



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 20<sup>th</sup> March 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 23<sup>rd</sup> March**  
**Dance Club**  
**3:30-4:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Year 5 Reading Club**  
**3:30 - 4:15**  
**Gym Club**  
**Chess Club**  
**Archery Club**  
**3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Football Club**  
**3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Year 3 Computing Club**  
**3:30-4:15 p.m.**  
**Fencing**  
**3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Gym Club**  
**3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

In assembly this week we were thinking about the Gospel story where Jesus healed a blind man. We thought about how the blind man felt when he could see for the first time and discussed the meaning of the word 'rejoice'. We shared different ways that we could show our gratitude to God and to others who bring joy into our lives. Our mission was to try to notice the people and things around us that make us happy and to reflect and be thankful.

### **Class Assemblies**

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

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April Saint Francis  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April Saint Bernadette  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May Saint Catherine  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May Saint Mary  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June Saint Jude  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June Saint Patrick

### **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 2:50 p.m. in your child's classroom. Saint Bernadette liturgy will be in the morning at 9 a.m.

Saint Bernadette- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 9 a.m.

Saint Jude- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Year 4- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March

Year 6- Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

### **Year 5 Easter Liturgy**

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

### **Reconciliation**

As part of their preparation during Lent pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the following dates:

Reconciliation Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 9:30 a.m. (Year 4)

## Saint Joseph's Day

We had a fabulous celebration of Saint Joseph's Day on Thursday.



## Easter Hat

We are again this year inviting children to make their own Easter Hats. There will be an Easter Hat Parade on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**. Children should wear their uniform as usual and bring their hat in for the parade in the afternoon.



## OPAL Play Own Clothes Day

The children will be able to wear their own clothes to school on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March. To support our playtimes, children are invited to bring in a 'loose part' as a donation. In return, they may wear their own clothes. Please see the pictures attached to the OPAL newsletter for ideas of suitable items. We are also looking for anyone who would be able to help us put together some pallets to create a mud kitchen for the field. If you have carpentry skills and could spare a couple of hours to support us, it would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to us at the gate, or contact the school office by email or phone. You will also have received this term's OPAL Play newsletter from Mrs. Evans today, which includes more information about OPAL. Further details can be found on pages 12 and 13.

## World Maths Day

The children will be celebrating World Maths Day on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March. They will be completing a range of mathematical activities across the day. As it is also the 'Year of Reading' the theme will be 'Maths through Stories'.

## Maundy Thursday

The junior children will be attending a very special Mass on Maundy Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at Saint Joseph's Church.

## CAFOD Big Lent Walk

The children will be supporting CAFOD across Lent. They will be taking part in their Big Lent Walk on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Prayer Leaders will be collecting donations at the gate on that morning. On that day we would ask for a donation of £1 to support CAFOD. Many thanks.

## 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 year from 2:30 p.m.:

- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March Saint Christopher
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April Saint Jude
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May Saint Maximilian Kolbe
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May Saint Joan of Arc
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June Saint Patrick
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June Saint John Paul
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June Saint Bernadette
- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July Saint Teresa
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July Saint George

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

### **Author Visit**

We were delighted to have a really special visitor on Tuesday. Laura Henry-Allain MBE read her stories to the infant children and led a very special assembly with junior pupils.



### **Term Dates**

A reminder that our schools set their own term dates and these are usually different from the Brent Council school term dates. We always send term dates to you via email and in the newsletter. It is also available on our school website. I will include it going forward in my weekly newsletter so everyone is aware and there cannot be any confusion.

### **Parental Workshops**

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

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March Year 3

### **Parental Meetings**

We will be holding parental meetings on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April from 2:30 -5:30 p.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.

**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 30<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 and Saint John Paul

Parental meetings for Nursery children and children in Saint John Paul will have to be rescheduled after the Easter holidays. Apologies for any inconvenience that this may cause.

## 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.

## School Council Great Big School Clean

The School Council have pledged to once again be taking part in the 'Great Big School Clean' from the 13<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> March. This campaign is run by 'Keep Britain Tidy'. The School Council will be out on their daily litter picks. Please see the poster on page 8 which includes some interesting facts.

## 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.

**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.


## 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 'Online Trends Encouraging Violence' and can be found on page 9.

## House Points



<b>Mark</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> 15114 points	<b>Matthew</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 14174 points	<b>John</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> 12858 points	<b>Luke</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> 11978 points

*House point totals 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026*

## Weekly Attendance Award

Congratulations to the class winners for last week.

