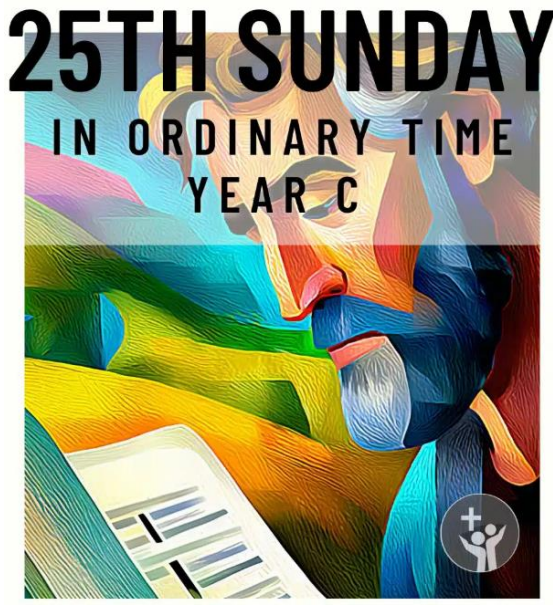




As the new term gathers pace, it's been wonderful to see students settling so quickly into their routine and focusing on being brilliant. Classes have fully settled and are working hard, which is great to see. The children are looking exceptionally smart in their uniforms, showing respect not only for the school community but also for their own learning. Please ensure that each item is named, we know how frustrating it is when things go missing and we want to be able to return them!

Already, the attitudes, efforts and hard work being shown is setting a strong tone for the months ahead. With routines in place, clear goals in mind, and a learning-focused attitude, we are confident this term will be one of growth, achievement, and success for all.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – choosing to follow Jesus.



The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C reminds us to choose God over money. The readings speak about justice, prayer, and being faithful with what we have. They call us to live with honesty and care for others, not just to seek wealth or comfort.

God sees how we treat the poor and weak. Amos warns those who cheat the poor that God will not forget their actions. Psalm 113 shows that God lifts up the lowly and cares for those who are in need. This shows His love for those who trust Him.

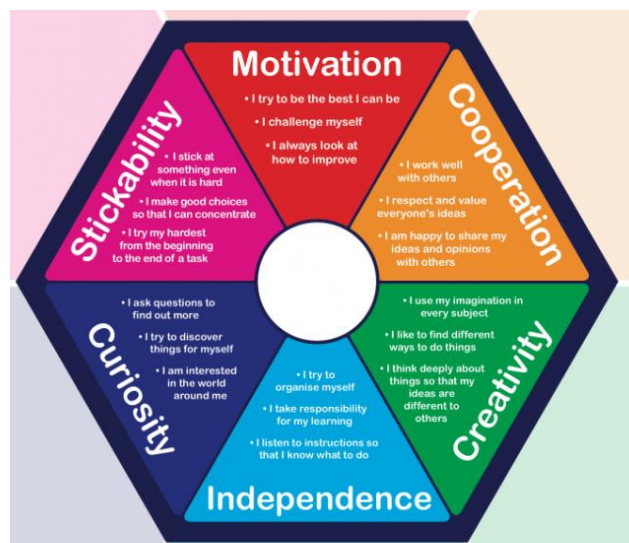
In the Gospel, Jesus tells a story about a manager who uses his position to prepare for the future. He teaches that we cannot serve both God and money. This Sunday we learn to look at our choices and reminds us to place God first in all things.

Prayer

Lord, help me to look carefully at the choices I make, I seek Your guidance to always place You first in all I do. Amen.

This fortnight at school

This week at school we relaunched our **learning behaviours**. Learning behaviours are not about being “good” but a behaviour which helps children understand what makes a brilliant learner. These behaviours will be recognised, praised and rewarded in school, please talk to your child about these behaviours and see if you can spot them when they're outside of school too.



Y6 Class Liturgy

This week welcomed the parents and families of children in year 6 to celebrate a beautiful class liturgy focused on their class saint St Josephine Bakhita. Year 6 shared with us how Saint Josephine is venerated as a modern African saint, and as a statement against the brutal history of slavery. They presented their thoughts and prayers beautifully whilst keeping their congregation truly on their toes! A huge well done to year 6 and a big thank you to Mrs Tapatau and the whole year 6 team for preparing them so beautifully.

