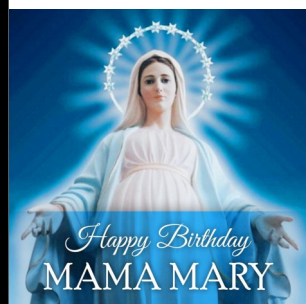




Dear parents, carers and family members,



I hope you have all enjoyed your first full week of school. Transitioning back into the routine of academic life can be both exciting and a little daunting, particularly for our youngest learners. I am aware that we have some very tired Reception children, but I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you all for the wonderful start you have made. This week has been a true testament to your resilience and adaptability.

During our Monday worship, we spoke about a very special person's birthday this week—our Mother, Mary, whose birthday we celebrated on 8th September. Then I showed the children an intriguing sign that read '>300'. I prompted them to discuss what they believed this sign might represent. I took the opportunity to explain that this figure relates to the number of times the word 'love' appears in the Bible—more than 300 instances! This revelation sparked an engaging discussion where we explored the various facets of love found in all religious texts, highlighting that love encompasses numerous forms.

I explained to the children that our expressions of love can take different shapes based on our relationships. For instance, the way our parents love one another differs from the love we have for them, just as our affection for our friends is distinct in its nature. To illustrate this, I shared a picture of our local area and invited the children to consider how many individuals they love live nearby. We then examined a map of the UK to reflect on those they hold dear within the country. Lastly, we looked at a globe, prompting the children to think about anyone they love who may reside in distant parts of the world. This reflection highlighted the profound truth that, among all the people in our school community, an enormous amount of love is indeed distributed across the globe.

To deepen our understanding, I presented List 1, which included words synonymous with love. Following this, I introduced List 2, reading out the words and inviting the children to share how these terms made them feel. We explored which list they preferred and engaged in thought-provoking questions: Which list do you believe most people around the world would choose? Which list might Jesus select? Lastly, which list does God wish for us to embrace?

In our worship, Gracie from Class 4 beautifully read from the Bible, from 1 Corinthians 13: 4-5, which eloquently defines the nature of true love, often referred to as agape love. The frequent mention of 'love' in the Bible underlines its universal importance. Each day grants us the opportunity to express love to those around us. As Christians, we believe that God possesses an immense love for everyone and desires for this love to spread throughout the world via both our words and actions.

This past week has been notably quiet and calm. On Thursday, Class 4 had their first swimming lesson as a class. As a coastal school, it is crucial to us that all our children leave St. Joseph's as confident swimmers, equipped with the necessary skills for safety and enjoyment in water activities.

I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone who attended our first Celebration Worship. Many of my colleagues from the wider community have told me that we are the only school that invite all parents and family members to participate in such a worship. We truly believe this is a special occasion that strengthens the bonds within our community, and we take great joy in sharing these moments with you and your families.

Next week promises to be particularly significant as we celebrate the school's 70th Anniversary since reopening after being relocated following the catastrophic flood of 1953. We are fortunate to have a representative from the Harwich Museum joining us to speak to the children about the rich history of our school during a special assembly. Please can the children come to school wearing 1950s theme clothing, if they are unable please do not worry, normal uniform will be fine—this is not a nonuniform day. The children will also be having a treat at the end of the day.

On Tuesday, I ask that you ensure your child arrives at school looking very smart, as we will have our School Photographer in attendance. If your child's class has PE scheduled for that day, arrangements will be made to reschedule it for another day of the week. Please keep an eye out for a message from your class teacher regarding this.



On Wednesday, we will be opening our classroom doors to welcome parents to our 'Meet the Teacher' event at 3pm. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to discover all that your child's class is engaging in and any important information that may be pertinent. I kindly request that all parents arrive via the side gate, with Class 1 and 2 entering through the outside doors and Classes 3 and 4 accessing the building via the slope. Further details will be communicated by your class teacher.

I am thrilled to share some delightful news: we have been nominated for the Music Mark, recognising our dedication towards the importance of music education. We are committed to advocating for the significance of music in our curriculum and the creative life of the school, providing equitable, diverse, and inclusive music education for every pupil, and welcoming opportunities to broaden our musical horizons by collaborating with providers in our community and beyond.

Attendance Data

	Last week	This week	Late Marks
Class 1	100%	100%	0
Class 2	96.30%	97.78%	5
Class 3	95.96%	99.09%	5
Class 4	88.38%	93.94%	3

Lastly, I have a few reminders. Please ensure that toys or objects from home do not accompany children to school, as I would hate for anything precious to become misplaced or damaged. We are well-equipped with all the necessary resources to support your children's learning in school.