Junior School- A three-way tie between Saint Francis, Saint Maximilian Kolbe and Saint Vincent De Paul all on 99%!

Infant School- A tie between Saint John Paul and Saint Christopher on 98%!

## Star of the Week

Saint Bernadette- Asher

Saint Patrick- Raya

Saint George- Venisha

Saint Teresa- Elsa

Saint John Paul- Valena

Saint Angela - Maverick

Saint Christopher- Swaelan

Saint Catherine- Myron

Saint Jude- Vernon

Saint Mary- Ignatius

Saint Francis- Franek

Saint Joan of Arc- Ethan

Saint Maximilian Kolbe- Clasida

Saint Vincent De Paul- Rhea

Saint Faustina- Phares





## A Prayer to Saint Joseph

Dear Saint Joseph,  
You listened to God with a quiet and trusting heart.  
You cared for Mary and Jesus with love and strength.

Help us to be gentle and brave,  
to help others without being asked,  
and to always try to do what is right.

Bless our school,  
our teachers, and our friends.  
Help our families to be filled with peace and love.

May we follow your example each day  
by working hard, trusting God,  
and caring for one another.

Saint Joseph, guide us and pray for us.  
Amen.



*Have a lovely weekend.  
Mrs. Whelan*

# There's nothing quite like sharing a story.

Discover more at [goallin.org.uk](https://goallin.org.uk)

**GO  
ALL  
IN.**

National  
Year of  
Reading  
2026

# The Great Big School Clean

## 13 March - 29 March 2026

**This Spring, join Keep Britain Tidy as the Great Big School Clean returns!**



As we embark on this special campaign in 2026, our mission has never been more important. Our environment and wildlife face grave threats from the impact of litter. So we're encouraging everyone to grab a litter-picker.

Whether you're a whole school, class, early years setting or eco-club, join us and take action to protect the streets, neighbourhoods, parks, and coasts around our educational settings, making them places to be proud of.

Since the movement began in 2016, millions of Litter Heroes have grabbed their litter-pickers, and pledged to pick up more than **four and a half million** bags of rubbish.

When we all join forces and show we **love where we live**, the difference we can make is huge, instilling a sense of pride across communities, their desire to live in clean and attractive places and actively contribute to transforming, enhancing and maintaining our streets, parks, coastline waterways and countryside.

Let's protect the planet for future generations.

**Please visit [keepbritaintidy.org](https://keepbritaintidy.org) from 13 February to make your pledge.**

**88%** of participants felt they were **part of a national movement**, taking action to tackle litter

**81%** of participants agreed that taking part **helped to improve their mood**.

**95%** of participants felt **they made a difference** to their local area.

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](http://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE TRENDS ENCOURAGING VIOLENCE

7 out of 10 teens report seeing violent content on social media, with over half of that content featuring fights involving young people. Most don't 'seek' it but are shown it through social media feeds or messaging groups. 91% of young people involved in violence have seen violent social media content. Viral trends, challenges, or 'wars' that are spread online risk encouraging violence offline, while real-world incidents may also be recorded and promoted online.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ALGORITHMIC EXPOSURE

Social media platforms are designed to keep users engaged, meaning dramatic or extreme content can spread widely and quickly. Algorithms often recommend content that reflects users' past interactions. As a result, young people may see more violent material if they have viewed, commented on, or shared it before. Repeated exposure can make violent content appear frequently in their feeds without them fully understanding why.

### WEAPONS AND CRIMINAL RISK

Teens exposed to high levels of real-world violence on social media sometimes report feeling an increased need to carry a weapon for 'self-protection'; however, carrying a weapon increases the risk of victimisation (harm and injury by others) for young people. In addition, carrying a weapon is a serious offence that can lead to police arrest and a criminal record.

### SHARING VIOLENT CONTENT

Encouraging or assisting an offence is a crime in the UK, including via social media, and can lead to arrest. This means sharing, forwarding, or reposting violent content carries a risk for young people too. Showing examples of content to a trusted adult is appropriate, but young people should take care not to further spread violent material by posting it online or sharing it within large messaging groups.

