



Executive Head Teacher Mrs. A. Whelan
Deputy Head Teacher Infant School Ms. K Gaynor
Saint Joseph's Infant, School Waverley Ave, Wembley, HA9 6TA

Deputy Head Teacher Junior School Mr. S Nicklin
Saint Joseph's Junior School, Chatsworth Ave, Wembley, HA9 6BE

Saint Joseph's Infant and Junior Schools

Parental Letter Friday 5th September 2025

Value for September- Community

Breakfast Club Daily
7:45-8:30 a.m.

Junior School Hall- registration
required

After School Club Infant /Junior
School Monday-Friday
3:00 -4:15p.m

Monday 8th September

Dance Club
3:30-4:30 p.m.
Taekwondo
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday 9th September

Gym Club
3:30-4:30p.m.
Chess Club
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Archery
3:30-4:30

Wednesday 10th September

Football Club
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Thursday 11th September

Art Club
3:30-4:30 p.m.
Year 3 Computing Club
3:15-4:15 p.m.
Fencing
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Friday 12th September

Gym Club
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Welcome back! We hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer. The children have returned and new pupils have joined our school family in nursery and reception as well as in some other year groups. The children look very smart in their uniforms and are happy to be back. All have settled well into their new classes. In assembly this week we thought about our community and how we can show care and love for those around us.

School Equipment

Thank you to those of you who have sent in the requested items for your children. We seem to have confused some of you with the request for glue. We would like you to send in a glue stick for your child e.g., Pritt stick, not bottles of glue as these cannot be used to stick things into the children's books. Please see the posters on pages 9 and 10. Many thanks.



School Street

Just a reminder that we are a 'School Street' and to please be aware that only residents and deliveries can access Waverley Avenue/ Chatsworth Avenue between 8.15-9.15 a.m. and 2.30-4.00 p.m. daily. All other vehicles are subject to penalties. **Can I also remind you to walk on the pavement and not on the road so the children do not get confused about road safety.**

Class assemblies – 9 a.m. in either school hall

Tuesday 23rd September Saint Faustina
Thursday 25th September Saint Angela
Tuesday 7th October Saint Vincent De Paul
Thursday 16th October Saint John Paul
Thursday 20th November Saint Christopher

Extended Day Clubs

Clubs will be resuming next week. You will have been notified via email if your child has been allocated a place. Please contact the office if you are unable to access your emails to check if your child has been allocated a place for a club.

ParentPay Account Activation

Nursery, Reception and Year 3 parents you must activate your ParentPay account to access your account and also school emails. An activation letter was sent home with Year 3 children this week. Reception and nursery will be sent home next week.

Curriculum Meetings

Over the next two weeks, there will be curriculum meetings at 3p.m. in your child's classroom for each of the year groups. This will give you an opportunity to see what the children will be learning about this term.

Monday 8th September Year 2 and Saint John Paul class

Tuesday 9th September Year 1

Wednesday 10th September Year 4

Thursday 11th September Year 6

Friday 12th September Year 5

Monday 15th September Year 3

Curriculum Newsletters

We hope the curriculum newsletters will give you an idea about the areas that your child will be studying this term. These will be sent out to you once the year group meetings have been completed.

Below are links to useful information to help you to support your child with home reading.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbxb9y9q>

Year 6 PGL Trip Meeting

There will be a meeting for parents whose children are attending the residential trip to PGL in October. The meeting will be on Monday 29th September at 8:45 a.m. in the Prayer Room.

Forward Notice Parental Workshops- Reading and Phonics Workshops

These will take place at 8:45 a.m. in either school hall

Wednesday 1st October Year 1

Thursday 2nd October Year 2

Tuesday 14th October Year 5

Thursday 23rd October Year 4

Thursday 27th November Year 3

Reception Stay and Play Day

There will be a stay and play morning on Wednesday 15th October from 8:45 a.m. This is an opportunity for parents to stay with their child for the beginning of the session and experience a phonics session. There will also be tips on how you can support your child in developing their phonics and reading knowledge.

Nursery Stay and Play Day

There will be a stay and play morning and afternoon on Wednesday 22nd October at 8:30 a.m. (morning nursery) and 12:15 p.m. (afternoon nursery) This is an opportunity for parents to stay with their child for the beginning of

the session. You will experience playing alongside your child in the nursery environment and experience some of the activities they enjoy across the week.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We will again be holding a parental coffee morning in order to support Macmillan cancer on Friday 26th September from 8:30 a.m. onwards in the Prayer Room. All donations will go to support Macmillan.

