



26.6.26

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

'Treat others the way you want to be treated'

Matthew 7:12

Dear Families,

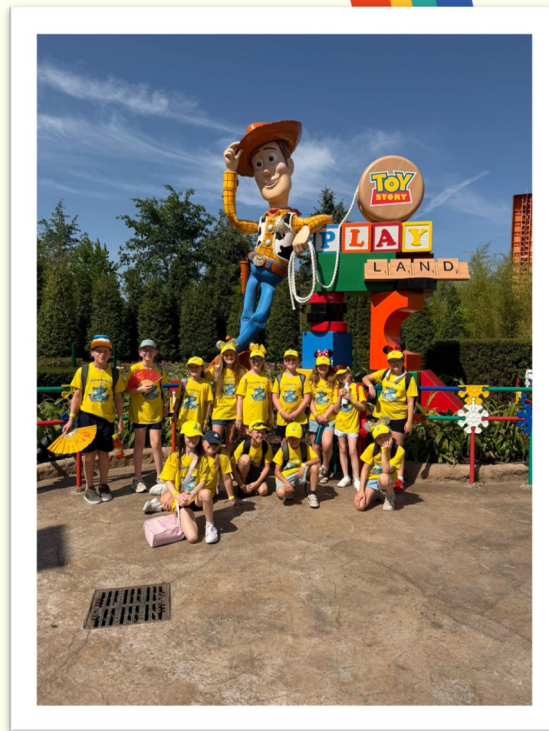
It's been another exciting and fun-packed week here at St. Joseph's and—for some of our children—in Paris! The heatwave has made things a little different but we are tremendously grateful to all of our families for supporting us in prioritising the children's health and well-being in the high temperatures. With a few adaptations, we have managed to stay safe and to keep learning and enjoying school!

Everyone is looking forward to hearing all about the wonderful adventures that Year 5 and 6 have had at Disneyland, Paris and we are sure they will all be bursting with stories to tell us on Monday...

As Year 6 begin their final few weeks here at St. Joseph's, there is so much to look forward to and much to celebrate about their time here. For all of our children, the remaining weeks of school will be filled with exciting events and learning experiences and we look forward to sharing those together.

Wishing everyone a lovely—and hopefully cooler—weekend!





Our Year 5 and 6 children have been living their best lives at Disneyland, Paris this week! Even the super-hot temperatures haven't stopped the fun and they have been making the most of the park in the cooler parts of the days and then chilling in the pool during the hottest times—perfect!

It's been an amazing opportunity for the children to travel to a different country together, making life-long memories with their friends and adult helpers. We are sure that they will return ready to tell hundreds of wonderful stories about their adventures!



Our creative learning this week!

It's been a very different kind of week at school as we all adapted to the unusually hot weather. The children embraced the sunshine with plenty of creative, calming and cooling activities. At Forest School, they loved ice painting—watching colours swirl and melt in the heat. Indoors, they enjoyed peaceful watercolour painting, giving everyone a chance to slow down and stay cool. One of the biggest hits was our refreshing “foot spa” stations, where children could dip their toes in cool water and relax.

Throughout the week, we focused on staying safe in the sun, keeping to shaded areas, drinking plenty of water, and taking regular cool-down breaks. It's been a gentle, joyful few days of learning in the summer heat.





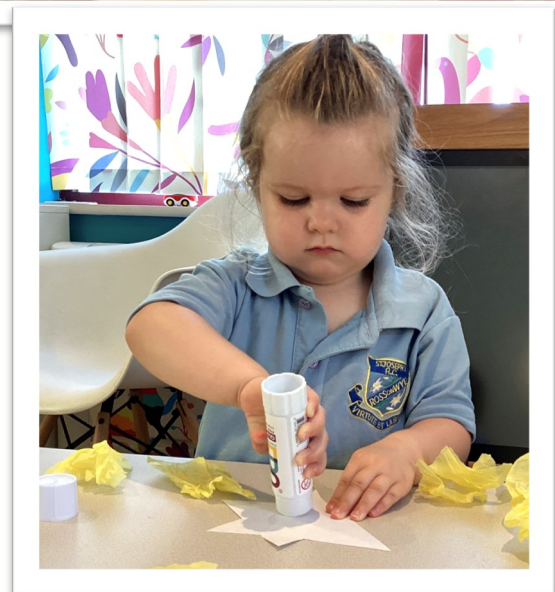


A message from Mrs Urding...