School Learning Council

Our Learning Council met for the first time today to discuss how can make our school even better with their big ideas. They are particularly keen to revamp the “quiet play area” and have a whole list of jobs to do! We know that at this time of year we begin to have a pre-Christmas clear out; the children are particularly on the lookout for

- toy cars
- action figures
- building bricks – ideally bigger than lego!
- Small dolls (for a dolls house)
- Dolls house furniture.



If you have any that you are able to donate we would be very grateful indeed. Thank you

Christus Catholic Trust Mass at Brentwood Cathedral

On Wednesday a group of children from across the school travelled to Brentwood Cathedral to form a choir of children comprised of 6 of the schools within our Trust. The children were absolutely brilliant – they sang beautifully, read wonderfully and were superb representatives of St Joseph’s – we are incredibly proud of them! A huge thank you to Miss Torley for rehearsing with the children and to the parents who travelled with us... watch this space for St Joseph’s choir coming soon!



Wishing you all wonderful weekend, enjoy the autumnal sunshine – whilst it lasts!
Mrs McBrown (Executive Headteacher)

First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion 2026: Registration Forms will be available from Fr. Anthony on 30th/31st August after all Masses. Please make sure you have a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate ready. Closing date for First Holy Communion is Sunday 12th October. No late applications will be accepted. Enrolment Masses for First Holy Communion Candidates are as follows:

Tilbury: Sunday 19th October at the 9.00 a.m. Mass
Stanford-le-Hope: Sunday 19th October at the 11.00 a.m. Mass

Attendance is strictly compulsory for the Candidates and their families.



Attendance

| Class | Rec | Yr1 | Yr2 | Yr3 | Yr4 | Yr5 | Yr6 | Overall | Year to date |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|--------------|
| % Attendance this week | 93.1% | 91.8% | 97.3% | 91.5% | 97.3% | 94.4% | 84.2% | 92.5 | 92.4% |

Congratulations to Yr2 and Yr4 who achieved the best attendance this week. They will be rewarded with extra play next week. The target for each class is to achieve 96% attendance – some classes have some catching up to do – we can do it!

Pick up arrangements

Can I remind parents to ensure you let us know if someone other than yourself is going to be picking up your child as we cannot release a child to an unknown adult. Just send the office an email on:

admin@stjosephsprimary.thurrock.sch.uk

Do you know someone looking for a school place?

We have spaces in some year groups. If you know someone looking for a school, please ask them to get in touch. If you have a friend that is debating if they should accept a place for Reception but is interested in our school, there is a small chance they may be able to get a space.

School Uniform

A reminder that as of this school year, blazers are a compulsory item of school uniform. This follows on from the uniform consultation last year when parents voted for this. Every child in Yrs1-6 will be expected to wear a blazer every day to school. Details of the uniform policy is on the school website - [Uniform Information - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Redesign](#)

A reminder that our uniform suppliers have got the new PE shirt in stock if families want to purchase it now. A few other reminders:

- Children wearing a school shirt must wear a tie. That shirt must be tucked into trousers, shorts or skirts.
- All children should be wearing school shoes and not trainers when wearing their uniform.
- Tracksuits must be navy and not black

The children have looked incredibly smart this week – thank you and let's keep it up!

School Dinner Menu

Next week is week 2 on the menu – [click here](#) Please make sure you book your child's school dinner using the School Money [website](#) or app [Teachers2Parents - Apps on Google Play](#); [Teachers2Parents on the App Store](#) The option for a jacket potato is coming back to next weeks menu as a trial. If it is popular, it may remain as a choice.

If you are in EYFS, Yr1 or Yr2 and think you might be entitled to free school dinners, please do apply ([Free school meals | School meals | Thurrock Council](#)). While all infant children are entitled to receive a free meal under the Universal Free School Meal scheme, the government gives the school additional funding to cover other costs for these children such as curriculum trips and other enrichment activities. This additional funding lasts for 6yrs – the whole of their primary schooling. Families in all years can apply if your family circumstances have changed. Follow the link above, check if you might be eligible and complete the online application.

Parish Links

Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Church

Weekend Mass Times

Father Anthony Cho
30 Southend Rd
Stanford-Le-Hope
Essex
SS17 0PF
Tel: 01375 672167

Email - stanfordlehope@brcdt.org

Website - <https://www.ourladyandstjosephchurch.org.uk/welcome.htm>

Saturday

6.30 p.m. TILBURY

Sunday

9.00 a.m. TILBURY

11.00 a.m. STANFORD

5.30 p.m. STANFORD

Baptisms/RCIA: If you, your child or anyone you know would like to become a baptised Catholic then please contact our local parish via stanfordlehope@brcdt.org.