Balance Bike Training

Reception pupils will be having balance bike training on the 5th, 6th and 7th November. More details will be sent directly to reception parents.

Scoot Fit Day

The children enjoyed a scoot fit day last year and have continued to request a repeat this year so this has been organised for Years 1-3 on Friday 3rd October. More information will be circulated nearer the day.

P.E Timetable from September 2025

Please see below for a reminder of your child's P.E days. Children should wear their P.E kit into school on their P.E. days and also if they have a P.E after school club.

Year 1 Saint Teresa and Saint George- Tuesday and Wednesday

Saint John Paul- Monday and Tuesday

Year 2 Saint Christopher and Saint Angela- Monday and Tuesday

Year 3 Saint Catherine- Monday and Friday

Year 3 Saint Jude- Monday and Wednesday

Year 4 Saint Mary and Saint Francis- Wednesday and Friday

Year 5 Saint Joan of Arc and Saint Maximilian Kolbe- Monday (swimming) and Wednesday

Year 6 Saint Faustina and Saint Vincent De Paul- Tuesday and Friday

Year 5 swimming will begin on Monday 15th September

Uniform Exchange

The uniform exchange system works in this way- if you need uniform, please donate your old uniform if it is in good condition. You can send in a note to request what uniform you would like to exchange it for and if we have that available, we will send it home to you.

We have a bank of uniform available in order to be able to do this so please send in any uniform that is in good condition that your child has grown out of, so that another family can make use of it. This will help families financially as well as supporting recycling. Many thanks.

If you are struggling with uniform costs during these extremely difficult times, please approach myself, Ms. Gaynor or Mr. Nicklin in complete confidence and we will do our best to support you.'

Secondary School Admissions Meeting

There will be a meeting to support Year 6 secondary school applications on Monday 15th September at 9 am in the Junior Hall. I would encourage Year 5 parents to also attend in order to understand the application process. It is also a good idea for Year 5 parents to visit secondary schools this year to help to inform your decision this time next year. We have invited representatives from Brent Catholic secondary schools to speak to you and staff from Saint Gregory's Catholic Science College, Saint Claudine's Catholic School for girls and Newman Catholic College.

Year 6 Secondary School

Year 6 applications for admission to secondary school need to be submitted by October 31st 2025. I include the link below to further information on the Brent website.

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/education-schools-and-learning/school-admissions/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place#planandprepare>

Father Joseph will be signing the Certificate's of Catholic Practice on the 24th and 25th of September from 3.30pm onwards in the Parish Centre. You will need a copy of your child's baptismal certificate with you. Your child should accompany you to this meeting.

For your convenience I include below information on open days and links to school websites for secondary schools who our pupils have historically applied to. If you need support in choosing a school or in completing applications, please contact the school office and we will support you through the application process.

Saint Gregory's Catholic Science College

Open Evening Thursday 2nd October 2025 from 4p.m onwards with the last Headteacher's Speech at 7.30pm. There will be tours of the school from 4pm to 7.30pm and booking for the event is not necessary.

www.stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk

Newman Catholic College

Thursday 25th September 2025, 5pm - 7.30pm

Open mornings between 9:15-10:45 a.m. on the following days

Monday 15th September-Friday 19th September

Monday 29th September - Wednesday 1st October

Monday 13th October - Thursday October 16th

See website for full details.

[Newman Catholic College - Home \(ncc.brent.sch.uk\)](http://Newman Catholic College - Home (ncc.brent.sch.uk))

Saint Claudine's Catholic School for Girls

Open Evening: Tuesday 30 September 2025, 4pm - 7pm;

See school website for full details.

www.stclaudines.co.uk

Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School

Thursday 11th and Wednesday 17th September 2025 and include tours of the school and an address from the Headteacher at 4.30pm or 6p.m.

See website for full details.

<https://www.cvms.co.uk/Admissions/>

Gunnersbury Catholic School

Wednesday 24th September 2025 5.00pm – 7.30pm with Headteacher's address at 6.00pm and 6.45pm

Open Afternoons

Wednesday 24th September 2025 1.30pm – 3.00pm with Headteacher's address at 2.30pm

Monday 29th September 2025 1.30pm – 3.00pm with Headteacher's address at 2.30pm

Open Morning

Wednesday 1st October 2025 10.30am – 11.30am

See website for full details. Visits must be booked on the following link <https://forms.gle/TWmvKjqA36CXf5uQ8>
<https://www.gunnersbury.com/page/?title=Open+Days+for+Year+7+Admissions&pid=244>

Sacred Heart Language College

Tuesday 9th September 2025 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday 18th September 2025 4:00-6:00 p.m.

