Jesus: in our hearts, in our minds, in our living, in our learning.

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Headteacher: Mrs Laura Taylor

4th September 2026



Our new Reception pupils have settled beautifully.
Welcome to St Joseph's!

Message from Mrs Taylor

It has been a real joy to welcome our pupils back to St Joseph's this week – we have missed them so much over the summer break! A very warm **WELCOME** and **CROESO** to all our new pupils in Nursery, Reception and across the school. We also welcome Mrs Cerys Heffey, our new Deputy Headteacher and two new LSAs, Miss Jenna Creasey and Mrs Laura Jones. The children have settled beautifully, and I have been so impressed with how quickly they have returned to the excellent learning behaviours they developed last year.

It has been wonderful to see:

- Nursery pupils painting their faces, identifying hair and eye colour
- Reception children recognising their different and special talents
- Year 1 pupils making paper faces for their class charter
- Year 2 painting portraits of St Francis, their class saint
- Year 3 recognising tens and units using manipulatives
- Year 4 creating posters about Solidarity
- Year 5 researching their class saint, St Carlo Acutis
- Year 6 completing their Class Charter recognising their rights to an education but also their responsibilities.

This term, our whole-school topic is **"Together We Stand!"** – exploring the theme Solidarity. Following on from 'This is Me!' (2024) and 'Save the Planet!' (2025), pupils will move from understanding themselves and their world to understanding their responsibility towards other people, particularly those who are vulnerable, marginalised, or experiencing injustice. To celebrate our learning, we will hold a **Global Neighbours Festival** including a celebration and exhibition of learning in the school hall on **Monday 5th October at 2.30pm**. All families are warmly invited to attend. As with last year's Culture and Heritage Celebration, we would love families to contribute – for example, by sharing traditional food from your culture or heritage. If you are able to support, please email the school office.

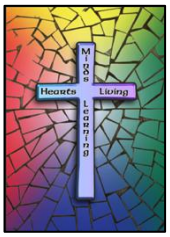
We are also working hard to ensure that all new families are set up with **Arbor, Seesaw, and Parent Pay**. If you are still having difficulties by the end of next week, please let us know. House colours for our new pupils will also be sent out by the end of next week.

Please do take a moment to check the **Dates for the Diary** section. I have now included the dates for our class liturgies, which will take place at 3.20pm on the specified dates. Reception and Year 1's liturgies will take place in the Spring Term.

Finally, don't forget you can follow our school journey on Instagram: **@stjpenarth**.

Take care and God bless,
Mrs Taylor

Prayer of the Week



We are all pilgrims on a journey — journeying in faith, walking with hope, and guided always by love. This is our mission as a school - to have Jesus in our hearts, in our minds, in our living, and in our learning

Say this prayer together:

Lord Jesus,
You walk beside us on our journey.
Be in our hearts – help us to keep our faith strong.
Be in our minds – fill us with hope each day.
Be in our living – guide us with Your love.
Be in our learning – open our eyes to see You.
Help us to journey together,
always in faith, with hope, and guided by love.
Amen.

Pupil Profile Virtues – Faith-filled and Hopeful



This half term we will be focusing on the virtues of 'faith-filled and hopeful' as part of our ongoing work to develop the St Joseph's Pupil Profile.

Pupils in St Joseph's RC Primary School are growing to be . . .
.....faith-filled in their beliefs and hopeful for the future.

To be FAITH-FILLED is to have FAITH in myself, in others and in God.
To have faith that God has chosen me. He has given me talents and skills to do something great for Him.
To have faith that my friends, my family and the community I live in, will support me, help me and encourage me.
To have faith that God's way is my way. God's way is the way I should go. When I do His will, I will be happy and the person God wants me to be.

This leads me to be HOPEFUL and courageous for the future. God has promised to be with us always. He gave us His Son Jesus, to teach us and to show us the way. God wants us to be happy and to have life to the full!

Our Mission Statement

Jesus: In our hearts, in our minds, in our living, and in our learning.

