



St Joseph's Primary School

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4th September, 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

We are only a few days into our first week and the summer holidays already feel like a distant memory. The boys and girls have eased seamlessly back into St Joseph's and made a fantastic start to the year. May I take this opportunity to welcome you all back once again and wish you a happy and fulfilling year ahead.

I am particularly delighted to welcome our new P1 intake, who have now all completed their first day in the school and already feel part of the St Joseph's family.

Curriculum Meetings

All parents are invited to attend the annual curriculum meetings, which will take place in the school hall during the next two weeks. The purpose of each meeting is to give parents an opportunity to meet their child's class teacher and hear an outline of the year's curriculum, as well as provide details about homework, timetable, class procedures etc...

Class	Date	Time
P1	Monday 8 th September	12.15 – 12.45pm
P2	Tuesday 9 th September	9.15 – 9.45am
P3	Wednesday 10 th September	9.15 – 9.45am
P4	Thursday 11 th September	9.15 – 9.45am
P5	Friday 12 th September	9.15 – 9.45am
P6	Tuesday 16 th September	9.15 – 9.45am
P7	Monday 15 th September	9.15 – 9.45am

The Provision of Special Diets in School

As we start another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of ensuring that a Special Diet Application Form is completed and submitted for pupils who require a special diet of any kind. Special diet applications should be completed where the diet is medically prescribed due, for example, to allergies; for religious or cultural reasons; or because a pupil is vegetarian or vegan. As a first step, please inform your child's teacher if your child has a special dietary requirement. We will then send you a Special Diet Application Form to be completed. A reminder also that we are continuing to promote healthy school break and encourage the pupils to eat either a piece of fruit, yogurt or bread-based snack.

Please remember to avoid sending in any products that contain or 'may contain' nuts.

'We all matter, we all belong, we all try to do our best.'

Attendance

This year we will continue to focus on and promote attendance for all of our pupils in the school. Excellent attendance at school is not only linked to academic achievement, but it is connected to pupils' emotional health and wellbeing and supports them in reaching their full potential. Throughout the year we will have various initiatives and incentives to maximise the attendance of all our pupils and we would fully appreciate your cooperation and support on this vital matter.

After-School Clubs

After-school clubs are due to commence the week beginning Monday 8 September. This block of clubs will last for 7 weeks, concluding on Friday 24 October. The cost is £5 per session, a total of £35 for the 7 weeks. A payment in full is to be made to the school via ParentPay by Sunday 7 September, as spaces are limited. We are operating a 'first paid', 'first join' policy and will be accepting your payment as permission for your child to join the club. ParentPay will go live for St Joseph's Club payments at 3pm on Friday 5th September.

We are also offering *Activity NI: KidZ Academy* clubs for 7 weeks; details of these clubs have been shared by Seesaw in a separate communication.

SEAG Entrance Exam

For pupils sitting the SEAG Entrance Assessment, an application must be submitted before 11.59pm on Friday 19th September. Details can be found at <https://seagni.co.uk/>

PTA News

The first PTA meeting of the year will be held on Monday 15 September at 19:00 in St Joseph's. If you have the time, please come along as all are welcome.

A 'Meet & Greet' for our P1 parents and carers has been organised for Thursday 25 September at 18:30 in the school hall. More details will follow.

The PTA AGM will take place on Tuesday 14 October at 19:00 in the school.

Our PTA play a key role in the success of our fantastic school and are an integral part of our team. If you are interested in joining or can contribute in any way, please come along to a meeting or contact the PTA at stjospta@gmail.com

Spanish Lessons

We are once again providing Spanish lessons for pupils in P2 - 7. Liliana, our Spanish tutor, who has a long-standing association with St Joseph's, begins lessons with P2 – P6 pupils on Thursday 4th September. Lessons with P7 will begin in Term 2. We are asking parents to make **a £15 voluntary contribution per family** to help us to pay for these lessons. As you are no doubt aware, school budgets are unbelievably tight, and we need your help if we are going to be able to continue to offer Spanish lessons to your child. A payment item has been set up on ParentPay to facilitate this.

Relax Kids

In addition, we are facilitating Relax Kids sessions with each class in the school, between September and Easter. Relax Kids supports your children's mental and emotional health and wellbeing with a range of tools and techniques to help calm his/her body and mind and build confidence and self-esteem. It uses a pioneering 7-step whole-brain holistic approach and fun, magical and creative techniques to help your children feel happier and healthier.

To help finance these additional classes, we are asking you to make a **voluntary donation of £10 to school funds**. This can also be found as a payment item on ParentPay. Please contact the school office if you need advice on this.

Communication

School news and notices will continue to be communicated through Seesaw, the news section of the school's website at <http://stjosephsps.co.uk/> and the iClass app. If you have not already done so, please download the app and create an account to keep up to date with all the latest information.

Minor Works

You may have noticed that there are some ongoing minor works on the school campus. A new security system including new locks on the gates at the Holland Drive entrance are currently being installed in an effort to improve site security. There may be some disruption to access while installation takes place, but we will do our best to minimise this.

Kind regards

Mr Donnelly