See website for full details.

<https://www.tshlc.harrow.sch.uk/news/?pid=89&nid=3&storyid=420>

Salvatorian College

Open Evening: Tuesday 30th September 2025 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Open Morning: Thursday 2nd October 2025 9:00-10:00 a.m. by appointment

Guided Tours with the Head of School or Head of Year 7 can be booked at any time by sending an email to admissions@salvatorian.harrow.sch.uk.

See website for full details

<https://www.salvatoriancollege.com/admissions/>

Saint Michael's Catholic High School

Open Evening Wednesday 17th September 2025 4:30- 7:30 p.m. Welcome speech by Headteacher, at 5:30pm and 6:30pm.

St Michael's application form must be received by the 24th October 2025

<https://www.stmichaelscatholichighschool.co.uk/121/year-7-application-form>

Online Safety

Each week we will include an information sheet which helps us navigate the online world. This week the National Online Safety guide is about what parents and carers need to know about 'Supporting Children Going Back to School' please see page 8.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we try our best to support you particularly in terms of the dangers that children may encounter online. If you have any concerns, please contact me.

All school staff and Governors have regular training. I remind you of the Designated Safeguarding Staff who have had additional higher level training in safeguarding.

Term time leave/Extending holiday period

A reminder to all families that taking term time leave or extending the holiday period is not permitted and may result in each parent receiving a penalty notice fine. Please adhere to the holiday dates. Every moment of learning lost does impact on your child's development. Many families were fined last academic year and I would warn you to think carefully before booking any term time leave and ensure that you **speak to Miss. Gaynor, Mr. Nicklin or myself ahead of booking anything**. Please read the parental letter and penalty notice information on the next page which outlines our approach.

**Safeguarding**

Saint Joseph's Catholic
Infant and Junior Schools

At Saint Joseph's we are committed to the safety and happiness of all our children and adults in our school family. If you are concerned about a child, please talk to our designated safeguarding officers.

 Safeguarding Governor Ms. A. Phillips	 Infant School Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mrs. A. Cooper Deputy Head Teacher	 Junior School Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mr. A. Smith Deputy Head Teacher
 Deputy DSL Mrs. A. Cooper DSL Phase Leader	 Deputy DSL Mrs. A. Cooper DSL Phase Leader	 Deputy DSL Mrs. A. Cooper DSL Phase Leader

Guidance to parents

Dear Parent

RE: Notice to Improve or Education Penalty Notice

We are writing to you because this year, we aim to have an absence rate below the national average and to exceed our attendance target. We think it is very important that all our pupils benefit from 190 days of learning to ensure they make progress and achieve the results they should. If a school can improve its attendance by 1%, this can result in a 5-6% improvement in attainment. We are asking you to support the school by ensuring your child achieves excellent attendance.

Here are some of the ways in which you can help our school achieve excellent attendance:

- Aim for your child to have 100% attendance.
- You can make a request to me in advance if you feel you have exceptional circumstances for your child to be absent during term time, however permission may not be given, and my decision is final.
- We expect pupils to arrive at school on time. Late arrivals disrupt the education of others. Pupils arriving after the register has closed will be marked in the register as having an unauthorised absence. The school attendance policy states the time that the attendance register closes in the morning: (e.g., 30 minutes after registration).
- We do not expect pupils to come to school when they are sick, but parents of children with regular sickness absence will be expected to provide us with medical evidence before we authorise further absences.
- Avoid passport, medical and dental appointments during school time.
- If you or your child is having difficulties and these impacts on their attendance, please make an appointment with a member of staff to discuss additional support.

We have an expectation that once we have notified a parent about attendance concerns, they will ensure that their child's attendance improves significantly. If a pupil continues to have poor attendance, we will discuss this with our link School Attendance Service Officer, and if necessary, make a referral to Brent School Attendance Service.

The Brent School Attendance Service may issue a parent with a Notice to Improve, an Education Penalty Notice (EPN) or decide to prosecute if a child is persistently absent over a minimum period of 10 weeks. If a parent is issued with an EPN, they risk receiving a fine from Brent Council of £160 if paid within 28 days. This is reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days. Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period being charged at a higher rate of £160 with no option for this second offence to be discharged at the lower rate of £80. Fines for unauthorised term time leave are issued to each parent for each absent child. Failure to pay the notice may result in a parent being prosecuted in court for their child's unauthorised absence. For further information, a copy of our attendance policy is available to read in the school office or you can find the Brent School Attendance Service's Non-School Attendance, Education Penalty Notices, Local Code of Conduct on Brent Council's website www.brent.gov.uk

A Prayer for the New School Year

Heavenly Father,
As we begin this new school year,
we thank You for the gift of education,
for the opportunity to learn, grow, and become
the people You created us to be.

