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Saint Joseph's Infant and Junior Schools **Parental Newsletter Friday 30th 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 2nd February
Dance Club
3:30-4:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

In assembly this week we were thinking about racial justice linking to Racial Justice Sunday on the 1st of February. This year's theme is 'Whoever loves God must also love his brother and sister'. Our key reflection questions were:

- How do I treat people who are different from me?
- What might God be asking me to change?



Our mission was to:

Treat everyone with respect – use kind words, listen to others, and never tease or leave people out.

Speak up when something is unfair – tell a trusted adult and stand by those who need help.



Please take some time this weekend to discuss the reflection questions and our mission and examples of how we can live this out through our words and actions in everyday life. A homework task to discuss why God wants us to be fair and kind is also on Google Classroom.

Saint George led an assembly linked to their R.E topic of Galilee to Jerusalem, reflecting on how Jesus showed love, courage and faith through his actions and choices. The children's mission was to



explore how we can respond to change, make positive choices, and show kindness and forgiveness in our daily lives.

Class Assemblies

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

Thursday 12th February Saint Joan of Arc

Thursday 5th March Saint Teresa

Class Masses

Thank you to Father Tebin for leading Saint Joan of Arc'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 Maximilian Kolbe Friday 6th February

Saint Francis Friday 13th February

Saint Mary Friday 27th February

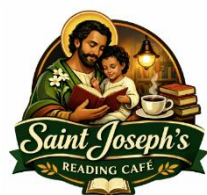
Saint Catherine Friday 6th March

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

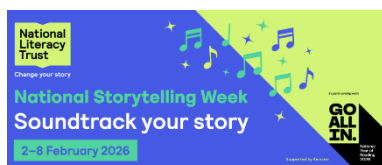
Wednesday 4th March Saint Catherine

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



Next week commencing the 2nd of 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.

NSPCC Number Day



We will be celebrating the NSPCC Number Day on Friday 6th February. The children will be encouraged to dress up as their favourite digits and be prepared to tell their class why they chose that particular digit. Please ensure anyone who has P.E. that day is dressed appropriately to participate.

Dementia Forum

There will be an intergenerational Dementia Forum in Brent on Thursday 26th February from 11am – 1.30pm at the Civic Centre. All are invited including young carers. Please see the poster on page 9 for more information.

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)**

Mental Health Week

Mental health week is week beginning the 9th February. The children will be completing awareness raising workshops across the week. Safer Internet Day is also on Tuesday 10th February and we will be having a special assembly and activities to support online safety which sadly has a high link to impacting mental health.

As part of 'Mental Health Week' the Prayer Leaders have decided to support the Food Bank 'Healthy Smiles Campaign'. They are asking for donations of toothpaste and toothbrushes to support the Foodbank's campaign. As I am sure that you are aware tooth decay in children is very high within our borough so any encouragement to ensure children are brushing their teeth twice a day will have a beneficial health impact.



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.

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 'In- Game Chat' and can be found on page 10.

House Points



House point totals 30th January 2026

Weekly Attendance Award

Congratulations to the class winners for last week.

Junior School- Saint Francis and Saint Vincent De Paul on an excellent 99%

Infant School- Saint John Paul with an amazing 100%



Value Awards- January – Commitment

Saint Patrick – Olivier and Krizel	Saint Bernadette- Luna and Jake
Saint Teresa- Archer and Hailey	Saint George- Cyrus and Hania
Saint John Paul- Felicia and Shawn	Saint Christopher- Charlyne and Borys
Saint Angela- Kaia and Zac	
Saint Catherine- Renisa and Keeon	Saint Jude- Annsolina and Dallas
Saint Mary- Jonathan and Olivia	Saint Francis- Franek and Abigail
Saint Joan of Arc- Iwano and Muriel	Saint Maximillian – Leah and Shaylon
Saint Faustina- Diya and Benedito	Saint Vincent De Paul- Darius and Rhea

Congratulations to all of the children who demonstrated an understanding of the value of 'Commitment'.

Our value for February is '**Understanding**'. The Prayer Focus sheet can be found on page 7.

