

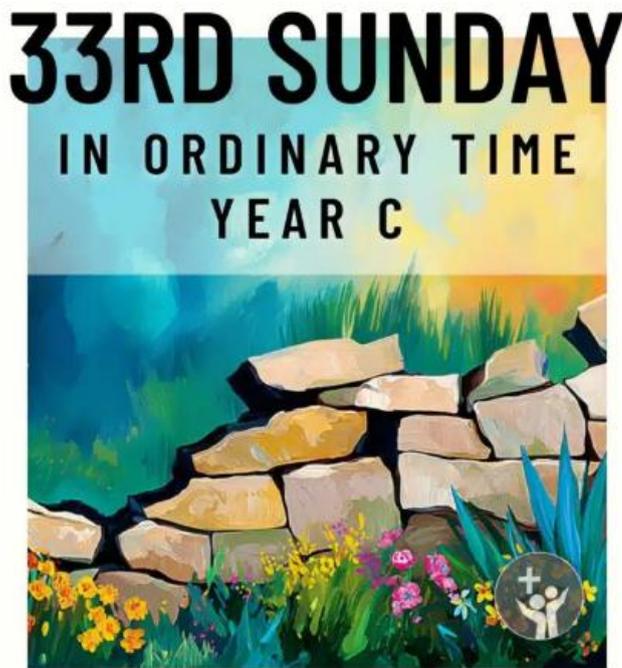


What a whirlwind return to school we've had! I hope everyone enjoyed a restful half-term break and came back refreshed and ready for action. Our teaching team has been diving into some inspiring professional development, focusing on great teaching and learning strategies that will energise our classrooms. Our support staff all received First Aid training on one of the INSET days which has almost tripled the number of First Aiders in school available to support children.

We've hit the ground running with the children already immersed in engaging experiences, from exploring Anglo Saxon and Viking history through immersive workshops to celebrating the end of Black History month with our Heritage Day which was a huge success – a huge thank you to you all for the contributions and the costumes - the children looked amazing! We also hosted our first reading workshop this week and there are more parent workshops with free resources lined up on the calendar so please add these to your diary.

With the festive season just around the corner, there's lots to look forwards to; at the end of the newsletter is a Christmas Briefing outlining the what, when and what's needed in line with the school calendar on the website. Thank you again for your continued support and involvement in school life. We wish everyone a restful and happy break when it arrives!

### **33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – living with faith and diligence**



The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C reminds us to live with faith and diligence. It calls us to take our daily responsibilities seriously and not fall into idleness. Our faith should be shown through steady effort and trust in God's care.

This day also points to trials we may face in life, such as hardship and persecution. Yet we are encouraged to endure with courage and hope. Faithfulness in difficult times brings strength, and those who stand firm will find salvation. The message is clear: remain faithful, keep working with purpose, and trust that **God's justice will prevail**

Loving and Eternal God,

In the midst of uncertainty and change, You remain our rock and our refuge.

When the world feels fragile, remind us that Your Kingdom is unshakable. Grant us the courage to persevere in faith, the patience to endure trials with hope, and the wisdom to see Your hand at work in all things. Strengthen our hearts to serve others with love and keep our eyes fixed on the promise of eternal life.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## This fortnight at school

We have thoroughly enjoyed Reception's **class liturgy** this past fortnight who reminded us to care for each other. The children led their worships through thoughtful dance, prayers and hymns. A huge thank you to Mrs Akinyemi for preparing the children so beautifully.

November is the month when **we remember those who have died**. As part of their class prayers as well as during whole school worship the children have been remembering loved ones and pets in their prayers.



## Year 6 – Your Shout – Oracy Project

Last week children from Y6 headed over to Mossbourne Port Side Academy to take part in an Oracy Project in the lead up to a public speaking competition. During the day the children learnt how to structure a speech, some key skills on delivery and how to engage their audience. St Joseph's children were praised for their confidence and willingness to "have a go".

A huge well done to Chantelle, Anjola, Sonia, Pixie, Hudson, Isaac, Zac and and Jason. We wish them luck for the competition!

## Year 5 PALS revamp

This week we worked with sports coach Adam Capper to renew and refresh our play leader training, so the children have a clear and fresh understand of what it is to be a play leader and the skills they need.

