



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 Newsletter Friday 27th February 2026** **Value for March – Freedom**

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

Junior/Infant School
Halls- registration
required

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

Monday 2nd March
Dance Club
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday 3rd March
Year 5 Reading Club
3:30-4:15
Gym Club
Chess Club
Archery Club
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday 4th March
Football Club
Film Making Club
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Thursday 5th March
Year 3 Computing Club
3:30-4:15 p.m.
Fencing
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Friday 6th March
Gym Club
3:30-4:30 p.m.

In assembly this week we were thinking about how important it is to put our trust in God just as Jesus did when he was being tempted. We are invited to **give, act and pray** to help us to grow closer in our friendship with God. The children reflected on their Lenten promises and gave examples of things they could do during Lent to grow closer to God.

We will be supporting CAFOD across Lent. The children will be taking part in the Big CAFOD Walk later in March.

Our mission was to think about how we can say 'Yes' and trust in God as we give, act and pray.

R.E Newsletter and Ten Ten Newsletter for January

Information on the topics the children will be studying this term can be found on pages 7 and 8. You can also click on the link below to access the Ten Ten monthly R.E. Newsletter.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

Monthly Value

The monthly value for March is freedom. Please see the value sheet on page 9 including the shared activity to complete together.

Class Assemblies

Assemblies take place in either school hall from 9a.m.

Thursday 5th March Saint Teresa

Class Masses

Thank you to Father Jose Mathew for leading Saint Mary's class Mass this afternoon. Many thanks also to those parents and family members who were able to join with us.

Please join with your child and our staff for their class Mass which will take place at 2p.m. in your child's classroom.

The Masses scheduled for this term are as follows:

Saint Catherine Friday 6th March

Saint Jude Friday 13th March

Class Liturgies during Lent

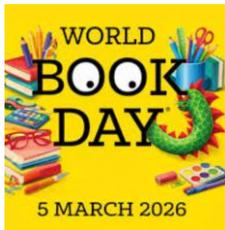
We are offering parents a really special opportunity to attend one of your child's class liturgies across Lent. This is a special class liturgy organised and led by the children. Years 1-6 will take place on the following days at 2:50p.m in your child's classroom. Saint Bernadette and Saint Patrick's liturgies will be in the morning at 9a.m.

Saint Bernadette- Friday 27th March 9a.m
Saint George & Saint Teresa- Monday 9th March
Saint Christopher Wednesday 11th March
Saint Jude- Friday 27th March
Year 4- Thursday 26th March
Year 6- Tuesday 31st March

Saint Patrick- Friday 20th March 9a.m.
Saint John Paul- Wednesday 18th March
Saint Angela- Thursday 12th March
Saint Catherine- Friday 20th March

Year 5 Easter Liturgy

Year 5 will be sharing a special Easter Liturgy on Wednesday 1st April at 9a.m in the junior hall.



World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Week from Monday 2nd March with World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. Please make sure that your child brings in their story sack to share with their class next Thursday 5th March.

Year of Reading

2026 is the National Year of Reading. The Department for Education has launched a UK-wide campaign designed to help people rediscover the joy of reading. The 'Go All In' campaign aims to bring reading to everyone through their passions.



To celebrate this, we have launched a special Reading Café. Parents and children are invited to enjoy a shared reading experience in the school halls, which will be magically transformed into a café. You can choose a book to read together and enjoy some quiet time with your child.



Parents are warmly invited to attend on the following afternoons this term **from 2:30 p.m.:**

Wednesday 4th March Saint Catherine

Wednesday 11th March Saint Angela

Wednesday 25th March Saint Christopher

We look forward to welcoming you for this special celebration of reading.

Saint Joseph's Book Fair

We will be running a book fair in the junior hall after school every day next week from 3:10p.m. until 3:30p.m. We have a wonderful selection of exciting books all available at discounted prices. **This will be a cash only event.** Flyer on Page 13.



Kilburn Library

Kilburn library is reopening this Saturday and has lots of exciting events. Please see the flyer on page 10.

Parental Workshops

Mathematics parental workshops will take place in either school hall from 9a.m on the following dates:

Wednesday 4th March Year 4

Tuesday 24th March Year 3

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Parental Meeting

There will be a parental meeting outlining the arrangements for the Year 1 phonics screening check on Wednesday 11th March at 8:45 a.m. in the Infant Hall.

Parental Meetings

We will be holding parental meetings on Monday 30th March and Wednesday 1st April from 2:30-5:30p.m. This will give you the opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher and have a look at their work so far this year.

Appointments will be booked via the School Cloud appointment system. **Meetings will be in person in school.** The booking link will open next Friday 6th March. A more detailed letter will be emailed.