### FEAR, ANXIETY, AND MARGINALISATION

Research shows young people's emotional wellbeing can be negatively impacted by repeated exposure to violent online content, especially when it depicts 'real-world' violence (as opposed to fictional depictions in games or films). Posts featuring weapons, threats, attacks, and fights – or content that appears to glamorise gang activity – can increase feelings of anxiety or fear among young people. Material that encourages violence targeting people because of their identity, such as their nationality or religion, can also create disproportionate harm for children belonging to those groups.

### AVOIDANCE AND ISOLATION

Real-world violence on social media can increase young people's belief that their local communities – or the 'outside world' – more generally – are unsafe places. This can result in avoidant and isolating behaviours, which may negatively affect their wellbeing. As well as feeling fearful of others, teens also report feeling judged for spending time together in large groups, which may affect their social interactions and leisure time.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### STAY INFORMED

Stay alert for updates from police, schools, or local authorities, and follow the advice provided. Be cautious about unofficial accounts, fake content, and misinformation, which can spread quickly online or in chat groups. Ensure you get accurate information from trusted sources and encourage young people to do the same. Remind them never to share violent content online and to speak to a trusted adult instead.

### DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA

Encourage young people to talk about the content they see online and the effect it can have. This can be an opportunity to discuss topics such as misinformation, AI-generated material, the attention economy, and algorithms, helping them understand how and why extreme content can spread online. Explore tools available to block, report, and remove harmful content, and signpost where to get support and advice, such as [reportharmfulcontent.com](http://reportharmfulcontent.com).

### TALK CRIME AND SAFETY

In most of the UK, the age of criminal responsibility is 10 (12 in Scotland). This means there can be serious criminal consequences for carrying a weapon, taking part in violence, or filming or sharing violent content. Discuss the law with young people alongside practical safety strategies. Ask questions such as: "What could you do if you feel unsafe?" Work together on action plans and remind them they can contact a trusted adult or the police if they witness or experience violence.

### ENCOURAGE POSITIVE ACTION

Focus on strengthening young people's positive experiences both online and within their local communities. Discuss strategies to reduce negative social media effects, such as time limits, unfollowing certain accounts, or taking breaks from apps. Encourage offline activities such as spending time with friends, visiting local places, and taking part in hobbies that bring them joy, purpose, and connection. Remind them they can seek support with any concerns at any time via [childline.org.uk](http://childline.org.uk).

### Meet Our Expert

Dr. Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading UK expert in media law, online safety, and young people. Her PhD investigates youth understandings of criminal and legal risks in a digital context. She works in schools to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal, and ethical considerations of rapidly advancing technologies.



See full reference list on our website



X @wake\_up\_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

ig @wake.up.wednesday

yt @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.03.2025



# Saint Joseph's Infant and Junior Schools

## School Term and Holiday Dates 2025/2026

Please ensure you adhere to the published holidays as additional leave can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

### Spring Term 2026

<b>First day:</b> Tuesday 6th January 2026 <b>Last day:</b> Thursday 2nd April 2026	<b>Half term:</b> Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026 <b>Easter Holidays</b> Friday 3rd April 2026 – Friday 17th April 2026
--	--

### Summer Term 2026

<b>First day:</b> Monday 20th April 2026 <b>Last day:</b> Friday 17th July 2026	<b>Half term:</b> Monday 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026 <b>Summer Holidays Starts</b> Monday 20th July 2026
--	--

### Staff Training Days

***There will be no school  
on training days  
Staff only attendance***

Monday 1st September 2025  
 Tuesday 2nd September 2025  
 Monday 5th January 2026  
 Monday 20th July 2026  
 Tuesday 21st July 2026

### Bank Holidays 2025/2026

Christmas bank holidays  
 New Year's Day  
 Good Friday  
 Easter Monday  
 Early May Bank Holiday  
 Spring Bank Holiday  
 Summer Bank Holiday

Thursday 25th and Friday 26th December 2025  
 Thursday 1st January 2026  
 Friday 3rd April 2026  
 Monday 6th April 2026  
 Monday 4th May 2026  
 Monday 25th May 2026  
 Monday 31st August 2026



# Saint Joseph's Infant and Junior Schools

## School Term and Holiday Dates 2026/2027

Please ensure you adhere to the published holidays as additional leave can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

### Autumn Term 2026

<b>First day:</b> Thursday 3rd September 2026 <b>Last day:</b> Friday 18th December 2026	<b>Half term:</b> Monday 19th October 2026 – Friday 30th October 2026 <b>Christmas Holiday</b> Monday 21st December 2026- Friday 1st January 2027
---	--

