St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Head of School: Mrs A Truss
BA Hons NPQH

Executive Head Teacher: Mr M Hannon
BEd Med NPQH NPQEL

September 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

Welcome to New Staff and Pupils
A warm welcome to all new pupils starting at St Joseph's this year, whether you are in the Reception Class or have joined us from a different school. Our school will be all the more special by your presence!

We also welcome new members of staff to our school – Mrs Quiros, Mr Lilley and Mrs Kirk. We look forward to working with them and are excited that they have chosen to join our school community.

Start of the School Year Mass
The start of the School Year Mass at St Mary of the Crays Church is a wonderful way to welcome back all the pupils and staff at St Joseph's, and celebrate this with Fr David and our parish family. This will take place on Friday 11th September.

Keeping Children Safe in Education – September 2026



Child Protection and Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. The school policy is on our website and the contact telephone number for Social Care is displayed on the Parent Boards and website. Any safeguarding concerns should be brought to the attention of Mrs Truss as 'Designated Safeguarding Lead' or Mrs Partridge as 'Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead'.

One of the biggest concerns at St Joseph's is the use of technology and social media outside of school. Parents must be very proactive in monitoring what children send and receive.

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.

Parent Helpers



The school would greatly appreciate parent help, especially with hearing children read. If you have a few hours a week spare, please consider volunteering your time. **Please write**, care of the school office, expressing your interest. Parents do not usually support their own child's class. Parent support is also needed for occasional class trips, please write and let us know if you are able to volunteer. All regular parent helpers need a DBS check which requires proof of identity and a police check. The school will pay for this check to be carried out.

Harvest
As usual we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Bank. Please could donations be sent in from Monday 7th September 2026.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 18th September – 9.00 am in the School Hall
Come and join other parents and staff for coffee and cake, as part of Macmillan's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'. All donations of cake appreciated, fake or bake! All money raised will go to Macmillan to support people affected by cancer.

Emergency Contacts - updates
It is essential that we hold up to date and accurate information, including email addresses. The school is required to have three emergency contact details. Please ensure we know of any changes and we have your current email address.



End of School Collection – updated list of authorised persons
If for an extraordinary reason someone else, other than the authorised person(s) are to pick up your child(ren), please let the teacher know via the 'Contact Book' or in an emergency, the School Office (before 3.00 pm). Without permission, teachers will not let your child(ren) leave and we will need to contact you. Again, please keep us up to date of any changes.



Absences/Lates
Please ring the office (leave a message – Option 1 on the answerphone before 8.30 am) to give details of why your child is not in school. If the school does not hear from you, we will consider this a safeguarding matter and ring you. Please write a note in your child's Contact Book once your child has returned to school confirming details of absence.



Attendance
30 children received certificates for 100% attendance for not missing a single day off school last year. Many other children received certificates for 99% and 98% attendance.

Congratulations! ☺

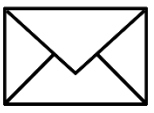


Start and End of Day Procedures
The gate opens at 8.45 am and closes at 8.55 am and children are officially late once the registers have been taken. For any lateness after 9.15 am, the children will be marked absent for that session. Being late is unsettling for your child and impacts on their learning and self-esteem. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that children are on time.



At the end of the day, the gate opens at 3.10 pm and closes at 3.25 pm. Any children that have not been picked up at this time, will be brought to the office. Please be prompt in collecting your child at the end of the day to avoid your child becoming anxious/worried.

Pupil Post
The vast majority of communication between school and home takes place via email. Sometimes paper correspondence will be sent home via 'pupil post' - parents will need to be proactive in checking book bags and emails on a daily basis.



School Fund and School Funding in General



As many of you are aware from the news, school funding is extremely tight but St Joseph's is determined to ensure that your children have the 'best' not the 'cheapest' offer.

Parents can help by:

- Contributing the **£20** per family for school fund, much less than many schools. This will be available to pay via MCAS.

- Making sure that if you are entitled to Free School Meals, you register this, even if your child has a packed lunch or is in an infant/junior class and gets a free school meal anyway.

  Thousands of pounds of extra funding is available to schools via this funding stream called Pupil Premium. St Joseph's appears to have less funding than would be expected and therefore the conclusion is that parents are not claiming what they are entitled to, and your child and the school loses out.

  Pupil Premium supported students not only benefit the school's funding in general but there are also individual advantages in terms of subsidised trips, free music lessons and priority 1:1 tuition, whatever ability your child is. I have attached a Free School Meal application form for further information and for completion if you meet the criteria.

School Lunches



Menus are available on the school website. Parents who choose packed lunches are reminded that the school operates a no nut policy to safeguard children with allergies.

The Mayor of London ensures that all primary school children who attend state schools in London will continue to receive free school meals for the next full academic year. **This means that all children in our school will be entitled to free school dinner from September 2026 to July 20267** If you would like your child to have a school meal, please put a note in your Child's Contact Book, indicating which days.

An urgent reminder that all packed lunch boxes must be clearly labelled with your child's full name (as requested last term).

Fruit Break



A healthy mid-morning fruit snack is a great way to re-energise. Infant classes are provided with free fruit and are encouraged to eat this. Junior aged pupils are encouraged to bring in fruit from home. All children should also bring in a refillable, labelled water bottle (no squash).

Scooter/Bike Park



Children are encouraged to cycle/scooter to school as this exercise is a healthy way to start the day. Children however, should dismount and walk up the drive.

It is advisable to lock your bike/scooter in the bike shed.

Instrument Lessons



A wide variety of instrument lessons are available for junior children to learn. Mrs Tylee will be sending out a number of different letters to families who have expressed an interest. Mrs Tylee has asked me to remind you that lessons start week commencing Monday 14th September 2026.

Curriculum Overviews

Sending out next week.

The national curriculum in England

Key stages 1 and 2 framework document

Meet the Teacher



Come along and meet your child's class teacher(s). They will share information about what topics your child will be learning about this year as well as other useful information. Meet the Teacher meetings will be held on the following days:

- Tuesday 29th September 2026 – 3.40 – 4.40 pm
- Thursday 1st October 2026 – 3.40 – 4.40 pm

If you have a child in another class, please use both meeting dates. If you have more than two children in the school, please write a note in your child's Contact Book to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet during the following week

Pick Up/Drop offs



When you pick up or drop of your child, please avoid using the VCD and Church car parks. We recently had a near miss in the VCD car park by one of our parents and a young child who does not attend out school. The safety of all the children in our community is of the utmost importance. Thank you.

Message from Mr and Mrs Heron

Dear Parents/Carers of St Joseph's

We would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the incredible generosity, thoughtful gifts, beautiful cards and warm wishes you sent our way for our retirement. We were completely blown away by your kindness.

It has been a privilege to work alongside you all and to have been a part of the St Joseph's community over the years. We will miss you.

We wish all of you and your families the very best of health, happiness and success for the future.

With our warmest wishes
Denise and Mark Heron

Yours sincerely

Mark Hannon

Mrs Truss

Mr Mark Hannon
Executive Head Teacher

Mrs Truss
Head of School