

Dear parents and carers,

Well, that was a chilly first week back! But nevertheless, the children had a very positive start to the spring term, exhibiting their usual calm, polite, and diligent behaviour at school.

This term takes us up to Easter, so a big focal point of our time together will be on Lent, a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We will update you as the term goes on about how we are observing Lent, as well as more fundraising opportunities.

Please continue to look at the key dates (on the right of this page) and our website to see upcoming events, news, and term dates, in particular the upcoming Year 1 dates, our Online Safety evening, and the INSET day in February.

Miss Devlin has created our spring RE newsletter, which is filled with how we have lived out the Catholic Life and Mission of our school this year, underpinned by Catholic Social Teaching. The newsletter was sent out this week - please do read it and chat to your children about all the things going on at St Joseph's - we find that they take a lot of pride in talking about way we worship, fundraise, and share things as a community.

God bless

Sam Crome



IMPORTANT DATES AND KEY INFO

Tuesday 20th January
Y1 Pirate Day

Tuesday 27th Jan 9am
Y1 Parents Phonics Meeting

Weds 28th Jan 6pm
Online Safety Talk

Friday 6th Feb
FOSJ Junior Social

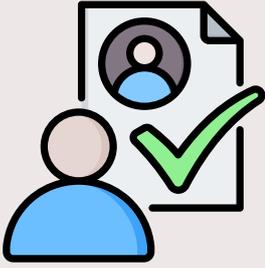
Friday 13th Feb
INSET Day - no school
Thursday 12th is the last day
of half term

[St Joseph's Instagram](#)

[Full School Calendar](#)

[Book a school tour:](#)
[01306 883934](#)

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY



Attendance at the school last term was excellent but it's vital that we keep going with this. The children need to be in every day to really succeed and we will make sure they get the best care when they are here. Unfortunately, there has been a rise in lateness recently; the local traffic is heavy and it's important families leave earlier to get to school on time. Thank you for supporting us with this.

ONLINE SAFETY EVENT - BOOK YOUR PLACE!

On January 28th at 6pm I will be hosting an Online Safety event for all parents and carers and am delighted to be joined by Joe Hordley, Assistant Headteacher at St Andrew's in Leatherhead. We will cover the challenges that matter to you, and operate from an evidence-based approach to help you support your children. Smart phones will be a big focus.

Whether your children are in reception of year 6, I'd love to welcome you to this event to find out more.

Mr Hordley brings huge experience from dealing with these issues at secondary school, and we will share challenges, strategies, and give opportunities for lots of questions. Please do come along. [Register here](#).

Online Safety
WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW

Wednesday 28th January
6pm in the school hall

Confused about what to do for the best when it comes to social media, smart phones, and keeping our children safe online?

Topics that will be covered:

- When or why should I get my child a phone?
- I've bought my child a phone - how do I keep them safe?
- How do I navigate choices about social media and age recommendations?

Join us for an interactive evening with refreshments and GUEST SPEAKER, Joe Hordley (Assistant Head @ St Andrew's).

[PLEASE REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE HERE](#)

EPSOM 'PARISH' MEETINGS ON HOLD

A message from the Epsom parish team: 'Bishop Richard's appointment as the next Archbishop of Westminster means there are some immediate consequences for us regarding the implementation of the Pastoral Plan in the Epsom Deanery. Whilst some things, by Church Law, are put on hold until a new Bishop arrives – particularly any decision to combine the existing nine parishes into one new Parish.

The scheduled parish meetings have been postponed; more info will be sent out soon.'

IS YOUR CHILD A YOUNG CARER?

If a child takes on responsibilities at home, such as helping a family member with illness, disability, or other challenges, they are likely eligible to be a 'young carer'.

Action for Carers offers lots of support, but estimates that 800,000 children who are eligible to be young carers nationally are not receiving support or aware that they are young carers. [Please check out their website, here.](#) We will send a follow up letter soon with more details about how we can help.



WELCOMING NEW STAFF

In the last 8 weeks we have welcomed new staff who are adding so much to our school.

Mrs Adams, our new School Business Manager
Mrs Pankhania, our new Office and Systems Assistant
Miss Brady, who is teaching Year 3 on a Monday
Miss White, who is completing a training placement with Mrs Chin in Year 1 this term

If you see them, please give them a big welcome!



EPIPHANY THIS WEEK

For epiphany, the school gathered together for a special collective worship to celebrate.

Together, we reflected on the journey of the Magi and the meaning of sharing light, hope and kindness with others, focusing on our theme of the week 'Gifts'. It was a joyful opportunity at the start of a new term.