On such a hot and sunny day, we thought it would be a great idea in Cooking Club to make something that didn't require the oven!

The children had a lovely time making chocolate Rice Krispie cakes and Eton Mess. They enjoyed crunching up the meringue for the Eton Mess and adding it to the whipped cream, along with blueberries and raspberries. For the Rice Krispie cakes, a good old favourite, the children enjoyed stirring the melted chocolate and Rice Krispies together before spooning the mixture into cup-cake cases, ready to be chilled.





We have been keeping as cool as possible this week by visiting forest school, having lots of water and ice play and exploring the cold shaving foam!

The Oakleaves have been decorating suns, moons and stars as part of our R.E topic to represent God's wonderful world and all the things that he made during creation.

We can't wait for our trip to Little hedgehogs play garden!



On Wednesday, some of our Year 3 and 4 children took part in the Ian Bland World Cup 2026 Poetry session. They learned some skills they would need to write an exciting poem all about preparing players for the World Cup, producing some enjoyable and hilarious poems that they shared with each other in the cool shade at Forest School. Thank you, Ian, for a great experience!



St Joseph's Primary School presents

Fiddler on the Roof JR.

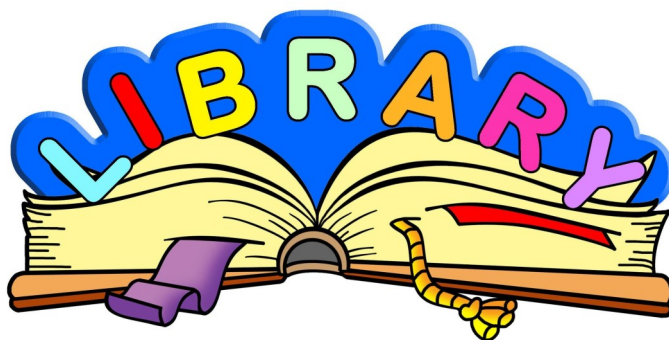


Tuesday 7th July

The Savoy Theatre, Monmouth

get
YOUR
TICKETS

Year 2 enjoyed a lovely trip to the library last Friday, spending time exploring a wide range of books and discovering new stories to dive into. On their walk through Ross, they were also delighted by the colourful 'yarn bombing' dotted around the town. Spotting the bright knitted creations added an extra bit of fun and curiosity to the morning, making the whole trip feel even more special.



Free School Meals: Important Changes from September 2026

From September 2026, the Government is expanding eligibility for free school meals (FSM) in England. This change is expected to make free school meals available to more children and provide additional support for families facing the rising cost of living.

What's changing?

Currently, most families receiving Universal Credit are only eligible for free school meals if their annual earned income is £7,400 or less (excluding benefits). From September 2026, this income threshold will be removed, meaning that all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals.

The Government estimates that this expansion will benefit hundreds of thousands of additional children across England and help reduce food insecurity for families.

What does this mean for families?

If your household receives Universal Credit, your child may become eligible for free school meals from September 2026, even if your earnings are above the current £7,400 threshold.

Families are encouraged to check their eligibility and apply through their local authority or school when the new arrangements come into effect.

A note about existing free school meal entitlement

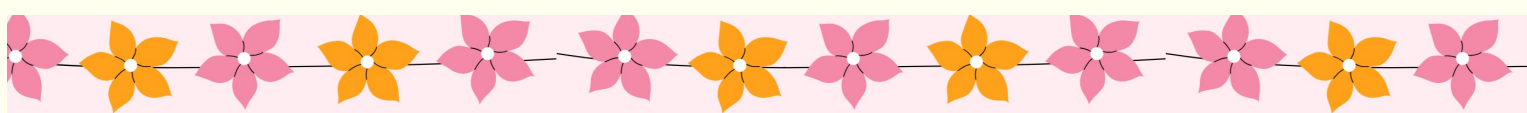
The transitional protections that have been in place since 2018 are ending in July 2026. These protections allowed some children to continue receiving free school meals even if their family's circumstances changed. From September 2026, eligibility will be reassessed under the new criteria.

Why apply?

