

Dear parents and carers,

Next week we have the Online Safety Evening, and, while I'm excited to share a range of strategies and research with you, I'd love to see even more parents signed up to come along and be part of it.

The biggest issue that we are facing when it comes to keeping children safe is from smartphones, social media, and other websites, often including online gaming. Secondary school leaders spend a huge amount of time helping families deal with smartphone related incidents, and we have a unique opportunity while our children are younger to prevent these issues from ever occurring.

40% of children under 13 have social media access. 31% of 8-year-olds have a phone. Most social media sites come with at least a 13-years-old age restriction, and yet I talk to many children at our school who use Whatsapp, Instagram, or Snapchat, as well as having access to other websites with age restrictions.

Beyond the risks of inappropriate content, even starker is the evidence showing the correlation between smartphone use and mental health deterioration over time.

I'm passionate about bringing our parent community together to share this challenge. Please come along and join other parents as we learn and take strength from each other on this issue. There will be juice, wine, and snacks!

If you cannot make that evening date but would like to meet up on another occasion, please let me know - I'm happy to meet parents any time, although the 28th is a unique chance to hear from St Andrew's, too.

God bless



Sam Crome

IMPORTANT DATES AND KEY INFO

Tuesday 27th Jan 9am
Y1 Parents Phonics Meeting

Weds 28th Jan 6pm
Online Safety Talk

Friday 6th Feb
FOSJ Junior Social

Thursday 12th Feb
Last day of half term

Friday 13th Feb
INSET Day - no school

Monday 23rd Feb
School starts back

[St Joseph's Instagram](#)

[Full School Calendar](#)

[Book a school tour:](#)
[01306 883934](tel:01306883934)

TISSUE DONATIONS NEEDED PLEASE



As you can imagine, we get through a lot of tissues at this time of year!

We'd be really grateful for donations of boxes of tissues this half term. If you are able, please drop them off in reception, and Mrs Cook will take them to individual classrooms. Thank you very much!

ONLINE SAFETY EVENT - NEXT WEEK!

A reminder that we are hosting a very important event for **all parents on Wednesday 28th January at 6pm.**

Mr Hordley and Mr Crome have planned the session for the 28th January and it is going to be a fascinating and useful evening for parents and carers. Many parents who have signed up said they want to share how to navigate this issue with other families! This is exactly why we need as many people as possible to come. Please register below so we know how many refreshments to buy.

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



DORKING NURSERY PLACES FOR SEPT 2026

Please find attached to the newsletter email a poster from Dorking Nursery School about admissions for September 2026. They are offering tours to families so please go and have a look around. You can find out more by visiting their website: www.dorkingnurseryschool.co.uk or by calling 01306 882397.



A HEARTY DAY FOR YEAR 1!

Year 1 Pirate Day was a great success! They walked the plank, learnt about cutting and grating safely while they made pizzas and fruit punch, learnt about famous pirates, and then made their own pirate flag. It was a wonderful cross-curricula day! Thank you to Mrs Chin and Mrs Dickson, as well as our parent volunteers! And thank you, parents, for preparing some amazing costumes for the children!



TIMESTABLES ROCKSTARS CLUB!

It is so important to keep up with timetables practice, as much as possible! We are delighted that children from Y2-6 are taking part in this with Mrs Deegan at lunch time.

Please keep encouraging them to do as much as possible at home, even when they are in Years 5 and 6!



FOSJ - £20.26 FOR 2026!

A huge thank you to FOSJ for their continued fundraising efforts for the school, and for all parents and families for supporting this campaigns and events. It makes a big difference!

FRIENDS OF ST JOSEPH'S

"£20.26 FOR 2026"

PROJECT

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE OUR NEW 2026 CHALLENGE, ENCOURAGING ALL STUDENTS/ FAMILIES TO RAISE £20.26 OR MORE BEFORE FEBRUARY 12TH!

THIS INITIATIVE AIMS TO PROMOTE CREATIVITY, RESILIENCE, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT AMONG OUR STUDENTS. WE INVITE FAMILIES TO SUPPORT AND MOTIVATE THEIR CHILDREN AS THEY TAKE ON THIS CHALLENGE.

LET'S SEE HOW OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY CAN COME TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL! THE MONEY RAISED FROM THIS CHALLENGE WILL BE USED FOR THE SCHOOL AND STUDENTS.

PLEASE RETURN THE FORM & MONEY BY FEBRUARY 12TH.

CHILDREN WILL BE BRINGING HOME THEIR FORM TODAY.

FAITH IN ACTION TEAM UPDATE

The Faith in Action Team led our liturgy this half term, thinking about what it means to love and be loved. They talked about how God shows us love and how we can share that love with others through kindness and helping others. The team also made plans to show the rest of the school how we can put our faith into action, especially as we get ready for Lent. It was a calm and thoughtful time that helped us all think about how we can love others every day.

