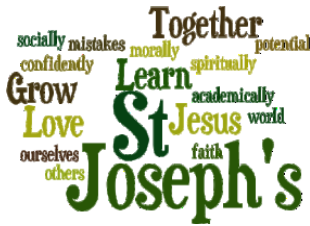


16th January 2026

St Joseph's Catholic Primary Weekly Reminders



Gospel reading for

Sunday 18th January

Second Sunday in Ordinary time

John 1: 29-34



Headteacher Message

It was a pleasure to meet with the pupils this week during assembly as we welcomed a new year and a fresh start. We revisited our theme for this academic year, 'Hands', and reflected on the incredible and meaningful things our hands allow us to do—help others, offer comfort, and ultimately make the world a kinder place.

We listened to the story of the Dürer brothers, Albrecht and Albert, who both dreamed of attending art school and becoming famous artists. In a remarkable act of sacrifice, Albert worked long hours in the mines to support Albrecht through art school. Sadly, the physical demands of this work injured Albert's hands, preventing him from pursuing his own artistic dreams. Albrecht later created the drawing 'Praying Hands', which captures Albert's damaged hands. More importantly, it symbolises love, sacrifice, and kindness—qualities we all strive to show, especially at the beginning of a new year.



Like Albrecht and Albert, we all hope to be remembered for the kindness and love we show to others. Over the next week or two, the pupils will create their own 'Good Deed Beads', challenging themselves to carry out five acts of kindness each day. Through these small but meaningful actions, we aim to "leave a handprint on someone else's heart." What a wonderful legacy to leave in the world. Please take a moment to talk to your child about the story and its message, and ask them the question we have been reflecting on together:

"What did you do today to leave a handprint on someone else's heart?"

Key Reminders

Tuesday 20th January
9.00am KS2 Hall

Class Assembly 6BT

Wednesday 21st January

VR Day—Years 5 and 6

Friday 23rd January

Y6 PE Afternoon

Links to other newsletters

[Preschool Newsletter](#)

[Reception Newsletter](#)

Author of the Week

KIRSTY APPLEBAUM



'The Life and Time of Lonny Quicke' was runner up in the Teach Primary Book Awards 2021.

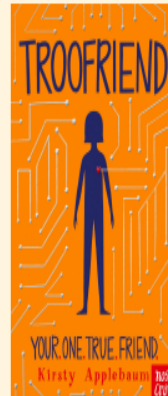


In Lonny Quicke, he can save lives with the touch of his hand.

A Troofriend is one that never lies or bullies...but they aren't real either.

The Middler is set during the Quiet wars, where dirty wanderers roam.

All books which prompt the reader to think, 'what would I do?' as they are reading, by dealing with issues that we might not have considered before!



If you like Christopher Edge or SF Said, you'll love these books!

*Books are AMAZING!
Every time you read one
it leaves you a little bit
of bookish magic inside
you that stays with you
forever. Happy reading!*

Kirsty Applebaum says:

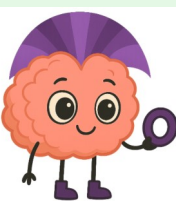
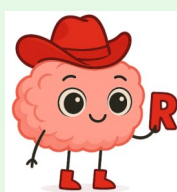


Class Champions this week



Class	Winner	Class	Winner
RMG	Aadam	RM	Cian
1B	Ted	1D	Mia
2AE	Dolcie	2RE	Sonny
3B	Riley-George	3W	Aubrey
4B	Emilia	4FG	Edan
5D	Tom	5F	Archie
6BT	Grace	6O	Olivia

Rainbow Award Winners this week



Teddy Yr5, Hriti Yr1, Prem Yr6, Frankie Yr1, Williams Yr5,
Amelia 2AE, Erin RMG, Alfie Long 2RE, Riley 3W,
Ethan RM, Ioana 3B, Isabelle 6BT

Keeping Our Belongings Safe – Let's Work Together!

We know how frustrating it can be when items go missing, and we want to make sure every child's belongings find their way back home. In light of this could we please ask parents to:

- Check the items your child brings home and return anything that may have found its way into your house by mistake.
- Remind pupils about taking care of their personal belongings - we will do this too and carry out extra checks in classrooms at the end of each day.
- Make sure all clothing is clearly labelled – it makes it so much easier for us to reunite lost items quickly!

Save the date..... Thursday, 5th February 2026



**SMARTPHONE
FREE CHILDHOOD**

You're Invited!

Smartphone Free Childhood - event at St. Joseph's Primary School.

Join us for an insightful evening to learn more about the **Smartphone Free Childhood** movement and explore strategies for navigating the challenges of Smartphones as children grow older.

Event Details

- **Guest Speaker:** Andy Cockburn
- **Date:** Thursday, 5th February 2026
- **Time:** 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM • **Location:** St. Joseph's Primary School
- Or join us on zoom! (Link to be sent out nearer the time)

What to Expect

- **Discover** the mission and vision of the "Smartphone Free Childhood" movement.
- **Gain practical advice** on how to approach the topic of smartphones as your children get older.



RECORDERS

DO YOU HAVE A RECORDER THAT IS NO LONGER USED, OR WANTED? PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING IT TO YEAR 3 FOR RECORDER LESSONS. MANY THANKS.



SEN Coffee Morning

*Tuesday, 27th January 2026
2.15—3.30pm—KS1 Hall*

*Specialist Teacher Discussion
'Supporting anxious behaviour'*

Please come along

Attendance

eg	% Week	Reg	% Week	% Year group YTD
RM	95.1	RMG	97	95.4
1D	94.8	1B	93.3	95.6
2AE	92.4	2E	93.3	94.5
3W	89.9	3B	93.1	95.1
4B	90.4	4G/F	91.2	95.3
5B	98.5	5P	82.8	93.4
6O	91.2	6T	95.8	94.7
Top Reg	5B			



**Highest Class Attendance was
5B with 98.5%**



**Winner of the Attendance Bag -
Isabella —Year 5**

Reporting Absence

Please use the dedicated absence@stjosephschalfont.school email address to ensure your child's absence is recorded. Alternatively you may call 01753 887743 (Option 1) to leave a message on the absence line.

Absence must be reported before 09.00am for each day of absence.

Please be reminded the school gates close at 8.45am. After this time parents must park outside and accompany children to the school office to sign in.

**Have a wonderful weekend,
From all of St Joseph's Staff**

