessons.

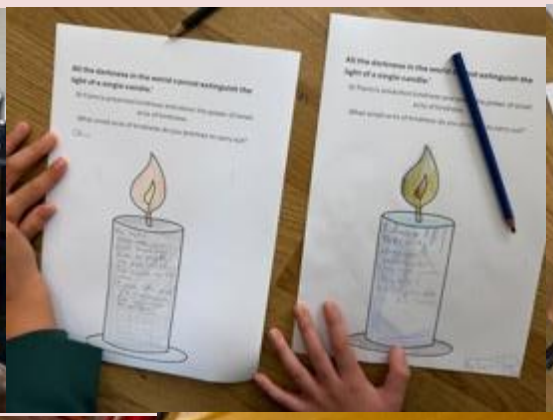
Can we kindly remind all families to ensure all school uniform and water bottles are clearly labelled with your child's full name.

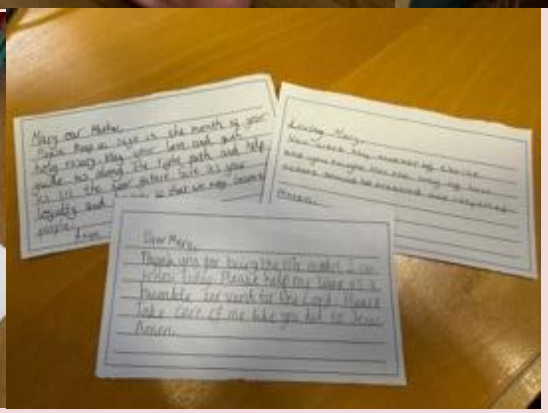
Important School Run Safety Notice:

We have received concerning reports of vehicles travelling at high speeds down **Draycott Terrace** during morning drop-off. Please **reduce your speed to under 20mph**, plan extra time for your journey, and drive with extreme caution around the school gates. Let's work together to keep our children safe.

CATHOLIC LIFE

This week, Ms Kowalik and I took the Pupil Chaplaincy Team to Our Lady of Victories School. We met the Pupil Chaplaincy Team there and prayed together. Caroline, our Trust's Lay Chaplain, shared some important facts about thlife of **St Francis of Assisi** with us. The children then took part in some lovely carousel activities linked to St Francis (e.g. prayer writing about creation / drawing about the Canticle of Creation). We did this because we are in the **Jubilee Year of St Francis**.





We ended by praying together and having a moment of silence - it was very special.

Well done to the Pupil Chaplaincy Team for being so sensible, thoughtful and reflective. It was a pleasure to take them - they were fantastic ambassadors for St Joseph's.

On Wednesday, I went to **Cardinal Vaughan School** for a Mass to welcome new staff members to the **Saint John Southworth Catholic Academy Trust**. It was a lovely occasion. It feels good to be part of a larger group of Catholic schools, with the **formation and achievement** of our children at the heart of what we do.

I prayed for the St Joseph's community as we celebrated the Mass in the chapel there. It was nice to be recognised by a few ex-St Joseph's children on the way there - they all looked very happy and gave me nice waves!

Last Friday - we had a visit from Patrick and Imtiaz from the local Glass Door homeless charity.

After the assembly, the Pupil Chaplaincy Team spent some time with them asking some searching questions about the work of the charity.

This is what our visitors said:

We really enjoyed the Good News Assembly; the singing and the spirit, values and behaviours that are encouraged and celebrated.
I was also SO impressed by the chaplaincy committee who asked such great and thoughtful questions.

Lovely to receive. Well done children!

All the children in the hall were determined to help the Glass Door charity with their Harvest Appeal.

Last year, we donated 30 bags of food / toiletries to the charity - can we beat that this year?! The children seemed to think so!

This is the message from the charity:

Things to collect for Glass Door
Below is our current list of things that we and our guests need. In a nutshell, you'll see they are staples for preparing and serving delicious dinners, breakfasts and hot drinks in large quantities; and topping up supplies of toiletries which guests may not be able to afford. Thank you so much in advance:

- Instant coffee
- Instant hot chocolate
- Biscuits (digestives, custard creams, bourbons, etc.)
- Sugar
- Tea (black, breakfast, fruit, green tea)
- Sauces (ketchup, brown sauce, hot sauces)
- White rice (please no ready cooked, brown or specialty rice)
- Tinned tomatoes
- Coconut milk
- Tinned pulses (chickpeas, kidney, mixed, cannellini beans, lentils, etc.)
- Breakfast spreads (jam, jelly, honey, marmalade, etc.)
- Tinned vegetarian soups
- Tinned sweetcorn
- Toiletries (deodorants, shampoo, shower gels, bar soap, etc.)

Please try and support this very important charity by collecting some items to send in for the appeal.

Please note - the day to send in any items is: **WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER (am)**. Items will be collected by noon. Unfortunately, we cannot accept any donations after this date and time.

Thank you so much in advance for showing your 'love in action' towards those who are less fortunate and in need.

