- Newsletter -

Issue 8: Autumn Term Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear Families of St Joseph's,

The end of a very busy and productive half-term. **Much has been achieved**.

Targets have been set for the end of the year with the aim of replicating last year's wonderful achievements across the school.

Thank you to all of you for your support and encouragement. Schools are very busy places with many moving parts. The children and staff have done their 'Personal Bests' this half-term, as have I.

We want all the children here to thrive and flourish and learn lots in the process. We work hard every day for this mission. Some of this work is visible to all, much of it isn't.

I enjoyed Year 5's assembly very much indeed and especially the rap! What a cool group of children, **led by Mr Mclean of course**. **Thank you to all the families that were able to come and support so well. Thank you to the Year 5 team for all their effort.**

Year 6 visited the National Army Museum as they prepare for the '**Kids in Museums Takeover Day**' next month. Well done Year 6 for impressing the staff at the Museum. I can't wait for Takeover Day - it is always a brilliant occasion.

Please see the important dates list in the newsletter where we try and give you as much advance notice as possible about forthcoming events. November and December are approaching and we all know that means packed diaries and lots going on!

Have a lovely half-term break and hopefully some down time with family and friends when you can.

Thank you again for your support, God Bless,

James Stacey

Head Teacher

CATHOLIC LIFE

St Joseph's truly showed '**love in action**' this week by donating items to the local homeless charity, **Glass Door**.

The Pupil Chaplaincy Team had created posters and stuck them up around the building; visited classes and promoted the collection and were there on Wednesday morning to thank families for sending in the much-needed food items and toiletries. It was moving to see the amount you had sent in...

When Imtiaz arrived to take the items in the van to Glass Door, he was staggered by the amount of items that had been brought in! **He said it was the most any school had donated recently.**

I can only thank you sincerely for reaching out to those less fortunate and for demonstrating genuine love for neighbour and '**preferential option for the poor**'.

Last year we raised an amazing 30 bags of donations - **this year we donated over 60!**

THANK YOU!

This is a letter received today from Glass Door

I wanted to write to express my sincere thanks to you, your staff team, students, parents, and the pupil chaplaincy team at St Joseph's for your extraordinary support of this year's Harvest Appeal.
We were absolutely amazed to receive 68 bags of donations, making St Joseph's the largest collection received for this year's Harvest Appeal. This is an incredible achievement and quite a way to smash last year's record.
Please pass on our heartfelt thanks to the students, who have shown such compassion and kindness, to the parents for their wonderful generosity, and to the pupil chaplaincy team for helping to champion and coordinate the appeal so successfully. The impact these donations will have on the people we support cannot be overstated.
I was also incredibly touched to hear that a parent who was unable to provide a donation bag instead made a £100 financial contribution which came in today. Please extend our sincere gratitude to them as well. Such thoughtful support demonstrates the remarkable commitment of the wider St Joseph's community to helping those experiencing homelessness.
Thank you once again for your continued support and for inspiring such generosity within your school community.
Warm Regards,

Imtiaz Choudhury (he/him) | Fundraising Manager (Events, Community and Partnerships)
Glass Door Homeless Charity

When we return, we will be in the month of November. In November, we remember.

St Joseph's Remembrance Book will be available by the office every morning. If you would like to write the names of any loved ones you would like us to especially remember during November, either kindly email the office for Mr Stacey's attention, or pop to the office area at drop-off to write in our Remembrance Book. Your loved ones will be prayed for 🙏

The next parents' prayer session is Monday 16th November at 9.00 a.m. You are all most welcome.

This is a prayer that we have used this week during our Black History Week:

God of light and truth,
you call all men and women to live lives of holiness and justice.
Help us to see in one another: a heart which is tender, a mind which is humble
and a care for our brothers and sisters; so that together we may build up the Body of Christ as a sign of hope and mercy for all.
We make this prayer through Jesus our Lord.
Amen

Prayer for Pope Leo

Lord Jesus, we entrust to You our Holy Father, Pope Leo, as he recovers from lung surgery. Grant him the grace of serenity, and guide those who care for him, that they may act with wisdom and attentiveness. Grant him a swift and complete recovery, freeing him from all suffering.
Mary, Mother of the Church and Health of the Sick, protect him under your mantle and be at his side at every moment.
Amen

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.

Dates For The Diary

Date	Time	Event	Location	Who is 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 aware of this important event
Friday 13th November	All day event	Individual and sibling photographs being taken in school by Imago Photography	School	N/A
Monday 16th November	9am	Parents' Prayer Session	School Hall	All families are very welcome
Monday 16th November	Whole week event	Anti-Bullying/Friendship week (Further details to follow)	School	N/A
Monday 16th November	Whole day event	Odd socks day (Further details to follow)	School	N/A
Thursday 26th November	10am	EYFS Nativity Performance (Further details to follow)	School Hall	All EYFS families are very welcome
Friday 27th November	10am	EYFS Nativity Performance (Further details to follow)	School Hall	All EYFS families are very welcome
Thursday 3rd December	10am	KS1 Nativity Performance (Further details to follow)	School Hall	All KS1 families are very welcome
Friday 4h December	10am	KS1 Nativity Performance (Further details to follow)	School Hall	All KS1 families are very welcome
Friday 11th December	N/A	Final day of all after-school clubs. Breakfast club runs as normal until 18/12 and WAC until 17/12	N/A	N/A
Saturday 12th December	TBC	Santa's Grotto (Further details to follow)	School	All families and children are very welcome
Friday 18th December	12pm EYFS 12.15 Years 1-6	Last day of Autumn Term - Early finish	School	N/A
Christmas Holidays Monday 21st December – Monday 4th January 2027				

*Please note for Nativity performances, gates will open for families at 9.50am. Buggies are left outside of the School Hall for health and safety reasons please.