Bless our minds, that we may seek truth and wisdom.
Bless our hearts, that we may show kindness and compassion.
Bless our hands, that we may serve others with joy.

Guide our teachers, staff, and parents
as they lead us with patience and love.
Protect our schools and classrooms,
filling them with peace, respect, and understanding.

Help us to grow in faith, hope, and love,
always remembering that You walk with us each day.
May we always seek You in all we do
and bring Your light to the world around us.

Amen.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs. Whelan



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, schools, and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

1 RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES

Gradually shift back to school-time routines a week or two before term starts. Regular bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins. Having a routine creates predictability and stability, helping to reduce anxiety while improving sleep and concentration.

2 TALK ABOUT FEELINGS

Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, such as what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Validating their emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.

3 SUPPORT WITH SLEEP

Children need adequate sleep for concentration, brain function, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a wind-down routine without screens at least an hour before bed, and encourage relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music.

4 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS

Some children hide their anxiety. Watch for changes in their behaviour, such as withdrawal, stomach aches, and irritability. If worries persist, speak with their teacher or the pastoral team early to ensure your child receives support.

5 REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or video chats in the week before school starts. Familiar faces and social interactions help the transition and provide emotional comfort on that first day back.

6 CREATE A CALM MORNING

Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and talking calmly about the day. Avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.

7 FOCUS ON POSITIVES

Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school - seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is swapping "How's your day been?" for "What's been good about your day?" This invites more of a positive, open response. Focusing on positives can help shift children's anxious thoughts and reframe school as a safe and engaging place.

8 VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL

If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it's a new school. Walking the route or even looking at photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school website is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly helpful for younger children or those with additional needs.

9 PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER

Involve children in preparing for school - buying supplies, packing their bag, or choosing lunch options. This gives them a sense of control and builds excitement. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.

10 STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT

Children pick up on your outlook. Stay calm, positive, and present, especially during drop-offs. Avoid lingering goodbyes, and let them know you'll be there at pick-up. A consistent, reassuring presence builds their confidence and resilience.

Meet Our Expert

This guide was created by Jo Morton-Brown, an Emotional Health Practitioner with nearly 15 years' experience supporting children and young people's mental health. She produces uplifting YouTube content for pupils and trains adults to better support young people's wellbeing, with a mission to help every child feel valued and understand their emotions.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Painting/Gardening apron for school

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we start a new school year in September, more activities will be happening in the garden and creatively. Please can you send in an old large t-shirt or shirt for your child to keep on their peg. This will be for their own use to go over their uniform if we are completing a messier activity. It does not matter about the colour and can be turned inside out if it has a picture on it. Please ensure your shirt is clearly labelled with your child's full name to avoid confusion, as this is a messy shirt a sharpie would be fine to do this.

THIS DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A NEW SHIRT OR APRON; AN OLD ADULT SIZED PIECE OF CLOTHING IS FINE AS IT IS ONLY TO PROTECT THEIR UNIFORM.



★ Important ★ Reminder

To help us keep our classroom well-stocked and running smoothly, we kindly ask that:

- All children bring in a clearly labelled glue stick for their personal use.
- Each child also brings a box of tissues to be shared in the classroom.




Thank you for
your support!





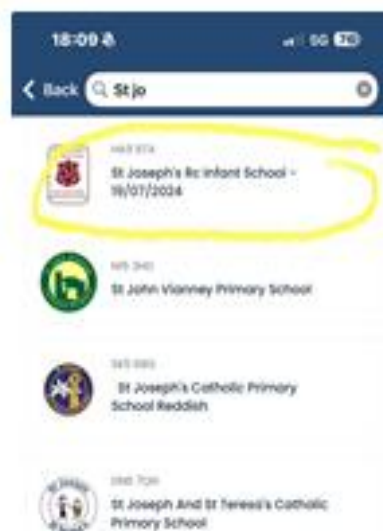
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Search for our school by searching st jos. It is labelled the infant school but it is for both the infant and junior schools.



HA9 6TA

St Joseph's Rc Infant School -
19/07/2024

