



Dear Parents, family and friends of St. Joseph's,

"Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near."

-Philippians 4:4-5



As we approach the conclusion of this term, it is with great joy that I reflect on the events of the past week, particularly as we have entered the third week of Advent, a time dedicated to the Joy candle. This week, we have been reminded of the profound message found in Philippians 4:4-5, which encourages us to "rejoice" for "indeed the Lord is near." This passage encapsulates the essence of our preparations for the celebration of Christ's coming to earth, and I am delighted to share how this spirit of joy has permeated our school community at St. Joseph's.

On Monday, Class 4 exemplified the spirit of joy by visiting the Don Thompson Care Home, where they sang carols to the residents. Their heartfelt performance undoubtedly brought smiles and warmth to the residents, reminding us all of the joy that music and community can bring during this festive season.

The festivities continued on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings with our much-anticipated Key Stage 1 nativity performance. The children delivered a splendid portrayal of the nativity story, filled with beautiful singing and delightful giggles that truly encapsulated the Christmas spirit. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the children for their outstanding performances and a special thank you to the KS1 staff for their unwavering support and dedication in bringing this production to life. It was a truly memorable experience that filled us all with the joy of the season.

On Tuesday afternoon, Class 3 continued the theme of spreading joy by visiting Lime Court, where they engaged in Christmas crafts with the residents. This intergenerational activity not only brought joy to the residents but also allowed our children to experience the true meaning of giving and community spirit.

Thursday brought a delightful surprise to St. Joseph's as we welcomed a very special visitor—Father Christmas himself! He graciously delivered thoughtful gifts to each class, spreading Christmas wishes and cheer throughout the school. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the families for their generous contributions, which have made this occasion possible. Your kindness and support are greatly appreciated.

Friday was a day filled with festive spirit, commencing with our annual Christingle service. The children sang beautifully and read with great clarity, creating a warm and uplifting atmosphere. Following this, our Carols at School event was a resounding success, and I wish to thank everyone who attended. It was heartening to see so many of our families come together to celebrate this joyous season.

As we look forward to the new year, I would like to remind you that Monday 5th January will be a non-pupil day. School will reopen on Tuesday, 6th January, when we will celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord with a special Mass at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church, commencing at 11:30 am. All are warmly invited to join us for this significant occasion.

Additionally, on Thursday, Year 1 and Class 2 will embark on their first swimming lesson. Mrs. Standen has kindly requested that all children attending come to school wearing their swimming costumes beneath their PE kits to facilitate a smooth transition to the pool.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the children, parents, and family members who have shown unwavering support throughout this term. Your involvement and encouragement have been invaluable to our school community. I wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas break, filled with love and happiness. I look forward to welcoming you back in the new year.

Take care – God Bless- Mrs. Golding



Attendance Data

	This Term Last year	This Term	This Term Late Marks
Class 1	91.29%	96.30%	27
Class 2	96.05%	95.08%	19
Class 3	94.94%	95.63%	89
Class 4	96.04%	93.90%	41



Certificate Winners

Will continue in the New Year

Class 1:

Class 2:

Class 3:

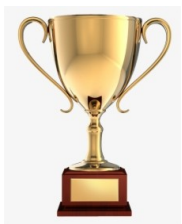
Class 4:

Mrs Golding's Attendance Award:

Kye

Whole School Attendance this week: 95.13%

Winning Class this week: Class 1 - 95.24%



*Winning House Team This Week:
To be continued in the New Year*

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon 5th January	Non Pupil Day—Children return Tuesday 6th January
Tues 6th January	Children back to school
Thurs 8th January	First Year 1 and 2 Swim session
Weds 4th February	School Photos—Desk Top Portraits
Fri 13th February	Last day before the half-term break
Mon 23rd February	First day back after half-term
Fri 27th March	PTA Auction TBC Last day of Spring term
Mon 13th April	First day back for children after Easter
Mon 4th May	Bank Holiday—School Closed
Mon 11th May	SATs Week—Y6
Fri 22nd May	Last day before half-term
Mon 1st June	First day back after half-term
Fri 19th July	Last day of school for Children



