



## 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 Spring Term 2 – second edition

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and hard-working term, I want to take a moment to celebrate some of the great things that have taken place in our school. The children have worked hard, supported each other, and taken part in many experiences that will stay with them.

### **Lenten Walk**

One of our standout moments was our memorable Lenten Walk to Keel Crossing, held as part of our St Joseph's Day celebrations. It was a special day that brought our community together. We enjoyed a Mass of celebration, giving thanks for our school and our patron, St Joseph. This was followed by a whole-school Lenten walk—made better by the fantastic support of parents and grandparents who volunteered to walk with us. The children's behaviour was brilliant. We ended the morning with a picnic lunch at the University and an ice-cream treat for every child back at school. Days like this reflect what makes St Joseph's a special place.

### **Gold Award**

We are proud to share that we have achieved UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools *Gold Award*—the highest level a school can attain. This award recognises our commitment to placing children's rights at the heart of what we do. It reflects how our pupils learn about their rights and use them to make positive contributions within school and the wider community. Achieving Gold strengthens our culture of dignity, respect and inclusion, and affirms our belief that every child has a voice that matters. It ensures that St Joseph's remains a place where all children are valued, supported and able to excel.

### **Celebration of the Word**

Our children have led us beautifully in prayer as we journey through Holy Week. Year 2 began by leading a thoughtful Celebration of the Word for Palm Sunday at the end of last week. They helped us reflect on Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. On Tuesday, Year 3 guided us through the events of the Last Supper, drawing our attention to Jesus' example of service. Finally, on Thursday, Year 5 will lead us in a reflection on the events of Good Friday, inviting us to pause, pray and remember Jesus' passion and sacrifice. Together, these liturgies create a powerful journey for our whole school.

We would like to thank our families who have taken part in our Lenten Prayer Bag journey this term. It has been wonderful to hear how the children from Nursery through to KS2 have been engaging thoughtfully with prayer at home. Your support helps to strengthen the link between home, school and parish, ensuring that Lent remains a meaningful and reflective season for our children.

### **Parents' Evening**

Thank you also for your fantastic support at our recent Parents' Evening. The evening was extremely well attended, with every family taking part. We were delighted to receive such positive feedback about the format we introduced last term. Going forward for future parents evenings, we will be continuing with the same approach: earlier finish, childcare available, children in Years 4–6 welcome to accompany parents, a relaxed atmosphere in the hall, opportunities to view children's

work, and all year groups located together in one space. Your engagement makes a significant difference to the children's learning and the life of our school.

### **Celebrating Our Choir and Musicians**

Last week, our school was treated to a wonderful concert highlighting the excellence of our choir and the progress of our young musicians. It was great to see so many proud parents, carers and family members gathered to enjoy the children's talent and confidence. Moments like these remind us how special it is to see our children shine.

### **Final day of term**

A reminder that Thursday 2nd April is our final day of term, which includes the Year 5 Celebration of the Word at 9:05am, to which Y5 parents are warmly invited. We finish our day at 1pm, and children may come in fancy dress, their own clothes, or Easter-themed headwear. We will enjoy a whole-school Fun Run, our Easter Raffle, and a morning of celebration. Fish and chips will be served for lunch, and every child will receive a Crème Egg before heading home.

### **School website**

We continue to work hard to improve our school website, making it more user-friendly, accurate and helpful for families. The website is updated regularly, and you will continue to receive reminders on Facebook, with plenty of notice for key events. A 2026/27 term-time list is now available for families who wish to plan.

### **School Meals**

When we return from the Easter Break there will be a slight increase in school meal prices from £2.50 per day to £2.60. This increase is driven by inflation and will allow our catering team to continue to provide the same quality products and ingredients, number of choices and keep portion sizes the same. If you would like any more information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Today we completed a short lockdown procedure in line with government guidance, helping ensure our community is prepared should we ever need to use it. The children were calm throughout, staff followed procedures confidently, and the drill was completed within minutes before everyone quickly returned to their learning.

We could not achieve all that we do without your involvement, and goodwill. Thank you for everything you do. We wish all our children and families a peaceful, happy and well-deserved Easter break, and we look forward to seeing everyone again next term. School reopens on Monday 20th April ... but first a break (from Thursday at 1pm).

**Mr Conway**

**Headteacher**

Date	Time	Year	Event
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	9.05	Y5	Y5 Celebration of the Word - <b>note earlier time</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	10.30	ALL	St Joseph's Fun Run
	School finishes at at 1.00pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026		
29 <sup>th</sup> April	9.30	Y2	Y2 Mass supported by Year 4
1 <sup>st</sup> May	9.05	Y1	Y1 Celebration of the Word
4 <sup>th</sup> May	All day	All	Bank Holiday – school closed
	18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> May walk to school week		
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	3.20pm	All	Break Up – Half term holiday
1 <sup>st</sup> June	9am	All	Return to school
5 <sup>th</sup> June	9.05	Y2	Y2 Celebration of the Word
13 <sup>th</sup> June	11am	Y4	First Communion Day – St Joseph's Church
19 <sup>th</sup> June	9.05	Y4	Y4 Celebration of the Word
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	All day	All	School closed for pupils – teacher training day
8 <sup>th</sup> July	9.30	Y6	Year 6 Leavers Mass
10 <sup>th</sup> July	9.05	Reception	Reception Celebration of the Word
14 <sup>th</sup> July	9.05	Y6	Y6 Celebration of the Word
17 <sup>th</sup> July	1pm	All	Break Up – Summer Holiday