



St. Joseph's Journal

Free! Friday, 26th January 2024

9th Edition

Childcare - Did You Know?

Childcare Choices: Get the help that fits your family, so you can juggle work and life.

Thousands of families could be saving money on their childcare costs. But some simply don't know what support they might be eligible for.

The childcare choices website: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> brings together all the existing childcare offers in one place, so parents can get the help that fits their family. This could be through Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare, or Universal Credit Childcare. Some families might be eligible to use more than one childcare schemes together and get the most out of it.

From next year even more help is on the way:

From **April 2024**, eligible working parents in England with children aged 2 will have access to 15 hours childcare.

From **September 2024**, the 15 hours childcare offer will be expanded to eligible working parents in England with children between 9 and 23 months old.

From **September 2025**, eligible working parents in England with children between 9 months up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare.

Support is also expanding for primary-school aged children – from September 2024, parents are expected to see an expansion in the availability of childcare in their local area before and after school, between 8am and 6pm, also known as 'wraparound care'.

Don't miss out on getting the support you are entitled to. Visit the [Childcare Choices website](#) to check what offer you might be eligible for and sign up to their newsletter to get the latest updates about the childcare support expansion.

Timekeeping

We recognise that a vast majority of pupils do arrive on time and we do appreciate this. As the term has progressed, we are noticing an increasing number of pupils arriving late to school. Some pupils are starting to form a habit of repeated lateness and this is causing disruption to other pupils by their late arrival to class, as well as a loss of learning, often missing fluency or the initial input for a lesson, leaving them at a disadvantage and trying to catch-up with the progress that their peers are making. The gates open at 8.30am and children should be through the school gates by 8:45am. Children arriving after this time are at risk of being late to class and missing being marked in the school register, registers close at 8.50am. The school will be closely monitoring the registers to assess pupil punctuality.

All parents are asked to support the swift and prompt start to the school day by arriving on time for school. We appreciate that some mornings can be problematic and roadworks, busy traffic and the weather can all work against us, but regular lateness does make a real difference to a child's self-esteem and progress. Your support of our punctuality focus is very much appreciated.



Fortnightly Attendance

St A	95%	St B	99%
St C	97%	St D	91%
St E	97%	St F	88%
St Gen	98%	St Geo	94%
St H	96%	St J	95%
St M	96%	St P	98%
St T	97%	St X	95%



Believe · Achieve · Succeed

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.



Basketball

Well done to the children who took part in a basketball competition last week at St Paul's Catholic College. They won their group and only lost the final by 3 baskets to Windmill's Primary school. It was a very competitive event and they showed great skill and teamwork to get their final. Many thanks to Mrs Howes who accompanied.

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.**



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.



X-Country Event



Back in December, Evie and Jake made it through to the next round for qualification to represent Mid Sussex at the **Sussex School Games 2024 Cross Country Finals.** Last week on a VERY chilly afternoon they took part in the final qualifier at East Grinstead. It was a very competitive event, over a hilly course, and they both did very well, it's a huge achievement to get this far. We are absolutely delighted to announce that Evie has qualified to represent Mid Sussex at the final on Wednesday 27th March. We wish her every success and will keep you updated with the team result.



Spring Term Diary Dates

DATES TO REMEMBER

January

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 please)

12th-16th Feb - Half Term

19th Feb - INSET DAY - School Closed

23rd Feb - FOS Social (Quiz), tickets available via ParentPay

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.**