

Dear parents and carers,

I am delighted that the governors have found a permanent headteacher for the school, ensuring that St Joseph's will have excellent leadership to take it forward over the coming years. Mrs Claassen is fantastic and has a brilliant track record of working in a small school as it moved into Xavier CET, improving standards and outcomes hugely along the way.

I have loved my time at St Joseph's, and never imagined I would lead my children's school; it's a great honour to serve this community. Rest assured that I will continue to work as hard as I have so far, to ensure your children get the best possible education and experience. For now, I will keep speaking about attendance, online safety, and other things of that nature, I'm afraid! Mrs Claassen will begin in September and I will be here until July.

Elsewhere, this week Mr Mitchell announced that he will be moving on as Headteacher of St Andrew's after 16 extremely successful years. What he has achieved in that time is remarkable, and I hope parents will be reassured that the infrastructure, and the leaders, he has developed means that it will continue to be an incredible school. As you know, I worked for Mr Mitchell for a long time and I can't speak highly enough of the staff he has, and the culture of the school. We wish him all the best.

Fundraising efforts for the FOSJ £20.26 for 2026 campaign are continuing apace! Please read on to find out more, and get involved - be as creative as you can with your fundraising!

Have a lovely weekend with your families.

God bless

Sam Crome



IMPORTANT DATES AND KEY INFO

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

Friday 27th February
FOSJ Infant Social

[St Joseph's Instagram](#)

[Full School Calendar](#)

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

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



Next week is Children's Mental Health Week, with this year's theme being 'This is My Place'. The campaign aims to help children feel a sense of belonging and share this with others. We will be doing things in school to support this, [but you can find out more here.](#)

SPEAK OUT STAY SAFE - NSPCC CAMPAIGN

As per my recent letter to parents, this week we took part in a national NSPCC campaign called Speak Out Stay Safe. Children from Years 1-6 took part in assemblies to help them identify signs of hurt or abuse, as well as encouraging them to think about who 'safe adults' are in their life that they could speak to if they are worried about something happening to them or someone they know. We are committed to the safety and flourishing of all children.



GIRLS FOOTBALL - SURREY FINALS

You might remember that our Year 5 and 6 girls' football team won the Dorking-wide football tournament in the autumn term. Last week, they represented the town by competing in the Surrey finals, taking on other champions from across the county. While they didn't place in the top positions, we are so proud of their enthusiasm, teamwork, and resilience - they have been amazing! Well done girls!



£20.26 FOR 2026 CONTINUES!

We are so impressed by the fundraising efforts going on for the £20.26 for 2026 FOSJ appeal.

This week, we have heard from the Norton family, who have raised money to walk up Boxhill in 26 minutes! Elsewhere, James, Corinne, Phillipa, Tymon, George, and the Thornton family raised £177 by selling crepes and waffles at church last week! Amelia in Year 5 is raising money by doing a sponsored swim - well done!

Please keep up the fundraising efforts and bring any money into school for FOSJ. We are very grateful!



YEAR 1 WALK AT THE NOWER



We were learning how to watch birds quietly and listen to their songs so we knew where they were. We also looked at other things such as the sheep and horses and remembered what we had seen in the autumn (fungus, sweet chestnut cases etc) and experienced the awe and wonder of nature. Thank you to the staff and parent volunteers for a wonderful morning outside!

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR REQUIRED



St Joseph's currently has a vacancy for a Foundation Governor, a role for local Catholics or parishioners who may want to volunteer some time to help the school; our governing body do fantastic work for St Joseph's. If you know someone who might be interested, please let the office know!

Y-KIDS - OUR BRILLIANT WRAPAROUND CARE

At Y-Kids, we offer a safe, welcoming space where children can enjoy healthy breakfast and snacks, as well as exciting activities and plenty of time to play!

- Breakfast Club from 7.30am
- Afterschool Club until 6pm

Please email us at Children@ymcaeastssurrey.org.uk



STORYTELLING WITH MRS POWER!

Thank you to Maggie Power who came in to bring stories to life with interactive, fun and engaging tales to classes throughout the school! Maggie has also bought some of the classes books, so a BIG thank you from the staff and children for her kindness and generosity! We've really enjoyed our week 😊

