



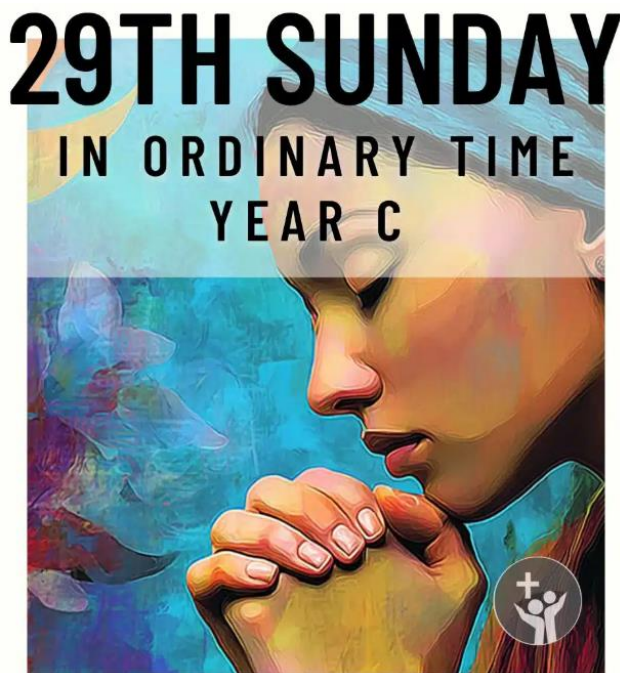
As we approach the end of a full and busy term, we'd like to take a moment to thank all our pupils, staff, and families for their hard work and enthusiasm over the past few months. It's been wonderful to see so many achievements across the school — from learning and time together in prayer to sporting successes and creative moments.

Next week promises to be an exciting finish to the term! We're looking forward to welcoming parents and carers to **Parents' Evening**, a great opportunity to celebrate progress and discuss goals for the next term. We also can't wait for the **PTA Autumn Disco** on Wednesday, it's not too late to book your tickets!

Looking ahead, there are some key dates for your diaries as we continue to work in partnership with our PTA on upcoming events and activities – please check the school website for regular updates.

Thank you again for your continued support and involvement in school life. We wish everyone a restful and happy break when it arrives!

### **29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – choosing to follow Jesus.**



The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C reminds us to stay close to God. The readings speak about prayer, faith, and trusting God's help. They show that God listens to His people and gives them strength. Even when life is hard, God does not leave us alone.

Moses raised his hands in prayer, and Israel won the battle. The psalm tells us that God watches over us always. Paul tells Timothy to hold on to the Scriptures. Jesus teaches that we should keep praying, like the woman who would not give up.

These readings all share the same message. God is faithful, and we can depend on Him. The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C invites us to keep praying and to trust that God will answer in His time

***Loving and Faithful God,***

***You teach us to persevere in prayer, trusting in Your boundless mercy and justice. Help us to remain steadfast, even when answers seem distant, and to seek You with hearts full of hope and humility. Loving and Faithful God, through Christ our Lord, Amen.***

### **This fortnight at school**

We have thoroughly enjoyed **class liturgies** from year 3 this past fortnight who reminded us to care for each other. The children led their worships through thoughtful drama, prayers and hymns. A huge thank you to Mrs Kaur for preparing the children so beautifully.

October is **the month of the rosary** and we have also been enjoying learning about this special form of prayer and praying decades of the rosary as part of our class prayer.



## Mrs Kennedy – SENCo

Mrs Kennedy will be leaving us at half term as she begins her well earned retirement. We thank her for her service to St Joseph's and wish her every happiness with her family.

Mrs Westrop, Inclusion Lead for our trust will take lead on SEND and will be in touch with relevant families shortly after half term to arrange one plan reviews along with your child's class teacher.

Next week we will be holding interviews for our new SENCo, and will update you in due course. Please keep us in your prayers as we make this crucial appointment.

## Rock Steady

This week we have enjoyed musical performances and workshops from Rock Steady – it was brilliant to hear the children having so much fun in their learning! Music is a key part of the curriculum and Rock Steady is beautiful complement to our curriculum offer. Rock Steady offer a brilliantly unique, pioneering child-centred pedagogy enables any child to learn to play an instrument in a band alongside their peers, levelling the playing field for children and making music fun, accessible and inclusive. To book a place for your child please click [here](#).



## Appointments

This week we held interviews for a new school finance manager and I am delighted to tell you about our successful appointment. Mrs Derrick brings a wealth of experience and expertise from a range of industries with a strong background in education.