School will end an hour earlier on both of these days so please ensure that you pick your child up as below on both days not just the day of your appointment:

Monday 30th March and Wednesday 1st April children will be dismissed at the following times:

Reception 2:10 p.m.

Year 1 2:15 p.m. Year 2 2:20 p.m. Saint John Paul 2:20 p.m.

Year 3 2:10 p.m. Year 4 2:20 p.m.

Year 5 2:10 p.m. Year 6 2:20 p.m.

If they are in after school club or an extended day club, they will attend this as usual and do not need to be picked up at the earlier time.

Parental Meetings for Nursery Children

Nursery children will also have appointments scheduled on Monday 30th and Wednesday the 1st April. However, nursery children will need to be **picked up at 2:15p.m. on Monday 30th** but will attend **their full day as usual on Wednesday 1st April ending at 3:15 p.m.**

Admissions

We currently have vacancies in Years 3 and 5 so if you know any families with children in non-Catholic schools in these year groups, please encourage them to apply

Half Term Welly Clean

Thank you for taking the children's wellies home to clean. Please send the clean wellies back in as soon as possible. Thank you.

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 have regular training. I remind you of the Designated Safeguarding Staff who have had additional higher-level training in safeguarding.

Online Safety

Each week we will include a link to an information sheet which helps us navigate the online world, this week the National Online Safety guide is on 'YOUTUBE' and can be found on page 12.

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. Fitzgibbon	Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mrs. J. O'Connell Principal (DSL) (DSL)	Infant School Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mrs. M. O'Connell Deputy Head Teacher	Junior School Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Ms. J. O'Connell Deputy Head Teacher	
Deputy DSL Mrs. J. O'Connell DSL's Parent Leader	Deputy DSL Mrs. J. O'Connell DSL's Parent Leader	Deputy DSL Mrs. J. O'Connell DSL's Parent Leader	Deputy DSL Mrs. J. O'Connell DSL's Parent Leader	Deputy DSL Mrs. J. O'Connell DSL's Parent Leader

House Points



Mark 1 st 10126 points	Matthew 2 nd 8905 points	John 3 rd 8285 points	Luke 4 th 8066 points

House point totals 26th February 2026

Weekly Attendance Award

Congratulations to the class winners for the last week before half term.

Junior School- Saint Catherine with a magnificent 100%

Infant School- Saint John Paul and Saint Christopher both with 97%



Value Awards- February – Understanding

Saint Patrick- Yohan and Mikayla

Saint Teresa- Conor and Philiana

Saint John Paul- Archie and Bianca

Saint Angela- Valanka and Lester

Saint Catherine- Jelansiya and Derren

Saint Mary- Haim and Jaizelle

Saint Joan of Arc- Lowell and Clysia

Saint Faustina- Kian and Keenetha

Saint Bernadette- Sanjes and Mysha

Saint George- Zynair and Lisa

Saint Christopher- Aloysh and Shinoshka

Saint Jude- Mayzie and Vernon

Saint Francis- Alan and Biyona

Saint Maximilian – Crizelle and Ashlar

Saint Vincent De Paul- Rayven and Deborah

Congratulations to all of the children who demonstrated the value of 'Understanding'.

Star of the Week

Saint Bernadette- Meaver

Saint Patrick- Zane P

Saint George- Amos

Saint Teresa- Aloysh

Saint John Paul- Kevian

Saint Angela – Eleanor V

Saint Christopher- Blessy

Saint Catherine- Aldritha

Saint Jude- Filton

Saint Mary- Beverly

Saint Francis- Royson

Saint Joan of Arc- Natalie

Saint Maximilian Kolbe- Velisha

Saint Vincent De Paul- Santana

Saint Faustina- Kian



A Prayer for Book Week

Dear God,
as we begin Book Week,

we thank You for the gift of books, stories, and learning.
Thank You for the authors who write, the teachers who
guide us,
and the families who encourage us to read.

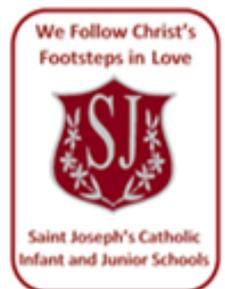
Open our minds to understand new ideas,
fill our hearts with imagination and creativity,
and help us discover the joy that comes from reading.

May we learn to appreciate the gift of reading each day,
to treasure the stories we share,
and to always find wonder and joy in every page we turn.

Amen.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs. Whelan



Desert to Garden

Linking School, Parish and Home

EYFS Nursery and Reception



Religious Education

Topic Theme: Lent and the Passion of Jesus

This unit is intended as the second for the Spring Term. Continuing the Liturgical year, this framework explores the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday. The framework concludes with study of the special actions of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Good Friday liturgies.

