St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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July 2026

www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please click on the links below to access calendar events and after school clubs:

School Calendar: https://www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk/Diary/
Term Dates 2026/27 www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk/2026-2027_Calendar.pdf
After School Clubs: www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk/Clubs_-_Autumn_2026.pdf

Retirement



After 19 years of dedicated service to St Joseph's, our catering assistant, Mrs Lauricourt, will also be retiring at the end of this academic year. We thank her for her faithful commitment to our school and will miss her greatly.

Keeping Children Safe - Online Content and Social Media



Over the last few weeks there has been much in the news and media about the challenges of keeping our children safe when online, both from harmful content and harmful views. As adults, we all have an important part to play in addressing these challenges.

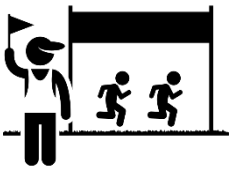


Here are two tools that might help you consider how to further improve safety when our children are using phones, tablets, streaming, computers and gaming machines at home.

- One great tool shows you how to set controls on different devices: https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/
- The other tool just provides a wide range of information on a wide range of topics: parentsafe.lg fl.net

Hopefully these two tools might prove useful in helping us all to keep our children safe when they are online.

Sports Day Results



The overall winners of Sports Day were the red team with 313 points. Thank goodness the weather was a little cooler. A good time was had by all.

1st Red – 313
2nd Green – 310
3rd Blue – 296
4th Yellow – 272

Year 6 Leavers



We say a fond farewell to our Year 6 class in a couple of weeks. The children have worked hard and achieved some excellent results. Well done.

The children move to a number of secondary schools, 38% are moving to Catholic secondary schools, St Columba's and St Catherine's, 34% to Grammar schools and the remaining children to secondary schools across Bexley. We wish them success and much happiness.

Learning and growing together with Christ

Relief Midday Supervisor



We have vacancies for Relief Midday Supervisors. Are you available to work from 12.15 pm – 1.15 pm, or do you know someone who might be suitable? The position involves supervision of children on the playground and in the dining hall. Please contact the school office for further details.

Return of School Books



Please return any school books you may have at home. Replacing reading books is expensive and the return of all stock would be appreciated.

Summer Holiday Homework



The Summer Holiday Challenge will be set again this summer. Children will gain points for completing set holiday appropriate activities/tasks. These will be handed out when the children have 'Meet the Teacher' at the end of term.

Library Summer Reading Challenge 2026



'Read to the Beat' – free sign up at your local library. This year's theme inspires children to explore the connection between stories and songs, discovering how reading and music both ignite imagination and creativity.

Discover fantastic new books, unlock rewards along the way, and achieve something amazing this summer. We encourage you to get involved.

Safeguarding



Here are some useful links about how to keep your child safe, especially during the summer holidays:

- **Water Safety** – RNLI https://rnli.org/safety/float
- **E-Safety** - Keeping your children safe online https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/
  TikTok - what parents need to know https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/
- **Sun Safety** https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/sun-safety-for-kids

Great British Summer Savings

Department for Education

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the Great British Summer Savings scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom. Please click on the link for further information https://summersavings.gov.uk

Road Safety



As we approach the Summer holidays and Year 6 children practise travelling to/from school on their own, here are some reminders for safe travels:

- Children: be aware of traffic, use allocated crossings, and put away distractions like phones.
- Parents: review road safety with your child and practise their route with them.

Holiday Activity and Food Programme



The HAF programme provides healthy food and enriching activities to children and young people, with free places available for those on free school meals during some of the school holidays. Please click on the link below for further information:
https://www.bexley.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/holiday-activities-food-programme

Smiley Ark



If you would like to secure a place at Smiley Ark next year, please email Smiley Ark to make a booking. Smiley Ark is located on St Joseph's premises and has access to many of our facilities including playgrounds and computer suite. Smiley Ark will also be running a Summer Holiday Club. For further information please contact them via email - enquiries@smileyark.com

School Uniform



Please be advised that children return to school in September in full school uniform (either summer or winter) and shoes. PE kits will be needed from the first week. Correct uniform is listed on the school website:
www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk/docs/policies/School_Uniform_-_with_Photos_-_Updated_Summer_2026.pdf
We actively discourage school shoes that look like trainers. Earrings, nail varnish and expensive Smart watches are not permitted.

Bexley Libraries - Summer 2026



Over the summer, Bexley Libraries will be offering a wide range of FREE events and activities for children, including:

- Interactive author talks from Terrie Chilvers, Gary Northfield, JJ Arcanjo, Jim Beckett and Patrick Gallagher
- Meet the Animals with Creepy Claws
- Manga workshop
- Chinese Ribbon and Fan workshop
- Japanese Taiko Drumming workshop
- Cartoon fun with Kev Sutherland
- Lego Robotics Workshops
- Storytelling with Sandra Agard and John Kirk
- Interactive Dance Performance
- Arts and crafts sessions

Tickets will be available two weeks before each event, so make sure to keep an eye on What's on page to find out more about the events on offer.

All events will feature as part of the Celebrating Bexley programme; a year of celebrating culture, entertainment and heritage in Bexley to mark the 60th anniversary of the London Borough of Bexley. https://www.bexley.gov.uk/discover-bexley/celebrating-bexley

Term Dates – 2026-2027

Please find attached the term dates for 2026-2027 for your information. There is also a link at the top of this newsletter that takes you to our website.

Mrs Edwards

It is with great sadness that we write to inform you that recently Mrs Julie Edwards, a much respected class teacher who retired 10 years ago, has sadly passed away.



Julie Edwards worked as a junior class teacher for 16 years at St Joseph's, and would be remembered by some of our parents and past pupils.

On behalf of our school community, we will be passing on our sympathy and dedicating our prayers to her family and friends. Julie Edwards will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with her loved ones during this sad time. May she rest in peace.

Yours sincerely

Mark Hannon

Mr Mark Hannon
Executive Head Teacher

Mrs Truss

Mrs Truss
Head of School