

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Headteacher: Dr. N Fernandes-Viana, Deputy Headteacher: Mr Kevin Bowles
Lanark Road, Sutherland Avenue, Maida Vale, London W9 1DF 020 7286 3518
Email: office@stjosephsschool.org.uk Website www.stjosephsschool.org.uk



Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Children, Parents, Staff and Governors,

A huge welcome back to all our children and an especially warm welcome to our new starters. You are all now part of a wonderful school community and we look forward to working with you. Indeed, our Curriculum Meetings are fast approaching and we will be sending out relevant dates in the next few days. This is a wonderful chance to meet with your child's new class teacher, familiarize yourselves with your child's classroom environment, learn about the subjects studied as well as clarify any questions you may have.

In preparation for a smooth start to the new academic year, we would ask that you contact us as soon as possible regarding any medical conditions your child may have. **It is extremely important that we are made aware of any allergies or other medical needs so that we can share this with staff thereby making the safety of your children our priority.** Please can we ask that all prescribed medication is labelled with respective care plans attached and sent into school by next Friday, 11th September. Thank you for your understanding here.

Can parents please ensure school uniform is labelled, the amount of lost school uniform gathered in the last year was even more than usual. On day 3 of the new term, we already have an assortment of jumpers and sweatshirts. Without a child's name, clearly visible, these items will either go in Lost Property or in the School Uniform Sale.

Our Y6 children have returned to St. Joseph's with a wonderful commitment to Catholic Social Teaching, **proposing a non-school uniform day to aid the flash flood victims in Nepal. We will therefore be holding this special fund-raiser on Friday 11th September.** We ask that children come to school in their own clothes and make a voluntary contribution to this worthy cause.

Please do see the link below should you wish to find out more information:

<https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/flash-floods-in-nepal>

As we pray for the victims and families affected in Nepal, I would also ask that you keep Nicolette in your prayers. Having been our dedicated School Crossing Patrol, fondly known as our Lollipop Lady, for many years, I am sure that you will all have wonderful stories of her sunny disposition and genuine care for our pupils and parents as they make their way to school every morning. Sadly, Nicolette has sadly been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and is currently undergoing further tests during an extended hospital stay. **Our children will continue to pray for her and we will be visiting her tomorrow to bring her some joy and comfort from everyone here at St. Joseph's.**

Preparations are already underway for our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. We will be sharing the date with you in the next few days and would like to give our heartfelt thanks to Florence who is organising this wonderful whole school community event which brings so many families together in solidarity for this charity that is close to many of our hearts.

Please see the information below from the school vaccination service:



Part of the Saint John Southworth Catholic Academy Trust
Registered address: 89 Addison Road, London, W14 8BZ
Company no. 09482572



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- As children return to primary school, it's important to make sure their vaccinations are up to date.
- Vaccines protect against serious illnesses like measles and whooping cough, which can spread easily in primary schools.
- The Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine is especially vital as cases of measles are rising in London.
- Other important vaccines at this stage include the 4-in-1 pre-school booster (against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and polio).
- Vaccinations are free on the NHS and are the best way to protect your child and others around them.
- If your child is not vaccinated, they are not protected. If you're not sure what vaccinations your child has had contact your GP. If they have missed any vaccines, it's not too late to catch up.

Vaccination UK offer catch-up clinics for childhood vaccinations. Walk-ins are welcome, but booking is recommended. Telephone: 020 4603 3441 Email:

Westminster@vaccinationuk.co.uk More information: <https://www.schoolvaccination.uk/catch-up-westminster>

Upcoming dates for your diary

September

Friday 11th	non uniform day – Y6 led fundraiser for victims of Nepalese flash flood.
Tuesday 15th	Y6 Curriculum meeting 9:10am
Wednesday 16th	Y2, Y1, Y1/2, Y3 Curriculum meeting 10am
Thursday 17th	Y4 Curriculum meeting 9:10am Y5 Curriculum meeting 3:45pm
Monday 21st	KS2 applying to Secondary school talk with Paul Stubbings 5:45pm
Tuesday 22nd	Flu vaccination (nasal spray) Rec – Y6
Friday 25th	Macmillan Coffee Morning 8 – 10am (date tbc)
Monday 28th	morning booster classes commence (parents will be notified accordingly)

Finally, on Tuesday 1st September, the staff from St. Edward's and St. Joseph's Catholic Primary Schools came together in worship, in celebration of our joint mission to teach and guide our children in the Catholic Faith. A huge thank you to Canon Kevin Jordan for making this possible and to Miss Donnellan and Mrs Gomes – RE Leads from St. Joseph's and St. Edward's respectively – for their diligence and dedication in organising the Mass. It was a beautiful occasion. As we begin this new academic year, I would like to leave you with this wonderful reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians which we shared during our inter-school staff mass on Tuesday 1st of September.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you

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also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord

May God bless you and keep you safe,

Dr. N. Fernandes-Viana
Mr K Bowles