Week Beginning Tuesday 6th January
Menu—Week 1

Autumn Menu - Week One

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pizza with Sweetcorn or Jacket Potatoes	Pasta Bolognaise Or Jacket Potatoes	Turkey Pin Wheel Or Jacket Potatoes	Sausage + Mash Or Jacket Potatoes	Fish Fingers and Chips or Jacket Potatoes
Salad Bar	Salad Bar	Cubed Potatoes Salad Bar	Salad Bar	Beans Salad Bar
Fruit and Yoghurt	Fruit and Yoghurt	Fruit and Yoghurt	Fruit and Yoghurt	Fruit and Yoghurt or Treat Friday

**Cool water, fresh fruit and yoghurt available daily*



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Schools meals are free for children in Class 1 and 2. Paying children in Class 3 and 4 are charged £2.75.

**Thank you
Mrs Colley**

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->



MISS FINNEY TUTORING

ages 3 - 11

Tutoring group spaces are
available in the following

subjects:

- Phonics
- Mathematics
- English
- SATs Preparation
- Phonics Screening Test

Offering tutoring in a small
classroom environment for
children ages 3-11.



Preparation

For further information, please contact:



07398091022



vfinneytutoring@outlook.com



[@miss.finney.tutoring](https://www.instagram.com/miss.finney.tutoring)





Winter Reading Challenge

10 January to 22 February

Join at your local library!



libraries.essex.gov.uk

   
[@essexlibraries](https://twitter.com/essexlibraries)


Essex County Council

ESSEX YEAR
OF
OPPORTUNITY



About Boys

Course 5-11 years

FREE!



Online Live Course

A 4-session course created specially for Mums of Boys 5 -11 years old.

Discover and Learn:

- ✓ Clearer understanding of your son's needs
- ✓ Practical tips for boundaries and discipline
- ✓ More confidence in your parenting journey

If you're facing tricky moments or simply want to feel more equipped, this course will help you build a stronger, more connected relationship with your son.

Date: 13/1/2026 - 3/2/2026 (4 Weeks)
Date: 14/1/2026 - 4/2/2026 (4 Weeks)

Time: 9:45 - 11:45
Time: 19:00 - 21:00

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



aclessex.com
0345 603 7635








FREE!






Managing Big Emotions

Online Live Course

✦ What You Will Learn

- Emotional Control: Strategies to help children recognize and regulate their emotions and impulses.
- Sensory Management: Practical tools to support children in meeting their sensory needs.
- Conflict Resolution: Techniques to guide children in problem-solving and handling disagreements constructively.

Date: 13/01/2026 - 20/01/2026 Time: 19:00- 21:00

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





Sibling Rivalry

Online Live Course

FREE!



Join our LIVE interactive course designed to help parents build stronger connections with their children and gain practical parenting support. You will Gain:

- Tools to better understand your child's emotions and behavior
- Strategies for positive communication and conflict resolution
- Guidance on nurturing resilience and confidence in your children
- A supportive space to share experiences and learn together

Date: 12/01/2026 to 19/01/2026
Date: 13/01/2026

Time: 09:30 - 11:30
Time: 19:00 - 21:00

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



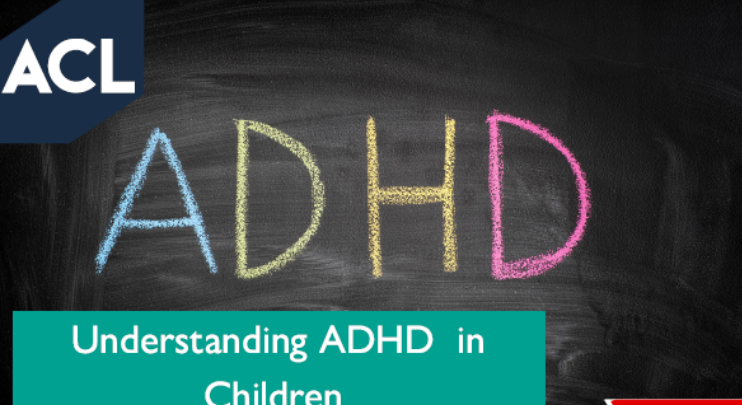
aclessex.com
0345 603 7635





ADHD

FREE!



