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Saint Joseph's Infant and Junior Schools **Parental Newsletter Friday 11th July 2025**

The Value for July – Freedom

Forward Notice

School will close on Friday 18th July at 1:30p.m.

Saint Bernadette led a beautiful assembly about Saint Peter and Saint Paul. They told us about how important it was to try and be a friend to Jesus just as they were. Our mission was to be kind and caring to others just as Jesus was.



Class Masses

Thank you to Father Joseph Kaduthanam who shared Mass with the pupils, staff and family members of Saint Jude.

Parental Prayer Group

The next prayer group will be in the autumn term on Friday 5th September from 8:30a.m.

Admissions Current Year Groups and September 2025

We currently have some vacancies in both schools in some year groups. If you know of anyone needing a school place, please ask them to contact the office.

Year 6 Beauty and the Beast

We experienced the West End right here in Saint Joseph's on Thursday evening and this morning. The show was amazing and showcased the many talents of our Year 6 pupils. Well done to the pupils and staff in Year 6 for working so hard to produce such an incredible show! I am sure we will see some of these pupils on stage in future productions!



Year 6 End of Term Events

The final special event for Year 6 will be their Leaver's Mass on Monday 14th July 2p.m. in the Junior Hall. Parents and family members are all warmly invited to attend.

End of Term Music Sharing Concerts

Well done to Reception, Year 2 and Year 5 who all showcased their musical talents. We also want to congratulate our School Choir and recorder ensemble who performed at all of the junior music concerts. We are very grateful to our fabulous music teachers for their hard work across the year- Mrs. Richards in the infant school and Miss. Jo in the junior school.



Sports Day

Sport's Day will take place on Thursday 17th July from 9:15-11:30 for the infants and from 1-3:00 for the juniors, weather permitting. If possible, the children should wear a plain t-shirt in the colour of the house they belong to. A reminder of the colours are below. The children should be aware of which house they are in but they can find a reminder of this in Google classroom.

Matthew- yellow Mark- green Luke- blue John – red

The running order is approximate so please come early to ensure you do not miss your child's event.

9:15-10 Year 1	10:00-10:45 reception	10:45-11:30 Year 2
1:00-1:30 Year 3	1:30-2:00 Year 4	2:00-2:30 Year 5 2:30-3 Year 6

OPAL Play Open Afternoons

We are delighted to invite you in to see OPAL lunchtime play in action next week on Tuesday and Wednesday from 2:30p.m each day. The children will have their lunchtime activities out and will be enjoying an additional playtime in order to share the change in their play experience since the introduction of OPAL. In order to make this manageable and safe different classes will be playing on different days.

Parents are invited to attend from 2:30 p.m. on the afternoon that their child is playing.

Tuesday 15th July from 2:30p.m -Reception, Year 2, Year 4 and Saint Faustina
Wednesday 16th July from 2:30p.m.- Year 1, Saint John Paul, Year 3, Year 5 and Saint Vincent De Paul.



End of Year Reports

You will receive your child's report this afternoon via email. To open and download the report you will need to enter your child's date of birth. If you want to arrange an appointment to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss the report, please reply to the report email by Monday 14th July at 3:30p.m. and the teacher will contact you to arrange an appointment.

Annual Parental Questionnaire

Please find the link and QR code to our annual parental questionnaire. I would appreciate you taking a moment to complete the form so that we can gather your views on any areas that you may wish to give us feedback on. This will help us to ensure that we continue to provide the best possible school experience for your child. Many thanks in advance for completing this.

<https://forms.gle/JprMJZK9zS19qqU6A>



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. I have included the National Online Safety guide on 'AI- Enabled Scams'. Please see page 6.

Weekly Attendance Award

Congratulations to last week's winners.

Junior School Saint Francis with an excellent 99%!

Infant School- Saint George and Saint Angela tie also on an excellent 99%!



House Points

Congratulations to Saint Matthew who have won the House Points Competition for this term. They will be able to wear their own clothes to school on Tuesday 15th July.

				
	Matthew	Luke	Mark	John
	1 st 11064 points	2 nd 10198 points	3 rd 9558 points	4 th 9188 points

House point totals 11th July 2025

Star of the Week

Saint Bernadette- Conor

Saint Patrick- Erica

Saint George- Riana

Saint Teresa- Zuzanna

Saint John Paul- Oskar

Saint Angela - Jason

Saint Christopher- Emerson

Saint Catherine- Ayden

Saint Jude- Maeve

Saint Mary- Crizelle

Saint Francis- Eleni

Saint Joan of Arc- Christiano

Saint Maximilian Kolbe- Ruben C

Saint Faustina- Delisha

Saint Vincent De Paul- Jonty



A Prayer for Appreciating Our Gifts and Talents

Dear God,
Thank You for making each of us special.
You gave us different gifts and talents—
like being kind, drawing, reading, running, singing, or helping
others.

Help us to see the good things inside ourselves
and not to be afraid to try new things.
Remind us that we don't have to be the best—
we just have to do our best.