In Our Hearts as we journey in faith: Like the disciples who felt their hearts burning when they listened to Jesus, we want to keep faith alive in our hearts. How can we keep our hearts open to Jesus this year?

In Our Minds as we walk with hope: The disciples were confused and sad until Jesus opened the Scriptures to them. Hope filled their minds again. How can we keep hope in our thinking and learning, even when things are hard?

In Our Living guided by love: The disciples welcomed the stranger (Jesus) and shared a meal. We are guided by love when we welcome others, include everyone, and share. How can we show love in our friendships and our school family?

In Our Learning as pilgrims together: When Jesus broke the bread, the disciples finally recognised Him. Every day in our learning, we can discover Jesus in new ways. How will we learn with open eyes and open hearts this year?

Catholic Social Teaching – Solidarity and Peace

This half term we are learning about the Catholic Social Teaching principles, **'Solidarity and Peace'.** Solidarity means we believe in showing we care. In the Bible, St Paul writes a letter to the Galatians and says- 'All of you are one in Christ.' The Scripture tells us that God created us as one global family. It is important we show our brothers and sisters in need around the world that that we care.



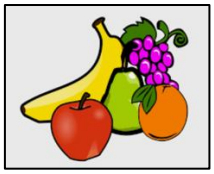
Pope Francis teaches us through his own writing - "We are a single family living in a common home." In his letter, *Fratelli Tutti,* he asks us to reach out to our sisters and brothers in need, whoever they are, wherever they may come from. *Human Dignity* means made in the image of God, *Common Good* means working for the good of everyone and *Solidarity* means showing we care.

We can show we care in many ways ….

- spending time with someone who is lonely
- offering to help someone in need
- praying for the needs of others
- and through fundraising to help charities like CAFOD.

Pray together:
Heavenly Father, our hearts are brimming over with your love.
Help us to be generous and always ready to share this love with everyone we meet.
Amen

Breaktime Snack



Children can bring fruit or vegetables to eat during mid-morning break.

Crisps, sweets, cookies, chocolate, cereal bars etc. are not permitted.

Children should not be sent to school with snacks or foods that may contain nuts as we have pupils in each class who may suffer an allergic reaction. This includes items such as peanut butter.

Healthy snacks in a box should be labelled clearly with the child's name.

Contacting your child's class teacher



We know how important it is that you can inform your child's teacher of anything that might impact on your child's happiness and learning during the day or of any questions and concerns that you may have. As it can be difficult to have face-to-face conversations at the start of the day, your child's teacher checks the class email account daily. Please use the year group email address to contact your child's class teacher e.g., Year 5's email address is year5@stjosephsrc.com.

You can also contact Mrs Lawrence our Additional Learning Needs Coordinator at ALNCO@ stjosephsrc.com. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs Taylor (Headteacher), Mrs Heffey (Deputy Headteacher) and the school admin staff at office@stjosephsrcadmin.com

Attendance

This week's attendance figures for each class are:
Well done to Year 6 who achieved the highest attendance this week and to all families who arrived at school on time.

Class	Attendance	Late
Reception	90.27%	0.00%
Year 1	92.42%	0.00%
Year 2	86.67%	0.00%
Year 3	94.44%	0.00%
Year 4	94.62%	0.00%
Year 5	93.96%	0.00%
Year 6	95.96%	0.00%



Term Dates 2026 – 2027

SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2026/2027

Term	Begin	Half term		End	No. of School Days
		Begin	End		
Autumn 2026	Tue 1 Sept 2026	Monday 26 Oct 2026	Friday 30 Oct 2026	Friday 18 Dec 2026	74
Spring 2027	Monday 4 Jan 2027	Monday 8 Feb 2027	Friday 12 Feb 2027	Friday 19 Mar 2027	50
Summer 2027	Monday 5 April 2027	Monday 31 May 2027	Friday 4 Jun 2027	*Tuesday 20 July 2027	71
				TOTAL	**195**

INSET Days

Tuesday 1st Sept 2026
Monday 4th January 2027
Monday 15th February 2027
Friday 30th April 2027
Monday 19th July 2027
Tuesday 20th July 2027