GLASSDOOR
A route out of homelessness

Dates For The Diary

Date	Time	Event	Location	Who is welcome to attend?
Monday 12th October	3.45-6pm	1:1 Meet the Teacher Meetings (Years 3-6 only) **	School Hall	Families of Years 3-6
Tuesday 13th October	3.45-6pm	1:1 Meet the Teacher Meetings (Years 3-6 only) **	School Hall	Families of Years 3-6
Wednesday 14th October	10am	Class Assembly - Year 4*	School Hall	All Year 4 Families are very welcome to attend
Wednesday 14th October	3.45-6pm	1:1 Meet the Teacher Meetings (Years N-2 only) **	School Hall	Families of Years Nursery-2
Thursday 15th October	3.45-6pm	1:1 Meet the Teacher Meetings (Years N-2 only) **	School Hall	Families of Years Nursery-2
Friday 16th October	All day event	Show Racism the Red Card - Wear red day. (More details to follow)	School	All children
Tuesday 20th October	Whole week event	Scholastic Book Fair (More details to follow)	School Hall	All families and children are very welcome
Wednesday 21st October	10am	Class Assembly - Year 5*	School Hall	All Year 5 Families are very welcome to attend
Half Term Week 26th-30th October				
Thursday 5th November	2pm	EYFS Open day	School	For prospective families – please make your friends and family are aware of this important event.
Friday 18th December	12pm EYFS 12.15 Years 1-6	Last day of Autumn Term	School	N/A
Christmas Holidays Monday 21st December – Monday 4th January 2027				

*Please note for class assemblies, gates will open for families at 9.55am. Buggies are left outside of the School Hall for health and safety reasons please.
** Please note sign-ups for 1:1 Teacher Meetings will be accessed via Arbor and details communicated in the first week of October.

PE Uniform Notice

After discussions with our uniform suppliers; the PE Tracksuit top remains a compulsory item of uniform. However, children can wear plain, bottle green, jogging / tracksuit bottoms (no leggings please). The jogging bottoms / tracksuit bottoms should not have logos on them (e.g. no branded sportswear). Thank you for your support in helping our children to look super smart at all times.

Trainers are not to be worn

(apart from during PE)

Polite Notice: Being Mindful of Our Neighbours

We would like to gently remind all families to be mindful of our local community when waiting for the school gates to open (particularly in the morning) when standing near the almshouses (St Joseph's Cottages). Many of the residents living in the almshouses are elderly or vulnerable, and they value highly their peace and quiet (especially earlier in the morning).

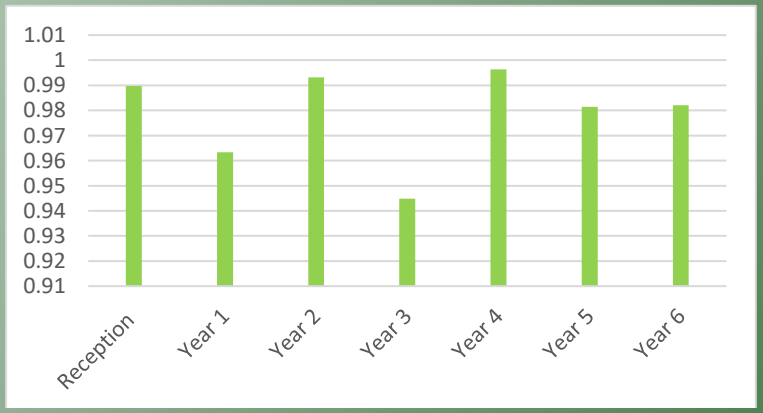
Please help us maintain our excellent relationship with our neighbours by ensuring that children do not shout, run loudly, or make excessive noise when passing these properties. Thank you so much for your continued support, co-operation, and kindness in helping us be considerate members of our local community.

Attendance Message

Please note:

Government guidance makes clear that a family holiday during term time is not considered an exceptional circumstance for authorising absence. Parents are therefore strongly encouraged to arrange holidays during the school holidays wherever possible.

Well done Year 4, you have this week's highest attendance at 99.64%



Happy Birthday this week to…

Lorenzo Year 1

We hope you had an amazing day!

'Show Racism The Red Card'

Show Racism The Red Card is the UK's leading anti-racism educational charity established by ex-professional footballer Shaka Hislop. In 1990s Newcastle, Shaka (then Newcastle United goalkeeper) was at a petrol station when he was confronted with a group of young people shouting racist abuse at him. After one of the group realised that they were shouting at Shaka Hislop, they came over to ask for an autograph. Their attitude suddenly went from abuse to admiration and from this experience Shaka realised he could use his influence as a professional footballer to make a difference.

You can read more here: https://www.theredcard.org/

Friday 16th October is 'Show Racism The Red Card's' 'Wear Red Day'. Over the last 10 years the number of people participating in this day of action has grown from 7000 to 710,000 and we are proud to be taking part again this year.

Your child is invited to wear an item of red clothing, or a red accessory on Friday 16th October.

SHOW UP STAND OUT

When students **show up**, they are present and ready to learn. When they **stand out**, they make the most of their opportunities, take part in school life and work towards their future.

Every day matters, every lesson counts, and showing up can help you stand out.

As part of our celebration of the Church's Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi, the Year 3 children visited St Mary's Church garden and spent some peaceful time in nature to give thanks to God for His wonderful Creation.

Father Shaun welcomed us and read The Canticle of the Sun. We want to follow the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who loved God's creation and cared deeply for nature.
We had an amazing time. It's important to pause and be fully with God and nature.