In addition to receiving a free nutritious meal each school day, registering for free school meals can help schools access additional funding to support pupils' learning and wellbeing.

If you think your child may be eligible, please follow the link below:

[Free school meals - Herefordshire Council](#)



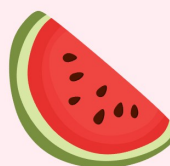
Limited
Spaces
Available!

St Joseph's

SUMMER

Holiday

CLUB



BOOK
NOW!

WED 15TH JULY – FRI 28TH AUGUST
Monday - Friday



Next Week!

Move up Morning

On Monday we will be holding our 'Move Up Morning'—a much anticipated moment in the school year. The children will spend time in their new classrooms and meet the teachers who will be guiding them next year. It's a lovely opportunity for everyone to get a feel for their new learning environment, ask questions, and begin building confidence and excitement for the year ahead. We're looking forward to a smooth, positive transition for all year groups.



Water Safety Assembly

Next week, we are delighted to welcome Anna Birt from the Canal and River Trust to lead a water safety assembly for all year groups. As we head into the summer months, it's especially important that children understand how to enjoy local rivers, canals and waterways safely. Anna will be helping pupils learn how to spot risks, make sensible choices near water, and keep themselves and others safe. It's an invaluable session that supports our ongoing commitment to wellbeing and safety across the school.



Canal &
River Trust

New Reception Family Picnic

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Reception families to our Family Picnic next Tuesday, which will take place on the school field. This is a lovely opportunity for children to spend time together in a relaxed setting before September. Miss Sadler is especially excited to see the children again and to meet all parents and carers, helping everyone begin to feel part of our school community. We hope it will be a happy, sunny afternoon for all.



Coming Soon!

SCHOOL GAMES

Our Year 5 and 6 children have been invited to represent St Joseph's at this year's Herefordshire School Games on 1st July.

The event is scheduled to start at 9:30 am, so the children need to arrive at the school by 8:15 am, ready to depart at 8:30 am.

Children will wear their light blue PE t-shirt, navy shorts, and suitable trainers. Weather-dependent, raincoats may be advisable. Please can you provide a sunhat and sun cream for your children and ensure they have a packed lunch and two full water bottles.

They will return back to school for normal home time collection.



Healthy packed lunches to try....

Healthy Packed Lunch Idea: Rainbow Pasta Salad

Ingredients

- 150g wholewheat pasta
- 1 handful cherry tomatoes, halved
- ½ cucumber, diced
- 1 small handful sweetcorn
- 1 small handful grated carrot
- 1–2 tbsp low-fat cream cheese or natural yoghurt
- A squeeze of lemon
- Pinch of pepper



Optional: cooked chicken pieces or chickpeas for extra protein

Method

- Cook the pasta according to packet instructions, then rinse under cold water to cool.
- Mix the vegetables in a bowl: tomatoes, cucumber, sweetcorn and carrot.
- Stir in the pasta, then add the cream cheese or yoghurt.
- Add a squeeze of lemon and a pinch of pepper.
- Mix well and spoon into a lunchbox. Keep chilled until school.

This makes a balanced, colourful lunch that children enjoy and parents can prepare quickly. It pairs perfectly with fruit, veggie sticks and a bottle of water.



Summer Term

Wednesday 24th June	Year 1 trip to Cattle Country POSTPONED -
Tuesday 30th June	New Reception class family picnic @ 1:30pm
Wednesday 1st July	School Games Hereford Years 5 and 6
Thursday 2nd July	Future Naturalists Day
Monday 6th July	Dress rehearsal for Fiddler on the Roof performance – Monmouth Savoy
Tuesday 7th July	Fiddler on the Roof performance – Mon- mouth Savoy 6pm
Thursday 9th July	Year 6 Leavers Mass
Friday 10th July	Nursery Graduation
Friday 10th July	Year 6 Surprise Trip!
Monday 13th July	Whole school Colour Run
Tuesday 14th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Tuesday 14th July	End of Summer Term



WYE

AMAZON

DANUBE

TIBER

THAMES

AVON

SEINE

***Back next week
due to the
exceptional
weather
circumstances. A
big thank you to
all our families
who have worked
with us to keep
our children safe
and comfortable!***



Enjoy your weekend!

God Bless

Mrs Francis