Thank You for our minds, our hearts, and our hands.
Help us to use our gifts to make the world a better place.
We are thankful, and we are proud of who
You made us to be.

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-ENABLED SCAMS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming a widely used tool, with lots of positive applications being discussed and developed. Sadly, however, as with most technology tools, there are those who will seek to use it for malicious and dishonest practices, with children and other vulnerable groups particularly at risk.

PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER

Phishing scams – emails designed to trick people into handing over login details or money – are not new, and do not rely on AI; however, AI has made them far more dangerous. Criminals can now generate highly convincing emails at speed, mimicking an organisation's tone, branding and language with ease. This makes phishing attempts harder to spot, especially for young people who may not yet know what to look out for.

ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD

Online marketplaces are now a common way to buy and sell everything, from second-hand clothes to cars. Criminals are exploiting this by using AI to enhance or completely fake product photos and videos, and pressure buyers into paying deposits or full amounts upfront. These tactics are becoming more advanced, making it vital to pause, check, and verify the sale before parting with any money.

VOICE IMPERSONATION

AI can now realistically impersonate a person's voice when given a small sample of someone's speech patterns. This is especially concerning where voice has been enabled as an alternative to password-based logins. One such example was the use of AI deepfake audio as part of a fake kidnapping scam: the criminals used an AI voice clone of a 15-year-old to convince her parents she had been kidnapped and elicit a ransom.

EMPLOYMENT SCAMS

Using AI, criminals can create fake online profiles that seem completely real. These synthetic identities can chat with young people about fake job offers, asking for money to secure a visa or paperwork. In 2025, The Guardian reported a scam targeting young people with promises of quick cash, posing as TikTok staff.

INFLUENCER & INVESTMENT SCAMS

AI tools now make it easy to manipulate video and audio, with technology available that can generate entirely fake content using the likeness of celebrities or influencers. Criminals are using this to create convincing videos of well-known figures promoting fake products or services, which young people can be particularly susceptible to. Cryptocurrency scams are a common tactic, luring people into investing in schemes that do not exist. Once payment is made, the criminal simply disappears with the money.

ROMANCE SCAMS & SEXTORTION

AI chat bots can now mimic real conversations, often accompanied with realistic fake photos and videos, which makes it easier for criminals to build trust with young people – among other things, this can lead to fraud or sextortion. In 2024, the NC's CSOP Safety Centre received 380 reports of sextortion. Alarmingly, in the first five months alone, police received an average of 117 monthly reports involving under-18s, showing how serious and targeted this threat has become.

Advice for Parents & Educators

THINK CRITICALLY

The key to addressing the increasing growth of AI-enabled scams is to think critically and show caution. Inform children that if something is too good to be true, then it probably is. Encourage them to stop and carefully consider what they are seeing and reading before taking any action. For example, if a social media post expresses urgency, proceed with caution; if content seems unusual, even from a known person, it may be that their account has been hacked.

USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES

Online marketplaces are useful when buying and selling items; however, where possible, encourage children to use reputable companies and their online shopping sites. These companies are likely to have more sophisticated cyber-security safeguards in place, underpinned by consumer legislation, enabling them to control how products and services are displayed and traded on their sites.

SEEK TO VERIFY

Criminals may breach an influencer's account or spread misinformation and fake content; however, their approach will generally be limited to a single account, site or service. Where possible, show children how to verify information to check its legitimacy before proceeding. Small actions, such as phoning the person who is the subject of a suspicious email, or checking content via an individual or company website or social media sites can make the difference. The greater the risk, the more effort we should expend to confirm whether the information presented is true or false.

REPORT IT

As the sophistication of scams increases, the likelihood of being tricked by them also increases, especially when not paying attention or acting quickly. It is important that young people know how to report incidents as they happen. Show children how to report their concerns to the social media site, Action Fraud, banks, and other individuals or organisations linked or involved. If you are unsure of the most effective reporting channel, contact Action Fraud.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at Millfield, a large independent boarding school in Somerset, as well as a member of the Digital Futures Group, Vice Chair of the ISC Digital Advisory Group and an Association of Network Managers in Education (ANME) Ambassador.



#WakeUpWednesday

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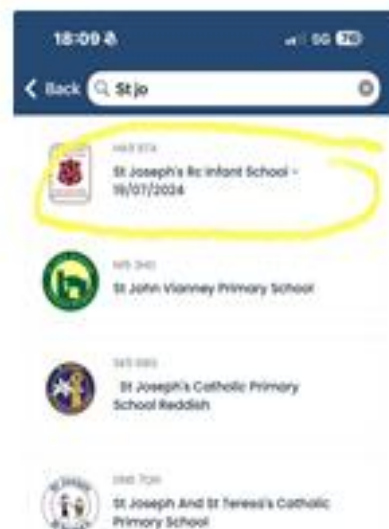
School calendar access



Other links to useful resources



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