Understanding ADHD in Children

ONLINE COURSE

Join us for this 1 week online course which covers a range of subjects which Neurodiverse children often struggle with, such as timekeeping, sleeping, eating, and understanding the world around them.

Date: 9/1/2026

Time: 9:30-11:30am

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



aclessex.com
0345 603 7635



ACL **FREE!**



Supporting Neurodiverse Children

Online Live Course

This 6 week course will provide you with an opportunity to discuss with tutors and peers about how challenging parenting a SEND child can be. You will receive practical tips and advice on how to make family life just that little bit easier. This is an adults only LIVE course so you need to log in at the given time.

Date: 08/01/2026 - 12/02/2026 **Time:** 09:30- 11:30

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



aclessex.com
0345 603 7635



ACL **FREE!**



Support your Child Attend and Enjoy School

Online Course

'Supporting Your Child To Attend and Enjoy School' provides parents/carers with an opportunity to become part of a community that understands and supports you. This adults only 6 week course, will provide time to share experiences and learn tips and ideas to help children to attend and enjoy school.

Date: 14/01/2026 to 25/02/2026 **Time:** 19:00 - 21:00

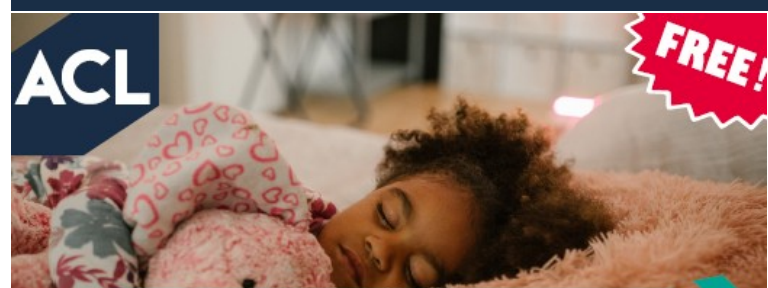
Scan the QR code, or Visit our website aclessex.com and type 'SUPPORT SCHOOL' in the 'Find a course...' box



aclessex.com
0345 603 7635



ACL **FREE!**



Sleep Workshop

Online Live Course

For Parents, Carers & Grandparents
Join us for a 2-hour interactive workshop designed to help you understand:

- 🌙 The importance of sleep for young people's wellbeing
- 🧠 How sleep impacts mood, learning, and overall health
- 🛏 Practical strategies to support healthy sleep routines at home

Date: 9/01/2026 **Time:** 09:30 - 11:30

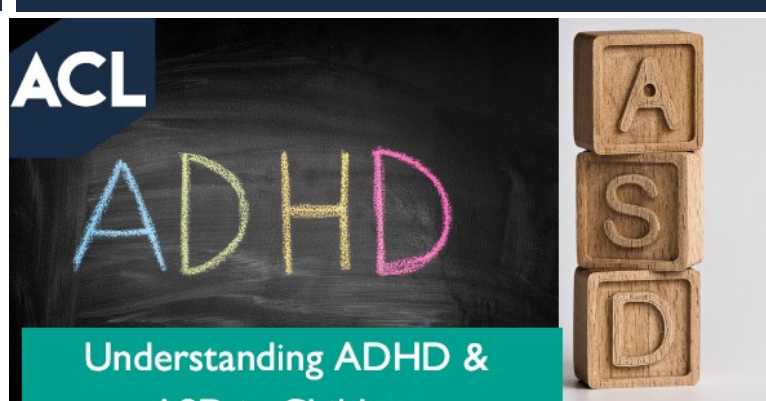
Scan the QR code, or Visit our website aclessex.com and type "SLEEP" in the 'Find a course...' box



aclessex.com
0345 603 7635



ACL **FREE!**



Understanding ADHD & ASD in Children

ONLINE COURSE

Join us for this 6 week online course which covers a range of subjects which Neurodiverse children often struggle with, such as timekeeping, sleeping, eating, and understanding the world around them.

Date: 8/1/2026 to 12/2/2026 **Time:** 18:00 - 20:00

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



aclessex.com
0345 603 7635





Harwich Library
Saturday's 2.30pm-3.30pm



Ask us how to book a session!