Additionally, I kindly ask that all bikes and scooters are not ridden on the school drive for the safety of all our pupils. I also request that children refrain from playing on the climbing frame before or after school, as we do not have the requisite insurance for such activities and, God forbid, should any incidents occur. It is vital to note that we only permit our Key Stage 2 children to use the climbing frame during school hours, as we believe Key Stage 1 children are too young for such equipment.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Take care - God bless - Mrs. Golding



Certificate Winners

Class 1: All of Class 1

Class 2: All of Class 2

Class 3: Preston and Declan

Class 4: Heidi and Violet

Whole School Attendance this week: 97.46%

Winning Class this week: Class 1 - 100%



Winning House Team This Week:
ST ANDREW

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon 15th September	70th Anniversary of St Joseph's in The Drive
Tues 16th September	School Photos
Weds 17th September	11am New School Year Mass at Church—all welcome Meet the Teacher 3pm
Mon 22nd September	Flu immunisations
Fri 26th September	MacMillan Cake Sale
Tuesday 30th September	Rugby Tournament Y2/3—selected children
Weds 22nd October	Open Day—Prospective Parents—details below
Fri 24th October	Last Day for Children before Half Term
Thurs 6th November	Pizza and Catch up—Y7 + Y8 pupils—details to follow
Weds 12th November	Y6 Electric Palace—Crucial Crew—details to follow
Weds 19th November	Open Day—Prospective Parents
Tues 25th November	Parent/Teacher Meetings—details to follow
Weds 26th November	Parent/Teacher Meetings-details to follow

The non pupil days are:

Friday 28th November

Monday 5th January

Monday 20th July

If you would like a printed copy of the school terms dates below please call at the office.

Uniform/Hair/Earrings

All children are required to wear the **correct school uniform**.

This includes school shoes and not trainers. Please do catch Mrs Golding on the gate if you have an issue.

PLEASE NAME EVERYTHING! Already this week we have dealt with lost property—items without names. If your child's uniform is named we can put it back on their peg. If it goes home with another child it is more likely to be returned.

No **jewellery** except one pair of small studs is allowed in school. **Earrings** must be removed for all sport (including swimming).

Staff are not allowed to remove them so if your child cannot do it unaided please remove them at home for PE days.

Children are allowed to wear **watches** but NOT watches that enable communications.

Hair accessories should be small and in school colours.

With the weather unpredictable at the moment a named **waterproof jacket** is advised. Children do still go out for fresh air even if it is drizzling.



Breakfast Club

There are spaces at Breakfast Club —You are welcome to come along on the day. 8am is arrival time. Please see Mrs Campbell for more information. The cost is £2.75 per day and charges follow on ParentPay at the end of the week.

Week Beginning Monday 12th September

Week 3 of the menu.....

Please note that dinner on Monday will be a picnic lunch and not meatballs

Monday

Meatballs with a choice of sauces

Served with Pasta

Baguette/Roll
served with salad

Tuesday

Sausage Rolls

Served with diced potatoes and sweetcorn

Baguette/Roll
served with salad

Wednesday

Roast Gammon

served with roast potatoes, green beans and broccoli

Baguette/Roll
served with salad

Thursday

Chicken Wraps

served with wedges and corn on the cob

Baguette/Roll
served with salad

Friday

Fish Finger Wrap

served with crispy chips and peas

Baguette/Roll
served with salad

Available everyday

A healthy salad bar, fresh fruit, and yoghurt



St Joseph's are occasionally asked to promote activities from local groups, such as the Swimming Pool, the Sports Hall, Church Groups etc....

Such activities are not quality assured by the school and parents should be aware of the need to reassure themselves of the quality and safety of the services on offer, for example by visiting, looking at inspection reports etc.

Our website can be accessed at

<https://www.st-josephs->

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Term and Holiday - Academic Year 2025-2026

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
									1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				
29	30																										

January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4							1							1			1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
														30	31												

May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
																					31						

	= Schooldays		= School holidays		= Bank holidays
	= Weekends				
	= Non Pupil days				

schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated,
or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term:	Monday 1 September 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025 <i>Half Term 27 October – 31 October</i>	75 days
Spring Term:	Monday 5 January 2026 – Friday 27 March 2026 <i>Half Term 16 February - 20 February</i>	55 days
Summer Term:	Monday 13 April 2026 – Monday 20 July 2026 <i>Half Term 25 May – 29 May, and May Bank Holiday - 4 May</i>	65 days
		<u>195 days</u>

Please note:

The above dates may vary for individual schools, especially Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies. You are strongly advised to check with your child's school before making any holiday or other commitments.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

**Open Days for Parents/Carers
Applying for Reception School Places to
Start School in September 2026**

Wednesday 22nd October from 10am to 4.30pm

Wednesday 19th November 1.30pm to 6.30pm

**Tours run throughout the day—Please call to book
your place. We look forward to seeing you.**



***Please email us to book at:
admin@st-josephs-dovercourt.essex.sch.uk
Or call 01255 503493***



Happy Days
Creative

Photo Video Studio

Happy Days School Photo Subscription Information

We are delighted to offer you the opportunity to sign up to our amazing value monthly subscription service for all your school photos for just £4.00 per month.

