St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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October 2026

www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk

Dear Parents

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

Midday Supervisor and Relief Midday Supervisor Post



We have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisor and a Relief Midday Supervisor. 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.

Primary Reception Places – September 2027

The Bexley online site has now opened – www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions (for Bexley residents) and https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places and closes on 15th January 2027).

The school is holding a number of Open Events on the following dates:



- Tuesday 13th October 2026 - 1.30 pm
- Wednesday 11th November 2026 - 1.30pm
- Monday 14th December 2026 - 5.00 pm
- Thursday 7th January 2027 - 9.15 am

A presentation by the Head of School will be followed by a guided tour of the school. Please remind friends and neighbours to put these dates in their diary. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2027. The school welcomes applications from Catholics and non-Catholic families (who are sympathetic to our values and practice).

Please note, if you are Catholic, Fr David, will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice (available from the school office or from our website) by appointment only. However, if you are not religious, you must still complete the Supplementary Form and return it to the school office.

Emergency Contacts - update



It is essential that the school holds up to date contact information for your child. If you have changed your address, email and/or telephone number, please contact the school office with your updated information via your child's Contact Book.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Thank You!



Thank you to all who attended our Macmillan 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' last week run by staff and parents. Cakes and refreshments were enjoyed by all. Particular thanks to parents who contributed cakes for this event. The total money raised was £102.00 and will go to Macmillan to support someone affected by cancer.

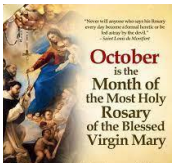
Harvest Donations

Thank you for the marvellous response to our harvest collection. The harvest display reminded the children to give thanks for the wonderful bounty God gives us. The food that you have generously donated will be collected by the Salvation Army for their food bank. The last day for donations is Monday 12th October 2026.



October the Month of the Holy Rosary

Parents and children are invited to join Fr David and one of our parishioners in saying a decade of the rosary before school. The prayer group will meet on Wednesday 7th, 14th and 21st October at 8.30 am in the school prayer room.



Hello Yellow Day

The wellbeing and mental health of our children is incredibly important. On Friday 9th October 2026, we are asking the children to come to school wearing an additional yellow coloured item (still wearing full uniform) to brighten up the school for the day. Each class will take part in activities in their classes to reflect on the different ways that we can look after ourselves better. #HelloYellow.



Black History Month Project

The theme for Black History Month this year is 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride'. Our school is proud of our diverse community and celebrate the important contributions which have shaped history through our curriculum. Mrs Meeking will soon be announcing on Google Classroom an exciting project (optional) for the Half Term where you can also earn St Joseph's University Points.



School Fund and School Funding in General

Thank you to those parents who have already paid the school fund. If you still need to pay, please send your £20 school fund contribution as soon as possible. Please log on to your MCAS account to pay. We rely on parents to send this amount in at the beginning of the Autumn Term. The money collected is for the extra expenses the school has to incur during the year, this includes end of term treats, subsidy for outings, in-school guest speakers and theatre productions



Attendance and Punctuality

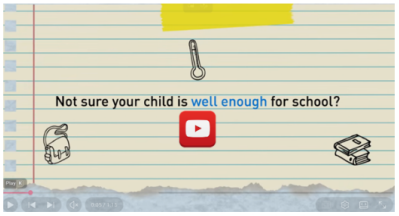
For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.



Repeated poor punctuality is not acceptable. If a child misses the start of the day, they can miss work and time with their class teacher getting vital information and news for the day. When a pupil arrives late, it disrupts the lesson and can be embarrassing for the child themselves. Arriving on time will provide a smooth start to the day.

Please refer to the video link below from the Department of Education with parental advice on deciding if your child is well enough to attend school.

Illness absence and staying healthy



Pick up/Drop Offs and the Church Car Park



We have been asked to remind parents that the car park next to the school does not belong to the school and parents who drop off or pick up from the cark park are inconveniencing (and are sometimes rude) to the parishioners. This is not a good example to your own children. Also we have had a number of complaints from our neighbours of parents parking across their driveways. This is unacceptable. Please leave 10 minutes extra for the school run. The no drop off/pick up rule from the car park includes parents of Smiley Ark

Safeguarding - Online Platforms



Childline counselling sessions have revealed the top five platforms that are mentioned by children when they spoke about online sexual abuse:
Snapchat
TikTok
Instagram
Discord
WhatsApp

The NSPCC is calling for nudity-blocking technology to be built into children's devices as standard. Click on the link here for more information. Please note that the minimum age for all of these apps is 13 years old.

School Lunch Menu



The lunch menu will change to the Winter Menus after the October half term. The new menus are currently being updated and will be available on the school website from Monday 19th October 2026. Please be advised that the school office and kitchen staff need a notice period of one week for any changes to dinner arrangements.

Winter Uniform



Please be advised that after half term, winter uniform must be worn. Please remember to label all uniform. The updated school uniform policy is attached, on the parents' noticeboard and school website. The children look very smart in their uniform and the wearing of school coloured hair bands completes the overall look. Please take note of the information about boys' haircuts at the bottom of the policy. Girls are reminded to remove their earrings, jewellery and nail varnish before they come to school. Your co-operation is appreciated.

Instrument Lessons



A wide variety of instrument lessons are available for junior children to learn. Mrs Tylee has sent out a number of different letters to families who have expressed an interest. Mrs Tylee has asked me to remind you that lessons have already started for children who have already made their payments.

Caring Classrooms



On Tuesday 13th October, we will start to collect donations for Bexley Foodbank who are very grateful for all of your generous donations which will help support thousands of Bexley residents who rely on foodbanks as part of their weekly shop. They are currently in need of long life milk, noodles, tinned fruit, custard, coffee, toothpaste, shower gel and deodorant. Please send items into school. Thank you for caring.

Yours sincerely

Mark Hannon

Mrs Truss

Mr Mark Hannon
Executive Head Teacher

Mrs Truss
Head of School