### Spring Term 2027

<b>First day:</b> Monday 4th January 2027 <b>Last day:</b> Thursday 25th March 2027	<b>Half term:</b> Monday 15th February 2027 – Friday 19th February 2027 <b>Easter Holidays</b> Friday 26th March 2027 – Friday 9th April 2027
--	--

### Summer Term 2027

<b>First day:</b> Monday 12th April 2027 <b>Last day:</b> Friday 16th July 2027	<b>Half term:</b> Monday 31st May 2027 – Friday 4th June 2027 <b>Summer Holidays Starts</b> Monday 19th July 2027
--	--

### Staff Training Days

***There will be no school  
on training days  
Staff only attendance***

Tuesday 1st September 2026  
 Wednesday 2nd September 2026  
 Monday 19th July 2027  
 Tuesday 20th July 2027  
 Wednesday 21st July 2027

### Bank Holidays 2026/2027

Christmas bank holidays  
 New Year's Day  
 Good Friday  
 Easter Monday  
 Early May Bank Holiday  
 Spring Bank Holiday  
 Summer Bank Holiday

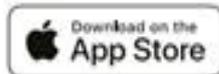
Friday 25th and Saturday 26th December 2026 (Monday 28th December)  
 Friday 1st January 2027  
 Friday 26th March 2027  
 Monday 29th March 2027  
 Monday 3rd May 2027  
 Monday 31st May 2027  
 Monday 30th August 2027



## Never miss school notifications

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

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



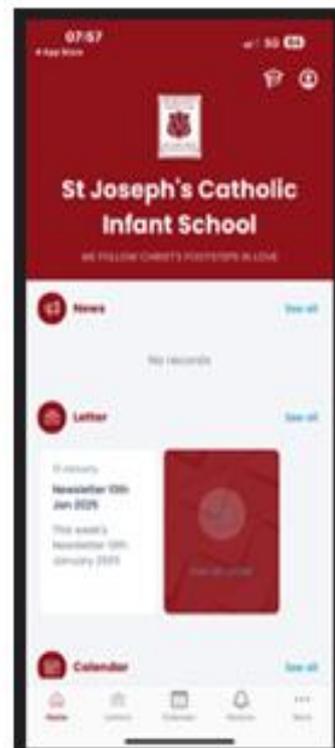
Scan this code to download the App.



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



H9 6TA  
St Joseph's Rc Infant School -  
19/07/2024





## OPAL NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2 EDIION 2026

### What has been happening?

Over the half term, we were delighted to welcome a team of volunteer workers from the O'Hara Brothers, who created a range of new activities in the field. These included a larger digging area and embedded tyres, which have already proven to be a huge hit with the children. They have been thoroughly enjoyed by all.



We are now looking to develop a large mud kitchen in the field, as well as some pallet houses. Our plan is to build these using pallets we already have, but we would greatly appreciate support from anyone with carpentry skills to help bring these ideas to life. If you have the skills, some spare time, or know someone who could help, please do get in touch—we are keen to have this ready for the summer term.



OPAL Bingo was also a great success, with the children showing real determination to win. As a result, many items were donated, most of which are now being used and enjoyed.

The winning classes are:

- EYFS – St Bernadette
- KS1 – St Teresa, St George, St Angela and St Christopher
- KS2 – St Francis and St Vincent De Paul

The winning classes will receive their extra playtime and own clothes day on **Friday 24th April**.

In addition, we will be holding an own clothes day for all pupils on **Thursday 26th March**. Children are asked to bring in a loose part as a donation in exchange for wearing their own clothes. Please see the picture attached for some ideas. Any small world play, sand and water toys are very much welcome!

# Upcycled Loose Parts



Baking Pans



Cake Moulds



Ice Cube Trays



Kitchen Tools



Measuring Spoons



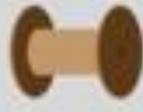
Pots & Pans



Strainers



Baskets



Cable Spools



Cardboard Items



Cones



Containers



Corrugated Pipes



Dress-Up Items



Fabric



Funnels



Milk Crates



Nets



Old Electronics



Pool Noodles



PVC Pipes



Rolling Carriers



Ropes



Shovels & Spades



Sinks & Tubs



Tarps



Tires & Wheels



Wooden Planks



Shells



Soil



Sticks



Stones



Wild Flowers



Wood Cookies