Just to clarify how simple it is, you sign up one time only, you will add all your children's information into the form, set up a simple direct debit payment for just £4.00 per month (to be taken on the last day of every month) and we do the rest.

How often do we visit?

We aim to visit your school 3 times throughout the school year to shoot the following:

Traditional school portraits and sibling photos
Desktop portraits
Class groups

(The actual number of visits will be determined by your school)

What do you get and how does it work?

When we photograph your children, you will automatically receive one 5x7 inch print of every portrait photo we take and any sibling shots. We aim to capture 3 shots per child and 3 sibling shots (if applicable). You do not need to do anything to order these prints, they will automatically be sent to your school with our bulk orders, generally 2-3 weeks after the photo day.

Please note your subscription will not include historical photos, only photos taken during the term after first payment will be included.



You will also receive one 8x6 printed class photo when we do these in the summer term.

On top of the physical prints, you can also download all your portrait and sibling images free of charge by visiting www.hdporders.com and entering your unique access code which your child will bring home on photo day. Unfortunately, class group photos will not be available in digital format, on these visits you will receive prints only.

Finally, as a subscription customer you will also receive 50% OFF our great value packages and extra prints online, should you wish to order additional prints/sizes for family members.

1 x Child	2 x Children	3 x Children
2 x Download all images £22 each Total - £44	4 x Download all images £22 each Total - £88 (includes sibling images)	6 x Download all images £22 each Total - £132 (includes sibling images)
6 x Portrait images printed as 7x5 prints - £9.90 each Total - £59.40	15 x Portrait images printed as 7x5 prints - £9.90 each Total - £148.50	21 x Portrait images printed as 7x5 prints - £9.90 each Total - £207.90
1 x Class group photo printed as a 8x6 or 12x5 print - min £10.90 Total min £10.90	2 x Class group photo printed as a 8x6 or 12x5 print - min £10.90 each Total min £21.80	3 x Class group photo printed as a 8x6 or 12x5 print - min £10.90 each Total min £32.70
All this for only £4 a month		
RRP - £114.30	RRP - £258.30	RRP - £372.60

How do you sign up?

If you have previously signed up for this service, you do not need to do this again. Your current subscription will simply continue.

If this is something that you would be interested in joining,

PLEASE REGISTER HERE:

www.happydays.photos

No later than Sunday 21st September 2025

When registering please use your school code of:

SJPC012

Do you already have a subscription but need to add another child?

If you have an existing subscription and want to add a new sibling to your account, click the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/232402872195355>

Join us for

ENGLISH SUPPORT GROUP



Tuesdays 9.30am - 11.30am
(Starting from Tuesday 16th September)

The Royal Oak Inn, Main Road, Harwich, CO12 3PL

We are looking for new students to join a free conversational English support group, which is led by volunteers.

Online learning also available during Summer holidays.

For more information or to register your interest please contact:

lera.dmytriw@cvstendring.org.uk or 07547 104507



ACL

FREE!

Understand Anxiety for SEND Children Online Course

Looking at anxiety, the causes of anxiety and how to support your child or young person.

Date: Various - check website

Time: check website

Scan the QR code, or Visit our website
aclessex.com and type
'UNDERSTAND ANXIETY' in the
'Find a course...' box



aclessex.com

0345 603 7635



Essex County Council

The ACL logo is located in the top left corner, featuring the letters 'ACL' in white on a dark blue background.

ACL

A red, jagged-edged badge with the word 'FREE!' in white, located in the top right corner.

FREE!



Managing Big Emotions

Online Course

Develop an understanding of emotional expression and how to manage big emotions in young people.

Dates: 30/10/25 19:00-21:00, 25/11/25 13:00 - 15:00
more dates available online

A green arrow pointing to the right, located to the left of the QR code text box.

Scan the QR code, or
Visit our website
aclessex.com and type
"BIG EMOTIONS" in the
'Find a course...' box



aclessex.com

0345 603 7635



Essex County Council

**ACL****FREE!**

Positive Parenting Online Course

This course is designed to support you to understand your children and provide parenting support. It covers boundaries, communication skills, understanding feelings and emotions and most importantly how to have fun as a family.

Date - 11 September to 16 October 2025

more dates available online

Time: 12:45am - 15:15pm



Scan the QR code, or
Visit our website
aclessex.com and type
'POSITIVE PARENTING' in the
'Search Courses...' box



aclessex.com

0345 603 7635



Essex County Council

**ACL****FREE**

Setting Boundaries

Online Course

Empower your parenting journey with our 'Setting Boundaries' course. Learn the importance of clear, consistent limits and how they contribute to a child's sense of security and well-being.

Date: 16/09/2025 to 23/09/2025

(more dates available online)

Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm

Scan the QR code, or
Visit our website aclessex.com
and type "BOUNDARIES" in
the 'Find a course...' box

**aclessex.com****0345 603 7635**

Essex County Council