



# St. Joseph's Journal

Free! Friday, 12th January 2024

8th Edition

## Welcome Back!

Happy New Year everyone! Our new term has got off to a flying start and the children have returned enthusiastic and are settling well into the new term. Did your child get a notebook for Christmas? If so, we have the perfect reason for your child to bring it with them into school. This year we are focusing on developing writing across the school and have launched journaling to all the children and staff. Children are being encouraged by their class teachers to bring in a notebook from home. Any pupil that is unable get a notebook will be provided with one by their class teacher. Research outlines one of the simplest benefits of a daily journal is that it 'forces you to develop a consistent writing practice. Facing the blank page is one of the hardest things facing a writer. By journaling regularly, young writers can develop their writing skills and demystify the process through practice. Journaling allows you to explore new ideas' – James Patterson.

Journaling forces you to practice the act of writing.

Journaling allows you to explore new ideas.

Journaling enables you to break through writer's block.

Journaling allows you to practice stream of consciousness writing.

Journaling provides a space to practice expressive writing without pressure.

Journals create a safe space where writers are able to practice their skills without fear of judgement. The constant practice allows the brain to become desensitised to the writing process, quieting the inner critic and inspiring writers to take risks. There is clear evidence to suggest the positive benefits of journaling on mental health. Our aim is to encourage children's writing stamina and remove the barrier for some children who maybe reluctant writers. All staff will be participating in the initiative and modelling the process with pupils in their own class. There's no right or wrong way to journal. You can just pick up a pen and see where it takes you. We are excited to see how this new initiative develops at St Joseph's and look forward to sharing this with you.

## Introducing St Joseph's Anti Bullying Ambassadors

Our Anti Bullying Ambassador (ABA) have been very busy; at the end of last term they all received an induction training session into this important role. Our ABA pupils have been developing an ABA Charter, outlining their roles and responsibilities. They have also written and designed their very own Mission Statement. We look forward to

### Fortnightly Attendance

St A	90%	St B	98%
St C	97%	St D	95%
St E	99%	St F	90%
St Gen	99%	St Geo	97%
St H	92%	St J	95%
St M	98%	St P	91%
St T	99%	St X	97%

sharing this with you once it has been published. There are lots of useful tips and advice for parents surrounding the topic of bullying and understanding what bullying is. These can be found on the national anti bullying ambassadors website <https://www.antibullyingpro.com/> It is definitely worth a visit for anybody looking to understand the themes surrounding bullying and ways to support your child.



Believe · Achieve · Succeed

# Year 6 Harry Potter Trip 2024



## Attendance Success!



We would like to congratulate Alex, Bhakti, Dimitra, Emily, Erika, Jacob D, Jacob O, Joshua, Saira and Thalia Jane who were picked out of a hat last week to have breakfast with Mrs Walker. Their attendance was 96% or above for the autumn term, a wonderful achievement.

You will have seen in the news recently that school attendance continues to be of great importance and we thank you as always for supporting us as a school in achieving good attendance figures.

**EVERY DAY COUNTS**

School and future success starts with good attendance!

# Admission Arrangements Consultation

We are formally consulting on our proposed admission arrangements for the academic year 2025/26. Please follow the link <https://www.stjosephshh.org.uk/admissions/> If you wish to make any comments, the deadline is 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

## After School Clubs

A reminder that **after school clubs have now started, there is still some availability, these will show up on ParentPay** if there are spaces available or contact the provider directly where applicable. Outside clubs tend to run in all weather and are cancelled as a very last resort. Please ensure your child has the appropriate clothing (suitable for mud, wet and cold conditions). If your child does football club, they **MUST** have shin pads.

## Foodbank

Please remember to get in touch with us if you require a Foodbank delivery, speak to a member of the school office team in the strictest confidence and we can arrange this for you. They now also have a Baby/Children's Bank and have an assortment of items to share, including Moses baskets, prams, cots, travel cots, high chairs, baby baths, bedside cots - **Please do get in touch.**



## Fundraising



We would like to say a **HUGE** thank you for your generosity - particularly given the current cost of living crisis. For a number of months we have had a donation pot running on ParentPay for Ukraine, and prior to Christmas, we had our annual 'Elf on the Twelfth' fundraiser. We appreciate any amount donated, and as always you have delivered! We are delighted to have been able to donate to CAFOD (Ukraine appeal) £728.41 and to the Rockinghorse appeal (Elf on the Twelfth) £540.78 Thank you so much, it really is greatly appreciated.

## Medication in School

If we hold medication in school for your child, please remember that it is your responsibility to check expiry dates with the school office. **Particularly Epipens and asthma inhalers. If your child requires antibiotics or any other medication, we can only administer if your child requires it 4 times or more in a school day. All medication MUST come to the school office in its box with the information leaflet enclosed.**



## NUTS & SESAME

Please remember we have a **NO nut or Sesame** policy in school. This includes sandwich fillings such as Nutella / Peanut Butter, dips such as hummus and chicken satay.

We have several children with severe nut and sesame allergies who are at risk of anaphylactic shock.



## Reporting Absences & Appointments

Please can we remind parents that **all absence, whether for illness or medical appointments or any other reason, should be reported to the school via Studybugs.** Studybugs is a free app and all reported absence goes directly into the register and keeps class teachers informed of the reason for your child's absence. We have a legal duty to ascertain the whereabouts of all children. By reporting all absences, it prevents office staff from having to ring and email parents to find out the reason for them not being at school and avoids unnecessary home visits. Please remember to report absences daily, your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.



## Starting School - September 2024 — Last Call

If you have a sibling due to start school next September 2024 applications close **NEXT Monday 15 January 2024** and you must submit your online application and have completed our Supplementary Information Form (SIF) by this date: online application is via: [westsussex.gov.uk/admissions](https://westsussex.gov.uk/admissions)

We require Catholic applicants application forms to be signed by your parish priest and a copy of the child's baptism certificate.

# Apring Term Diary Dates

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### January

16th Jan - Year 1 to attend Parish Mass, 9.30am - parents are welcome to attend

18th Jan - Census Day

31st Jan - Parent Consultations YR only

### February

7th Feb - Parent Consultations YR only

9th Feb - FOS Non-Uniform Day, £1

9th Feb - FOS Valentine Cake Sale (St D, St Geo & St P to contribute)

12th-16th Feb - Half Term

19th Feb - INSET DAY - School Closed

23rd Feb - FOS Social (Quiz)

28th Feb - 1st Mar - Year 5 Residential Trip to Hindleap Warren

### March

1st Mar - FOS Disco

7th Mar - World Book Day

8th Mar - FOS Second Hand Uniform Sale

14th Mar - Yr 6 NCT Parent Meeting, 6pm

15th Mar - FOS Cake Sale (St A, St H, St M and St T to contribute please)

19th Mar - St Joseph's Day Mass, 1.30pm

22nd Mar - FOS Talent Show

25th-28th Mar - Spirituality Week

27th Mar - Reports out, years 1-6

28th Mar - End of term, normal school day finishing time

**Please note all dates and events are subject to change.  
Dates are also available to view on the St Joseph's website calendar.**