We have also appointed a new teaching assistant, Mrs Shankwin, to join our staff team shortly after half term. Mrs Shankwin brings enthusiasm, experience and is excited to join us!

I know you will extend both ladies a warm welcome to the St Joseph's family.

We will be advertising for another teaching assistant and a midday assistant (maternity cover). All jobs are advertised on [www.essexschooljobs.co.uk](http://www.essexschooljobs.co.uk) Please share this with anyone you think may be interested.



## Improvements to the school

You will have seen the work to replace our heating system has begun and so far... so good!

Over half term we will be repairing, refreshing and replacing some of the structures in the school playground. One pergola sadly is beyond repair so will be removed, the others will be having the makeover of makeovers! The pirate ship will also be getting some tlc to prolong its life so many more children can enjoy it. A huge thank you to Rosie and the team who will be leading these projects – we can't wait to come back and see the transformations! The trim trail is also scheduled to be repaired but this will happen in December as it requires bespoke work.

## Black History Month and Cultural Diversity Day

October is Black History Month and the children have continued their bespoke learning along the theme of “**Standing Firm in Power and Pride**,” a powerful tribute to the resilience, strength, and unwavering commitment to progress. This year, the theme highlights the profound contributions made by Black people be they leaders, activists, or pioneers who have shaped history, while also looking towards a future of continued empowerment, unity, and growth.

We are very excited to come together to celebrate all our cultures on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November - Cultural Diversity Day!**

**We are learning about....**

**Reception – Saint Kitzio**

**Year 1 – Mary Seacole**

**Year 2 – Samuel Coleridge Taylor**

**Year 3 – Maggie Aderin-Pocock**

**Year 4 – Professor Dame Elizabeth Nneka Anionwu**

**Year 5 – Olivette Otelle**

**Year 6 – Lubana Himid**

## Harvest



We will be celebrating Harvest on 15<sup>th</sup> October and giving thanks for God's goodness. We are still collecting for Thurrock Foodbank who do such brilliant work within our community.

They are particularly looking for

Tinned Meat (Corned beef, ham, chicken, spam, hotdogs)	Toiletries: shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste
Tinned vegetables	Tinned/Packet Soups
Tinned Fruit	Long Life Milk
Tinned Rice Pudding / custard	Cereals including porridge
Washing detergent	Cleaning products

If you are able to donate please send your donation into school and the children in year 2 will collect and collate them. Thank you.

## Learning Council

Our Learning Council are still collecting for their Quiet Play revamp! 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**

Have a wonderful weekend

**Mrs McBrown (Executive Headteacher)**

## Attendance

Class	Rec	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6
% Attendance this week	96.1%	91.4%	95.4%	94.2%	94.7%	95.1%	89.1%

Congratulations to YrR and Yr2 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](mailto:admin@stjosephsprimary.thurrock.sch.uk)

## 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 look incredibly smart – thank you and let's keep it up!**

## Parish Links

Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Church  
Father Anthony Cho  
30 Southend Rd  
Stanford-Le-Hope  
Essex  
SS17 0PF  
Tel: 01375 672167  
Email - [stanfordlehope@brcdt.org](mailto:stanfordlehope@brcdt.org)  
Website - <https://www.ourladyandstjosephchurch.org.uk/welcome.htm>

**Weekend Mass Times**  
**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](mailto:stanfordlehope@brcdt.org).

# NEW PARENTS' OPEN MORNINGS 2025/26



INSPIRED BY CHRIST, WORKING TOGETHER, ACHIEVING OUR BEST.

## BOOK NOW

MONDAY 20th OCTOBER 2025 9:15 - 10:15  
WEDNESDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2025 9:15 - 10:15  
THURSDAY 8th JANUARY 2026 9:15 - 10:15

Executive Headteacher Mrs V. McBrown

*Inspired by Christ, Working Together, Achieving Our Best*

# Walk Online Roadshow - Free Information Session on Online Safety for Parents and Carers

NOVEMBER 2025

## Session Information

**Please note: this is an adult only event and not suitable for children**

The next session will be held on the evening of  
**Wednesday 19th November 2025 at 8pm**

please use the link below to access the Zoom  
call:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82825078874>



Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November  
2025

## What's it about?

The parents workshop will look at the online world and how our young people are using it. How they are navigating around restrictions and using the internet without the parents knowledge.

This will include their favourite apps and games. We look at the dangers they face not only from bad people but also how they are being groomed in games. This ranges from receiving gifts by the younger player to being groomed on servers for the older ones.



For more info please click here: [Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Partnership - Walk Online Roadshow - Free information Session for parents and carers](#)