PE kit days for lessons with Mr Smith



Nursery/ Reception	Tuesday (Pupils do not need to wear PE kit until the Spring term)
Year 1, 3, 5 and 6	Monday
Years 2 and 4	Tuesday

This half term, pupils in Years 3 – 6 also need to wear PE kit on a Thursday (Cardiff City Football Stars Programme) and a Friday (Cricket Chance to Shine)

PE uniform
All pupils in Years 1- 6 must wear the PE kit outlined in the school's School Uniform Policy to school.
The PE kit consists of:

- House colour t-shirt (plain or with school logo) or white polo shirt.
- Navy shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms.
- Trainers.

Amazon Wish List – Thank you for your support!

Thank you to all families who supported us with resources last year.

Our Summer Wishlist is still open!

If you would like to contribute, please scan the QR code to access the list. You may need to log in to Amazon and then simply choose an item and select "Laura Taylor, Penarth Vale of Glamorgan Gift Registry Address" for delivery.

If possible, please include a gift note so that we know who to thank. Thank you for your continued support, generosity and commitment to our school community.

Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a real difference to the experiences and opportunities we can provide for our children.

Dates for the Diary



September

10th – Years 3 – 6 Cardiff City Stars Programme (PE kit to be worn)

10th – Reception and Year 1 Author Visit (Meet the Gruffalo with Gruffalo Granny)

10th – Good News Assembly today instead of Friday

11th – Years 3 – 6 Cricket Chance to Shine (PE kit to be worn)

11th – Year 1 whole class violin lessons begin

16th – Individual and Sibling Photographs (Colorfoto)

21st – Fairtrade Fortnight

October

1st – Year 2 Class Collective Worship 3.20pm

2nd – CAFOD Brighten Up For Harvest/ Vale Foodbank Donations/ Fairtrade Assembly and Coffee Event 2.30pm

5th – Global Neighbours Festival from 2.30pm

October

8th – Year 3 Class Collective Worship 3.20pm

12th – Shwmae Welsh Language Day

15th – Year 4 Class Collective Worship 3.20pm

16th – Show Racism the Red Card Day

26th – 30th - Half term

November

9th – Switch off Fortnight

16th – Anti Bullying Week

12th – Year 6 Class Collective Worship 3.20pm

19th – Year 5 Class Collective Worship 3.20pm

20th – Universal Children's Day

Pupil Profile Virtues – Compassionate and Loving!

Nursery	Santino Mifsud	**Year 3**	Xavier Buinimasi
Reception	Sophia Sulley	**Year 4**	Lette Quick
Year 1	Frankie Leach	**Year 5**	Amelia Barber
Year 2	Camilla Haincock	**Year 6**	Olivia Buinimasi



Weekly Good News Awards



Mrs Taylor's Good News stickers are for pupils who have had a fabulous start to the school year following the school rules of always being ready, respectful, safe and loving.



Congratulations to this week's winners!

Nursery	Lyra Hales Zachary Eley-Gambling Jonah Morgans Elinor Perkins	**Year 3**	Daisy Bolt Idris Pryce Roberts Doris Perkins Mia Watts
Reception	Freya Watson Theo Watson Frankie Griffiths Shen Kelly	**Year 4**	John Murray Jackson Ward Molly Dix Freyja Leonard Smith
Year 1	Oscar Murphy Newport Best Ajileye Demi Daly Ana Choto	**Year 5**	Evelyn Davies Harvey Haincock Lana Stolzenberg Noah Ford
Year 2	Ellen Jones Archie Barber Erin Spear Georgie-Ray James	**Year 6**	Finley Todd Iris Abbott Annabelle Hoover Fletcher Mulchinock

Join us for...

EARLY BREAKFAST CLUB

ST JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
PENARTH

7:30 - 8:50am

Busy mornings? Give your child a calm, happy start to the day

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Games, Lego and puzzles
- Arts and crafts
- Healthy breakfast with fruit, cereal and toast
- Led by Mrs Peach





HOW TO BOOK

- £7 per session
- Starts May 6
- Book regular sessions or ad-hoc days via ParentPay