They worked hard practising their organisational skills alongside communication skills to help the younger children engage in group games. They now have plenty of opportunities to practise their new skills.



## Year 4 & Year 5 Anglo Saxon & Viking Workshop

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November Year 4 and Year 5 took part in a full-day Saxon and Viking workshop. Children got to experience board games that were invented hundreds of years ago, take part in a Witan and by far the most popular activity – battle formations! This workshop really brought this period in British history to life. A big thank you to all who helped make this day extra special by dressing up! *Mr. Stephens*



## Heritage Day

What a brilliant day last Friday was! The children looked amazing and were so keen to share their heritage and, in some cases, their national dress. From fabulous history projects taking pride of place, the most delicious food and a wonderful parade - the children had a super day celebrating themselves and their family heritage. We invited two of our new governors, Mrs Clark and Mrs Goodger, along with our link trustee Mr Burr to see the children in action and they were so impressed with joy of learning and the vibrancy that was evident through the corridors. In the words of Isabella from Y1 "I was so excited, and it made feel happy, proud and seen".

A huge thank you to Mr Lovell for leading us through Black History Month and for a super Heritage Day.

## Remembrance Day.

On Tuesday we marked Remembrance Day at 11 o'clock with a beautiful whole school worship where we spent time in reflection remembering those who had died during conflict. We particularly focused on World War 1 and spent some time thinking about what it would have been like in the trenches. The children marked the occasion with the utmost respect and a huge thank you to the Year 6 children who helped with the readings and those who brought their class's wreaths and crosses.

*"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."*

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

### Parent Reading Workshops

We had our first parent reading workshop for Y3-6 this week where Mr Stephens talked through how to support your child at home to develop their reading skills.

Thank you to those who supported this event.

On 27th November Mrs Tapatau is leading a parent **maths workshop** with advice and top tips to support your child in maths.

On 2nd December Mrs Winter and Mr Stephens will be leading a **phonics workshop** for Rec. Y1 and Y2 parents with top tips for helping younger children with reading.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

### Anti Bullying Week

This week we have celebrated anti bullying week with children learning and understanding what bullying is and also what it isn't.

Children in year 3 explained "Bullying isn't just someone being mean. Bullying is when you are hurt with words or actions on purpose over and over again. No one should ever be bullied."

During PSHE lessons this week children wrote kindness pacts which they then shared in our Celebration assembly as well as wearing odd sock to celebrate our uniqueness and individuality.

### Children in Need

And last but not least.... Children in Need! A huge thank you to you all for your support of this national fundraising effort which funds projects that aim to improve the lives of children and young people in every single nation and region throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The spots are great fun and they're making a huge difference – thank you.

Have a wonderful weekend

**Mrs McBrown (Executive Headteacher)**

### Attendance

Class	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
% Attendance this week	95.7%	91.1%	95.7%	94.8%	94.4%	94.6%	89.8%

Congratulations to Reception and Year 2 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 must be wearing a white collared shirt (not polo shirt) and 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).



## St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

### Christmas Briefing

Date and Time	Event	What's needed...	Venue + Entrance
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 9am + 2.45pm	Advent Prayer Service lead by the GIFT team	Nothing – please arrive ready to pray with the children.	School - Main entrance
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 3.30-5.30pm	PTA Christmas Fayre	Lots – please liaise with Laura and the PTA to be ready to lend a hand!	School - Main entrance
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 9.30am + 2.30pm	EYFS + KS1 Nativity Performances – the presentation of the Christmas	Most costumes will be coming from school, if any sparkly additions are needed, we will send costume letters from your child's class teachers	School - Main entrance
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> +12 <sup>th</sup> December 9-11am – may finish earlier.	PTA Christmas Wrap	Help needed wrapping presents, helping children to write labels and choosing presents for loved ones. Please see Laura and the PTA team. Gifts are £2.50 each, limit of 3 per day, can be prepaid for by PayPal (selecting 'Friends & Family') or cash on the day	School - Main entrance
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2pm	Y5+6 Christmas Carol Concert	Nothing – full school uniform to be worn.	Our Lady and St Joseph's Church
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 12-1.30pm	Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day!	A Christmas jumper/accessory to wear with school uniform – as always this is optional.	School – no parents needed!!

# 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>



## 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](#)

## 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