Learning opportunities include:

- Coming to know that God loves each one always and at all times
- Coming to know Jesus is God the Father's Son
- Hearing the story of ... Easter
- Experiencing and becoming familiar with the sign of the cross
- Experiencing that a church is a special place where God's People gather to pray
- Experiencing and recognising prayer is talking and listening to God
- Experiencing praying with others as a celebration
- Joining in simple prayers and hymns
- Exploring ways in which a Christian family and parish share and celebrate life, and show care for one another

Monitoring opportunities:

Student's development will be monitored through observation and the collection of work samples for their portfolio.

Affective and Spiritual Dispositions

It is hoped that pupils will develop:

- *An openness to the story of the Passion of Jesus*
- *An appreciation of the liturgy (especially of Lent and Holy Week) in deepening a relationship with God*
- *Reflectiveness in prayer A sense of prayerfulness*
- *A openness to God's love*

Activities to try at home

You are the first educator of your child in faith. Your child's learning in religious education will be much higher if you and the school are engaged in talking about the same ideas and beliefs. Help your child by trying one or more of these activities while this unit is being taught:

- Mark the season of Lent with appropriate activities or symbols: purple decorations on the table, Lenten prayer, charitable practises.
- Celebrate the Passion of Jesus in the liturgical life of the Parish.

An idea for prayer at home



Prayer Activity

Pray with your children at meals.

Loving God, in Jesus you often sat at the table with your friends and told stories to remind them of how much God loved them. May the stories we tell at this table remind us that we too are loved by you, and be a sign of the love and care we have for one another this Lent.

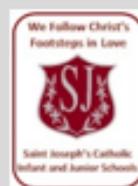
Amen

Desert to Garden

Linking School, Parish and Home

Ks1 and 2

Years 1 - 6



Religious Education

Key Idea:

The second half of the Spring term rolls Religious Education into line with the Church as we prepare for the Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Unit Content

For pupils, the focus of this branch is to learn a little about the season of Lent as a time to prepare for Easter and to know the story of the last week of Jesus' life, his death, and resurrection. The Resurrection is revisited in the next branch, so this branch concludes with the women meeting the angel by the empty tomb.

The dramatic events of the last week of Jesus' life, Holy Week for Christians, are a powerful narrative. Jesus goes from being hailed as the Messiah on Sunday to being crucified as a blasphemer on Friday. It is essential pupils experience reflective time to think about these stories and what they mean in the context of the previous branches. Jesus' life shows his humanity alongside his divinity. Through the scripture stories they have heard, pupils have learned about the importance of forgiveness, how an encounter with Jesus changes some people forever, and how Jesus gives himself to others. The story of the end of Jesus' earthly life and his resurrection from the dead form part of this narrative.

Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

It is hoped that this framework helps pupils develop:

- An openness to the story of the Passion of Jesus
- An appreciation of the liturgy (especially of the major actions of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Good Friday) in deepening a relationship with God
- Reflectiveness in prayer

Activities to try at home

You are the first educator of your child in faith. You are encouraged to talk to your child about what they are learning about.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Talk with your children about the ways in which your family lives the Lenten practices of giving alms (giving to charity especially), prayer and fasting.

Give alms: collect for a charity – food, clothing or money.

Pray: In the last framework pupils learned the Our Father. Pray prayers of thanks recognising that we have what we need: food, safety, people who love us.

Fast: Make an area of 'fasting' your goal: 'fast' on criticism, intolerance, greed and gossip this Lent.

Remember the Bishops requirement for fasting and abstinence for those between 18 and 60

An idea for prayer at home



Prayer Activity

Loving God,
As we begin and journey through the season of Lent, help us to be thoughtful about how we are living. Make our actions more reflective of you and your love for us so that we might come closer to you and be ready to celebrate your resurrection at Easter.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our friend and companion.

Amen



St Joseph's Infant and Junior School Prayer Focus



March 2026

During the month of March, we celebrate the value of 'Freedom.' During the season of Lent, it is important that we remember and are grateful for the sacrifice Jesus made for us on Easter Sunday, allowing us to have the freedom to celebrate our faith like we have today.

On March 19th, we celebrate the feast of St Joseph. This is an opportunity for us to praise and give thanks to our patron Saint for everything he has and continues to do for us.

St Joseph showed us that freedom means making good choices. He used his freedom to obey God, protect his family and do what was loving and brave.

Dear God,

Thank you for choosing Joseph to be the father of Jesus.
Help us to follow in his footsteps and always make the right choice,
no matter how difficult it may be.

Amen



Freedom

Freedom means being able to make your own choices and live without being unfairly controlled.

God wants us to have freedom because He loves us.

