



30th April 2026 Summer Term 1 – 1st Edition

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back After Easter

Welcome back to everyone after the Easter break. We hope you enjoyed a restful and lovely time with your family and friends. It has been great to see the children return to school smiling, full of enthusiasm and showing a readiness to learn. We have an exciting new term ahead together.

Staffing News

This Friday, Mrs Isherwood will begin her maternity leave. Mrs Isherwood is an outstanding teacher and has led Religious Education at St Joseph's with exceptional dedication, care and expertise. She will be missed by staff and children alike. However, she is now about to begin a special, exciting and chaotic new chapter for her family as they move from one child to two.

We wish Lee, Amelie and Madeleine a lovely time together. We know she will keep in touch with us and, when the time is right, we look forward to welcoming her back for a visit with her beautiful baby.

Mr Ferriday, who is a qualified teacher, will step up from his role as Higher Level Teaching Assistant and teach Year 1 from now until the end of the academic year. He'll be great! We are lucky to have such fantastic staff at our school; we are confident that Year 1 will continue to excel and enjoy their learning.

In Year 2, Mrs Toward's class will be taught for a greater proportion of the week by Mrs Toward, supported by an excellent short-term member of staff who will teach two days per week from June to July. Looking ahead, we are advertising a one-year teaching position from September until August next year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to a happy and successful term ahead.

Last Term

In the final week of term, we were blessed to share a series of exceptional, well-attended liturgies which celebrated the Easter story. Our Year 2, Year 3 and Year 5 pupils deserve thanks and praise for the beautiful way they sang and danced, helping us to remember the Passion of Our Lord, from the Last Supper through to the Crucifixion. Their confidence and joy were moving and appreciated.

This week, we have continued our Easter journey by celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord. Our children are great role models in prayer, and it is a privilege to lead them in these moments. You should be very proud of them.

I have now updated the *Dates for Your Diary*, where you will see a number of great events planned for the coming term. These include our class Celebrations of the Word, the musical choir and instrumental concert, and some family activities too. One highlight will be our Year 1–6 beach walk and Sports Day. EYFS won't miss out – we'll arrange something lovely for them too. I'll update you in my next newsletter.

Some of my favourite days at St Joseph's are those that bring our whole school community together, and we are always grateful to the volunteers who help make these events possible. Our beach walk will be a family-friendly occasion, and you are warmly encouraged to join us. We will walk via St Peter's Church and follow the riverside route to Roker Beach. The walk is approximately three miles and promises to be a lovely occasion, with our older children supporting and encouraging our younger members of the community along the way. We will leave school at about 9.15am and leave the beach at 1.30pm to walk back. Please join us.

St Francis Art Event

Thank you for working so closely with your children to support their participation in our St Francis Art Event. St Francis is the patron saint of nature, and we were delighted by the collection of artwork sent in. The collages, paintings and sculptures reflected creativity, care and individuality. We have shared the artwork on our social media pages.

It is a joy to see such enthusiasm, talent and pride in the children's work, and events like this remind us what a privilege it is to do the job we do. Thank you, as always, for your support and encouragement.

With very good wishes for a great term ahead,

Mr Conway

Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

Date	time	Year	Event
29 th April	9.30	Y2	Y2 Mass supported by Year 4
1 st May	9.15	Y1	Y1 Celebration of the Word
4 th May	All day	All	Bank Holiday – school closed
w/b 11 th May	All week	Y6	Y6 SATs week – please no Y6 absences
	18 th – 22 nd May walk to school week		
22 nd May	3.20pm	All	Break Up – Half term holiday
1 st June	9am	All	Return to school
5 th June	9.05	Y2	Y2 Celebration of the Word
13 th June	11am	Y4	First Communion Day – St Joseph's Church
19 th June	9.05	Y4	Y4 Celebration of the Word
26 th June	All day	Y1-Y6	Y1-Y6 Walk to the Beach, Picnic then Beach Fun (and walk back)
2 nd July	1.30pm	Y1-Y6	Sports Day – more info to follow
3 rd July	All day	All	School closed for pupils – teacher training day
8 th July	9.30	Y6	Year 6 Leavers Mass
9 th July	9.05	KS2	Choir and Instrument Concert
10 th July	9.05	Reception	Reception Celebration of the Word
14 th July	9.05	Y6	Y6 Celebration of the Word
15 th July	3.20-4.20	Y6	Y6 Leavers Disco and Party
17 th July	1pm	All	Break Up – Summer Holiday