



St Joseph's Catholic Infant School

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March 2025



"Lent is a significant period for many Christians worldwide. It lasts for six weeks and prepares people for the celebration of Easter, in a similar way that Advent leads up to Christmas.

Although Advent is a time of celebration and eager anticipation, Lent is typically observed with solemnity and preparation for commemorating Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter. From Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday, it has been customary to fast or abstain from something. Much like how we prepare for significant events in our personal lives, such as weddings or birthdays, Lent calls for us to ready our minds and hearts to remember the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus."

We are preparing for Easter in school by trying to keep our Lenten promises. We have placed them in a book on our prayer table where we can remind ourselves of what we have promised to do.

Can you do something this Lent to help another person or to be extra kind to someone?

Fun...Fun....Fun....

- **World Book Day 2025**
- **Great Athlete Visit**
- **Animal Encounters**
- **St Joseph's Day**

As part of our commitment to developing your child's love for literacy and reading we celebrated **World Book Day** on Thursday 6th March. Thank you for all the efforts with costumes. The children had a fun day and we hope you enjoyed spending the book voucher. March is always a busy time and it is extra fun with the great activities we have organised for the children.

Thank you for your support in sponsoring your child for the **Great Athlete** visit. Sponsorship reward items will be sent home shortly. Thank you also for supporting the author and reading by purchasing books on World Book Day. The children were amazed to meet real life athletes and authors.

We celebrated Science week with an **Animal Encounters** Workshop. The children were shown different animals such as guinea pigs, snakes, owls and a spider....lots of fun memories!

On **St Joseph's Day** we started the day by looking at the school statue of St Joseph – a beautifully carved wooden figure with Jesus – and joining together in prayer. Then it was celebration time and lots of great activities for this special day including a Circus Workshop and music session for Pre-School children.

Staff News

Mrs Taylor will be retiring at the end of the academic year after 33 years' service to the school. We are delighted that Mrs Heritage, Head of School at St Edward's Junior School who has worked, and is working closely, with Mrs Taylor will be leading both St Joseph's and St Edward's schools from September 2025.

Increasing Extra-Curricular Opportunities

We are in the process of organising KS1 Music, Dance and Art workshops for after school. Please look out for more information on ParentMail.

There will be a small cost for these activities.

This will add to the Lunchtime Tennis, Spanish, Prayer Group, Gymnastics, Multi Sports and Recorder sessions we offer already/are starting soon.



Good News - Good Travel Plan Award 2025 – Modeshift STARS

We are delighted that St Joseph's school has been awarded **Good Travel Plan 2025** by Modeshift STARS for our continued work on the school travel plan.

Let's keep up the great work to reduce parking congestion and pollution from cars, and continue to choose to travel actively when we can. Thank you to all parents, carers, staff and pupils who have supported us in our campaign to help keep children active and safe on the journey to and from school.

Well done everyone - we have achieved this fantastic award by working together and your support of our school travel plan.



5 Minute Walking Zone Maps

As we head towards Spring and better weather, walking is a great way to get to school. If you live too far away or don't have time to walk the whole way to school, have you considered **Park and Stride**?

Why not park your car further away from school and walk the last part of the journey?

Our Walking Zone display map at the front of the school shows the 5-10 minute walking zone from our school.

Please remind your child to complete the interactive WOW Travel Tracker in class (Year R, 1 and 2) for their journey to count towards the monthly WOW (Walk once a Week) badge.

Cycle/Scooter Storage

Please bear with us while we are moving the cycle/scooter storage. The new location will provide

- Safety on the slopes into the playground
- Easier access throughout the day

Keeping Children Safe

Please keep children and toddlers close to you at all times around the school site and around the busy local roads.

Sun Safety Reminders

As we welcome the warmer weather we ask you to kindly do the following:

- Apply a 'once a day' **sun cream** to your child in the morning before school
- Send in a named **sun hat** everyday
- Send in a named **water bottles** daily (children are able to refill these as needed)

We will minimise exposure to midday sun in extreme temperatures as the weather gets hotter in the Summer.

Good Attendance Matters

Thank you for keeping absence to a minimum. This really helps your child get the best from their educational opportunities.

Our target is 95% attendance - for us, it is not about whether a child is statutory school age or not – it's about every child accessing their entitlement to a really good education, and building their learning year on year.

Reporting Absence - Please notify the school at the start of the day on the first day should your child be unable to attend due to reasons such as illness or for a medical appointment, and then continue to keep in regular contact if the absence continues.

Please use the Absence tab on your ParentMail account to send the office a message.

Alternatively the school office 24 hour answerphone service is also available for reporting your child's absence.

TERM DATES

- Friday 4th April : Last day of Spring Term
- Wednesday 23rd April : First Day of Summer Term
- Monday 5th May : Early May Bank Holiday
- Friday 23rd May : Last day before May Half Term
- Monday 2nd June : School Returns
- Wednesday 23rd July : Last day of Summer Term

All term dates can be found on the school website:

<https://www.stjosephsrcinfant.bucks.sch.uk/key-info/term-dates/>