When someone really loves you, they don't force you to do things – they let you choose. God gives us freedom so we can choose to live like Him, to be kind and to do what is right.

Freedom also helps us learn. When we make good choices, we grow stronger and kinder and when we make mistakes, God helps us try again.

Homework

Discuss what good choices you can make during the season of Lent as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

KILBURN LIBRARY GRAND OPENING

**Saturday
28 February
11am- 4pm**

**AFRICAN
STORYTELLING
LIVE MUSIC
FACE PAINTING
CIRCUS SKILLS
REFRESHMENTS**

**BRENT HEALTH MATTERS
HEALTH CHECKS AVAILABLE**

**Explore our
newly refurbished
library!**

**Kilburn Library,
42 Salusbury Road,
Kilburn, NW6 6NN**

Welcome
to
Kilburn
Library



There's nothing quite like sharing a story.

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**GO
ALL
IN.**

National
Year of
Reading
2026

A regular safeguarding update will be provided with this newsletter to ensure that you have access to current useful information and guidance.

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

▶ YOUTUBE ▶

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as the influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users; it will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by "preschool" (4 and under), "younger" (ages 5 to 8) and "older" (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you'd like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



The National College

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ALL BOOKS £5 or LESS



Saint Joseph's Infant & Junior School Book Fair

CASH ONLY

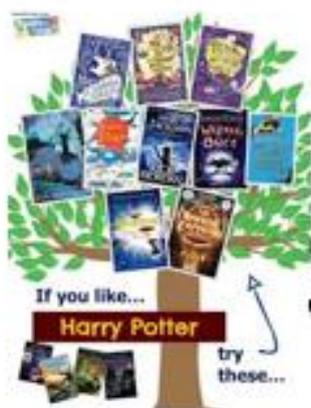


CASH ONLY

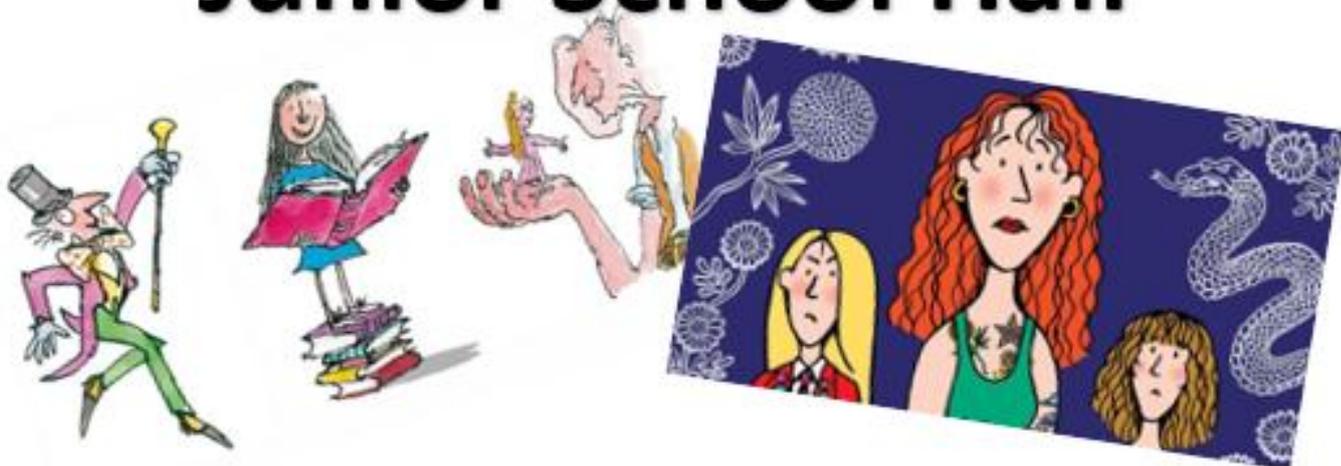
Monday 2nd ~ Friday 6th

March 2026

3pm ~ 3:30pm



Junior School Hall





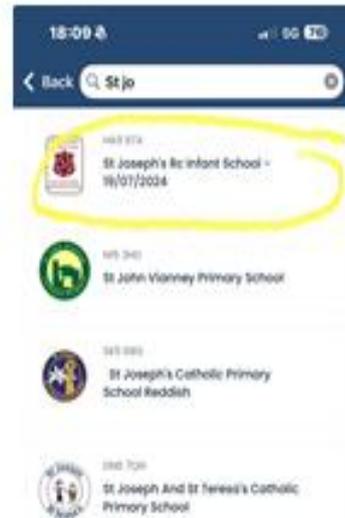
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Download the School Jotter Mobile App today and you'll get:

- News and message notifications
- School calendar access
- Other links to useful resources



Scan this code to download the App.



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

