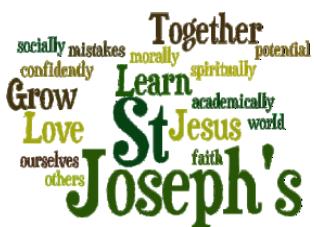


## St Joseph's Catholic Primary Weekly Reminders



*Gospel reading for  
Sunday 1st February  
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Matthew 5: 1-12a*



### Headteacher Message

#### St Thomas Becket

This week, we celebrated the patron saint of our Trust, St Thomas Becket. He was the son of a wealthy London merchant and rose to become both the Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor to King Henry II, making him one of the most powerful figures in the country and the leader of the Catholic Church in England.

At first, many people doubted that Thomas could become a great church leader because of his luxurious lifestyle and love of fine things. However, he soon proved them wrong. He welcomed the poor into his home, offering them food and money. He gave up his rich clothing for simple monks' robes and even chose to sleep on the stone floor rather than in his bed.

Over time, Thomas Becket underwent a remarkable transformation. He often chose to defend the rights of the Church, even when it meant disagreeing with the King. King Henry II grew increasingly unhappy with Becket's new sense of duty and eventually accused him of theft. Thomas denied the accusation and even offered to repay the money, but the King refused. As tensions rose, Becket fled to France. When he eventually returned to England, Henry continued to speak against him. On 29th December 1170, four knights, believing they were acting on the King's wishes, attacked and murdered Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral.

The Christian world was shocked. In 1173, the Pope declared Thomas Becket a saint. Today, many people make a pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral, honouring St Thomas Becket as a martyr—someone who was willing to die for his beliefs.

As the patron saint of our Trust, we look to Thomas Becket as an example: to stand up for what is right, to remain true to our beliefs, and to care for others.

Please take a moment to speak with your child about their day on Thursday and the activities they took part in to learn more about this inspiring man.





## Class Champions this week



Class	Winner	Class	Winner
<b>RMG</b>	Alfie-Beau Andrews	<b>RM</b>	Anna Blancha
<b>1B</b>	Ava Holland	<b>1D</b>	Tadhg Jordan
<b>2AE</b>	Cian Dundon	<b>2RE</b>	Aarav Chhabra
<b>3B</b>	Amara Bruno	<b>3W</b>	Ciaran Callery
<b>4B</b>	Imogen Gibson	<b>4FG</b>	Michael McCann
<b>5F</b>	Frankie Harper-Matthews	<b>5F</b>	Xavier Kriel
<b>6BT</b>	Gabriel Chmal	<b>6O</b>	Sienna Dann

## Rainbow Award Winners this week



Cleo Faers, Anna Pilsniak, Cleo Lawson, Dylan Jordan,  
Donya Pahlevan, Tejas Mundae, Rosie Higgins, Hollt  
Lopez, Ismael Doha, Jessica Freegard, Frankie O'Donnell,  
All of class 4B

### 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 re-unite lost items quickly!
- **YELLOW LOST PROPERTY CONTAINERS ARE OUTSIDE THE KS1 HALL**

## Key Reminders

9am—Tuesday, 3rd February	Year 1 Assembly
Wednesday, 4th February	Young Voices Trip (choir)
9.30am Wednesday, 4th February	Year 5D Pizza Express Trip
All day—Thursday, 5th February	Y1 Science Museum Trip
7pm Thursday, 5th February	Smartphone Free Childhood Event
Friday 6th February	Year 5 PE afternoon

**CLASS ASSEMBLIES START AT 9.00AM. PLEASE BE PUNCTUAL.  
ARRIVING LATE IS DISRUPTIVE AND CAN UPSET THOSE PERFORMING**

## Links to other newsletters

[Preschool Newsletter](#)

[Reception Newsletter](#)

## Author of the Week

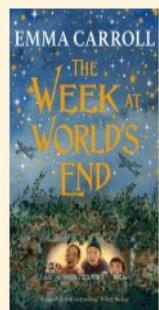
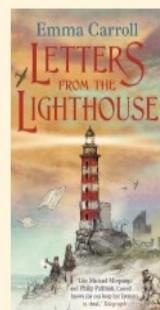
### EMMA CARROLL



Emma is the queen of historical fiction - she has even been Waterstone's Book of the Month twice!

Her books are based in the past, ranging from eras like the Ancient Egyptians, the Victorians and World War Two and will take you back in time to discover what life might have been like. Each story is written with strong main characters that need to overcome challenges with the help of their friends.

Her book, 'The Girl Who Walked on Air' was nominated for the Carnegie Medal award.



If you like Lucy Strange or Phil Earle, you'll love these books!

*Emma Carroll, in Strange Star, says:*

*For the book was also about ambition. About wanting to be the biggest, the best, the most famous at any cost. It was about pushing the boundaries of discovery. Most of all, though, it was a warning: without love and kindness, we all become monsters.*

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



**SMARTPHONE  
FREE CHILDHOOD**

## **What is Smartphone free Childhood?**

**Smartphone Free Childhood is a movement of families standing together to delay smartphones and social media – turning isolation into collective strength.**

Together we're giving children back what truly matters:

time to play, space to grow, freedom to be.

Because childhood should be shaped by families and communities, not algorithms.

**We urge parents to make every effort to attend this important event regardless of the age of your child so that you are prepared for this stage of their development.**

## **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**

## Attendance

Reg	% Week	Reg	% Week
RM	98.3	RMG	96.5
1D	100	1B	98.2
2AE	92.8	2E	91.0
3W	97.0	3B	91.9
4B	99.3	4G/F	95.0
5F	100	5D	90.4
6O	97.2	6T	96.3
Top Reg	1D & 5F		



**Highest Class Attendance was  
1D /5F with 100%**

The class will have extra playtime , cookies and juice to celebrate.



**Winner of the Attendance Bag  
Joseph—Class 6BT**

### Reporting Absence

Please use the dedicated [absence@stjosephschalfont.school](mailto: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**