Star of the Week

Saint Bernadette- Ansel
Saint Patrick- Kellina
Saint George- Zynair
Saint Teresa- Philiana
Saint John Paul- Myssa
Saint Angela - Cyrus
Saint Christopher- Roshvan

Saint Catherine- Valentina
Saint Jude- Darius
Saint Mary- Amelia
Saint Francis- Kcuen
Saint Joan of Arc- Vania
Saint Maximilian Kolbe- Joseph
Saint Vincent De Paul- Rayven
Saint Faustina- Ethan



A Prayer for Racial Justice Sunday

Lord God,

Send us out as witnesses of your love.
Help us to recognise Christ
in every person and to work for
justice, peace, and unity in our world.
May our school be a place where
everyone is valued and loved.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



*Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs. Whelan*





St Joseph's Infant and Junior School Prayer Focus



February 2026

During the month of February, we celebrate St Valentine's Day. This reminds us to show love to the people around us and to live like Jesus, loving others through our words and actions.

On 2nd February, we celebrate Candlemas. This is a special day when we remember that Jesus is the Light of the World.

Candlemas is celebrated 40 days after Jesus was born. On this day, Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus to the temple to thank God. There, they met Anna and Simeon. Simeon held baby Jesus and thanked God, calling Jesus "the Light to the World."

We remember that Jesus' light helps us to be kind, loving, and fair to everyone.

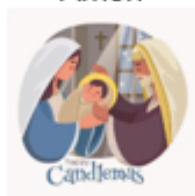
Dear God,

Thank you for being the Light of the World.

Help us to share your light with others.

Help us to be loving, kind, and fair every day.

Amen



Understanding

Understanding means listening to others, trying to know how they feel, and being kind even when someone is different from us.

God wants us to understand one another so we can live happily and fairly together.

Listening when a friend is talking


Being kind to someone who is sad or upset

Accepting that people like different things or look different

Helping a friend instead of getting cross

Homework

Draw or talk about a time when you showed understanding or when someone was understanding to you.

A photograph of a family (mother, father, and two young girls) sitting inside a white tent, reading a book together. The mother is on the left, the father is on the right, and the two girls are in the center. They are all looking at an open book. A bowl of popcorn is visible in the foreground. The scene is warmly lit, and the tent's interior is visible in the background. The image is framed by yellow diagonal stripes in the top right and bottom left corners.

There's nothing quite like sharing a story.

Discover more at goallin.org.uk

**GO
ALL
IN.**

National
Year of
Reading
2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Young Carers

We are delighted to invite you and your elders to the Dress to Remember Dementia Forum in February. These are the details and I have attached the poster.

An intergenerational discussion on dementia

Thursday 26 February, 11am – 1.30pm,

Conference Room, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley Park, HA9 0FJ

This forum will include interactive discussions, video screenings and a monologue performed by Marsha Millar (Top Boy). The forum is aimed at Families and Carers, Young People, Community Leaders and Councillors, Dementia care organisations, Brent residents and the wider community.

Produced by Tuareg Productions in collaboration with Brent Council's Public Health, Libraries, Culture and Heritage.

There is an Eventbrite link to book for the session:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dress-to-remember-an-intergenerational-discussion-on-dementia-tickets-1980550569067>

We hope that you can join us.



DRESS to REMEMBER

An intergenerational discussion on dementia

FREE EVENT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

**Thursday 26 February, 11am – 1.30pm,
Conference Room, Brent Civic Centre,
Engineers Way, Wembley Park, HA9 0FJ**

This forum will include interactive discussions, video screenings and a monologue performed by Marsha Millar (Top Boy). The forum is aimed at Families and Carers, Young People, Community Leaders and Councillors, Dementia care organisations, Brent residents and the wider community.

Produced by Tuareg Productions in collaboration with Brent Council's Public Health, Libraries, Culture and Heritage.

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**ELDERS
VOICE**



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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 IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat

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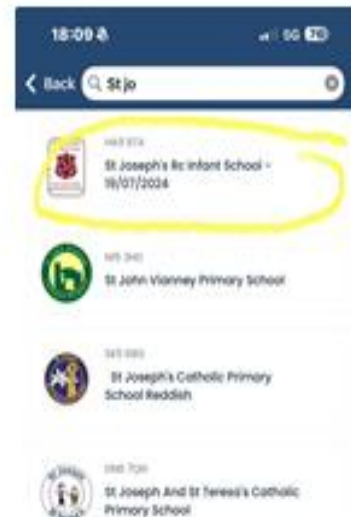
 News and message notifications

 School calendar access

 Other links to useful resources



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HA9 6TA

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