Good Luck Cameron!

We would like to wish Cameron in Year 6 all the best for his upcoming international football tournament!
He has been selected to travel to Madrid this half term to compete in a tournament against Barcelona, Real Madrid and Atletico de Madrid to name a few! It's also his first international tournament which is very exciting!

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.

Happy Birthday this week to…

Liam Year 3
Catalina Reception

We hope you had an amazing day!

Are your Children budding photographers who love all things nature?

The National History Museum Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition is the world's most prestigious award when it comes to wildlife photography. It's kind of like the Oscars of the nature photography world!

If your children love the great outdoors and have a keen eye for spotting the most captivating moments in nature, then this is the competition for them. Their images can cover anything from creepy crawlies and terrific trees to interesting habitats and urban wildlife. Plus, did we mention it's free to enter!

No fancy equipment needed, they can use a camera or a smartphone, all we're looking for is great wildlife photos.

How to enter

Your children can submit up to 10 photos in one of these three age groups:

- 10 years and under
- 11–14 years
- 15–17 years

Entry is free and the winner of each age category will be considered for the Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year Grand Title. We can't wait to see your entries! Good luck!

Submissions close Thursday 3 December 2026.

For all the details head to our website.

https://www.nhm.ac.uk/wildlife-photographer-of-the-year/competition.html

Flu vaccination centres for children aged 5 and over in Kensington and Chelsea — 2026

For the 2026–27 flu season, children aged 5 and over in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea may be eligible for a flu vaccination through the NHS, depending on their age, school year and medical circumstances.
The most important distinction is age and school year:

- Children aged 5–16 in eligible school years: the NHS usually offers the flu vaccine through their school, with alternative arrangements available if they miss it.
- Children aged 5 and over who are clinically at risk: they may be eligible through their GP or another NHS vaccination service.
- Children aged 5 and over who are not eligible through the school programme or a medical-risk group: availability at pharmacies and other vaccination centres can vary, so confirm eligibility before travelling.

1. Main NHS service for children who miss their school vaccination

CNWL NHS Child Immunisation Service
Covers Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster, Hammersmith and Fulham, and other London boroughs.
This is the most relevant service to contact if your child missed their school flu vaccination, is home-educated, or needs a catch-up appointment.

- Telephone: 020 3317 5076
- Website: CNWL Child Immunisation Service

The service confirms that it provides school flu vaccinations from Reception to Year 11 and local catch-up clinics. Ask for the 2026–27 children's flu catch-up arrangements.

CNWL NHS Trust

2. Local healthcare centres and pharmacies to contact

The following are real healthcare locations in or around the borough. Their availability for NHS flu vaccinations for children aged 5 and over has not been individually confirmed, so please phone first.

1. The Abingdon Health Centre
88–92 Earls Court Road, London W8 6EG
Phone: 020 7795 8470
Contact the centre to ask whether it can vaccinate your child through their GP service.

2. Holland Park Surgery
12 Phillimore Walk, London W8 7RX
Phone: 020 7221 4334
Ask about children's NHS flu vaccination appointments and eligibility.

3. King's Road Medical Centre
529 King's Road, London SW10 0UD
Phone: 020 7352 9568
Contact the centre to check whether it offers the child's NHS flu vaccine this season.

4. South Kensington GP Clinic
2A Pelham Street, London SW7 2NG
Phone: 020 7591 1300
Ask whether it can arrange an NHS flu vaccine for a school-aged child.

5. Chelsea Pharmacy
61–63 Sloane Avenue, London SW3 3DH
Phone: 020 7589 8776
Ask whether the pharmacy offers NHS flu vaccinations to children in your child's age group.

6. Knightsbridge Pharmacy
156 Brompton Road, London SW3 1HW
Phone: 020 3581 3383
Contact the pharmacy to check whether it accepts eligible children for NHS flu vaccination.

7. Medicine Chest Pharmacy & Travel Clinic
413–415 King's Road, London SW10 0LR
Phone: 020 7351 1142
Ask whether it will vaccinate children under the NHS programme or offers a suitable private service.

3. NHS pharmacy finder — check more locations

The NHS confirms that from 1 December 2026, school-aged children from Reception to Year 11 who missed their school flu vaccination will also be eligible for vaccination at participating pharmacies. Children aged 4–17 with certain qualifying long-term health conditions can access participating pharmacies earlier.

- Find a pharmacy offering free NHS flu vaccination — enter a Kensington and Chelsea postcode, such as W8, W10, W11, SW3 or SW10.
- NHS children's flu vaccine guidance — check eligibility and vaccination arrangements.
- NHS 119: call for help with vaccination booking if needed.