



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 23rd January 2026**

Value for January – Commitment

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 26th January
Dance Club
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday 27th January
Year 5 Reading Club
3:30-4:15
Gym Club
Chess Club
Archery Club
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday 28th January
Football Club
Film Making Club
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Thursday 29th January
Year 3 Computing Club
3:30-4:15 p.m.
Fencing
3:30-4:30 p.m.

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

In assembly this week we were thinking about the different titles that Jesus has such as 'Lamb of God' and why those titles were chosen. The children were very reflective and linked this particular title to Jesus sacrificing his life so that our sins could be forgiven. Saint Maximilian led a wonderful assembly linked to our current R.E. topic of 'Galilee to Jerusalem'. They reminded us about the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. We thought about the differences between them and which they preferred and why. Our mission was to try to be forgiving and a peacemaker both in our words and in our actions.



Class Assemblies

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

Monday 26th January Saint George

Thursday 12th February Saint Joan of Arc

Thursday 5th March Saint Teresa

Class Masses

Thank you to Father Jose Mathew for leading Saint Vincent De Paul'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 Joan of Arc Friday 30th January

Saint Maximilian Kolbe Friday 6th February
Saint Francis Friday 13th February
Saint Mary Friday 27th February
Saint Catherine Friday 6th March
Saint Jude Friday 13th 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 will be launching a special Reading Café. Parents and children will be 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 February Saint Francis

Wednesday 11th February Saint Mary

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

National Storytelling Week

Week beginning the 2nd February is Storytelling Week. The theme this year is 'Soundtrack Your Story'. The children will be exploring different stories and developing their oracy and storytelling skills.

Parental Workshops

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

Wednesday 4th February Year 5

Thursday 26th February Year 2

Wednesday 4th March Year 4

Tuesday 24th March Year 3 **(please note change of date)**

Reception and Nursery Stay and Play

There will be another opportunity for parents to join their child in reception and nursery to get an insight into their daily learning experience.

Reception Stay and Play Wednesday 28th January from 8:45

Nursery Stay and Play Thursday 29th January from 8:30 (morning nursery) and 12:15p.m (afternoon nursery).

Year 6 SAT's Parental Meeting

There will be a parental meeting outlining the arrangements for the Year 6 SAT's on Tuesday 27th January at 8:45 a.m. in the junior hall.

Message From Saint Joseph's Church Wembley New Altar Servers Meeting

NEW ALTAR SERVERS RECRUITMENT AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

There will be an introduction and registration meeting for children wishing to join the Altar Servers, together with their parents, on Saturday, 7th February at 11:30am in the Church. It is mandatory for at least one parent to attend this meeting, as we will be providing the requirements and guidelines. Only children who have received their First Holy Communion are eligible.

Admissions

You should have by now submitted admissions applications for nursery, reception and Year 3 for September 2026. If you have not yet managed to do so, please speak to someone in either school office as soon as possible and we will try to support your late application.

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.

OPAL Play



Thank you if you have already sent a donation in as part of our OPAL bingo competition. We are also requesting any donations of waterproof clothing that you may have and no longer need. Many thanks.



Request for Transportation

If anyone has a van and a spare hour, we would be very grateful for your assistance. We need help to pick up some crates and barrels for OPAL play. The company that has donated is local in Wembley. Please speak to the office or Ms. Gaynor, Mr. Nicklin or myself if you feel that you could help us.

Magic Breakfast



As you know the school is part of Magic Breakfast and we have for some time provided all children with the offer of toast or bagels each morning. We have recently extended this breakfast offer to include a variety of cereals. Many children have taken up the offer and are now enjoying eating cereal each day.

**magic
breakfast**
fuel for learning



Christmas Card Competition Winners

The Christmas card design winners from Key Stage 1 and 2 enjoyed their prize of a pizza lunch this week with me.

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 'AI Toys' and can be found on page 8.

House Points

	 Mark 1st 4459 points	 Luke 2nd 3890 points	 Matthew 3rd 3740 points	 John 4th 3655 points
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House point totals 23rd January 2026

Weekly Attendance Award

Congratulations to the class winners for last week.

Junior School- Saint Jude on an amazing 100%!

Infant School- Saint George and Saint Teresa both on 95%

Star of the Week

Saint Bernadette- Emily
 Saint Patrick- Ariana
 Saint George- Alyssia
 Saint Teresa- Blasia
 Saint John Paul- Shane
 Saint Angela - Amayah
 Saint Christopher- Aloysh

Saint Catherine- Rylan
 Saint Jude- Crizel
 Saint Mary- Haim
 Saint Francis- Izabela
 Saint Joan of Arc- Sherwyn
 Saint Maximilian Kolbe- Cyra
 Saint Vincent De Paul- Celton
 Saint Faustina- Diya



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 R. Pridemore	Please see the Headteacher for any safeguarding issues Mrs. A. Whelan Executive Head Teacher - ESO	Infant School Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mrs. R. Lupton Deputy Head Teacher	Junior School Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mr. R. Hicks Deputy Head Teacher
			
Deputy DSL Mrs. L. McCreesh EWS / Progress Leader	Deputy DSL Mrs. J. Lee Key Stage Two / Progress Leader	Deputy DSL Mrs. R. Lupton JRS / KS1 / Progress Leader	Deputy DSL Mrs. R. Lupton Lower / KS2 / Progress Leader



Prayer for Commitment

Loving God,
Thank you for the gifts you give us each day.
Help us to do our best in everything we do
in our learning, our play, and our friendships.


Teach us to keep trying when things are hard,
to finish what we begin,
and to be kind and responsible members
of our school community.

May our words and actions show care for others,
and may we always grow in courage, honesty, and
commitment.

Amen.

*Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs. Whelan*



A photograph of a family of four (mother, father, and two young girls) sitting inside a white tent, illuminated by warm string lights. They are gathered around a large open book, with one girl pointing at the text. The mother is on the left, the father on the right, and the two girls are in the center. The scene is cozy and intimate, emphasizing the theme of shared reading.

There's nothing quite like sharing a story.

Discover more at goallin.org.uk

**GO
ALL
IN.**

National
Year of
Reading
2026

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice speaks, humors, empathizes, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines understand people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.






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

