



Dear parents, carers, and family members,



On Monday, we gathered together as a school community to discuss the upcoming Big Lent Walk, during which we will be walking in aid of CAFOD. This year is especially significant, as 2025 marks the year of the Jubilee. Pope Francis reminds us to be signs of hope in the world, and at St. Joseph's, we embrace this call wholeheartedly. As pilgrims of hope, we are united in our mission to build a better world for all.

As Lent unfolds, we are reflecting on the various ways we can share hope. Fundraising for CAFOD is one of the meaningful ways we engage in this mission, as it aligns with our Jubilee journey. Lent serves as a time when we focus on prayer, acts of kindness, self-denial, and giving to others, all in preparation for the grand celebration of Easter. To anchor our thoughts, I shared the Gospel according to Luke 4:1-3, which reminds us of the time Jesus spent in the desert. In this spirit, Lent encourages us to emulate Jesus by spending these 40 days striving to grow closer to God, thereby preparing ourselves for the joyous arrival of Easter.

During our discussions, we watched a poignant video featuring Chirri from Marsabit, Kenya, and her family. Marsabit has endured severe drought conditions for many years, leading to a dire scarcity of water for both people and livestock, as well as failing crops. This situation has made it increasingly difficult for families to procure food. We learned how CAFOD collaborates with Caritas Marsabit to explore alternative means for families to earn a livelihood, diminishing their reliance on water. With the support of CAFOD, Chirri's family received chickens, which serve as a viable source of income, as they are not dependent on water or pasture like cows.

Through this initiative, we walk in solidarity, as pilgrims of hope, determined to raise money to combat global poverty. I am pleased to announce that at St. Joseph's, we will be participating in the Big Lent Walk on Thursday, 3rd April at 9:30 am. All children and staff members will venture to the Prom, walking in support of CAFOD. Each chicken that assists Chirri's family costs £4.50, and our aim is to fund as many chickens as possible. I warmly encourage you to join us for this meaningful event and consider donating the price of a chicken to support those less fortunate. Together, we can contribute to building a brighter future and live out our Jubilee pledge.



On Tuesday, we were graced with a special visitor, Becky from Street Tag, who joined us for our Global Worship.

I am proud to announce that our school has excelled, securing first place for the past three seasons! This achievement is remarkable for St. Joseph's, and I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone who participated in Street Tag. A special mention goes to Amelia, who won a prize for covering the greatest distance in Harwich and Dovercourt — fantastic work, Amelia!



On Wednesday, Mrs. Varley arranged for the Autism Reality Bus to visit once more. I hope those who participated found it to be an invaluable experience, offering insights into the challenges faced by children with autism within the school environment. Additionally, after school, we held our third Essex PINS Emotional Regulation workshop. Thank you to all who attended; these workshops continue to provide essential support and information for families.



Today, we were blessed with the return of sunshine as we opened our doors for the annual CAFOD Tea and Cake Sale. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who baked or provided cakes; your contributions are greatly appreciated. I would also like to express immense gratitude to the Year 6 students who orchestrated this delightful event. Together, we raised an impressive £199.59 for CAFOD — thank you all for your generosity!

Looking ahead to next week, we anticipate a quieter week. The football match that was originally set for this week has now been rescheduled for Tuesday after school, with kick-off at 3:20 pm against Ardleigh. Your support at this event would be greatly appreciated.

Attendance Data

	Last week	This week	LATE marks
Class 1	97.14%	98.10%	12
Class 2	96.92%	96.92%	2
Class 3	97.06%	95.88%	6
Class 4	96.88%	97.81%	9

Wednesday is particularly special as we celebrate our Feast Day, honouring our patron saint, St. Joseph. We will mark this occasion with a special Mass at 9:30 am in school. I warmly invite everyone to join us for this sacred gathering.

On Friday, all schools in Harwich and Dovercourt will come together for a celebration of diversity at our Inclusion and Diversity Festival. Thank you to all who returned their slips regarding this event; further details will be provided in a letter distributed next week.

As a final reminder, I kindly ask all KS1 parents to ensure they escort their children to their classroom doors. Please do not leave your children unattended, as it is essential to ensure they are safely inside their classrooms.

I hope you all have a lovely, safe weekend.

Take care—God bless—Mrs. Golding



Certificate Winners

This will continue next week

Class 1:

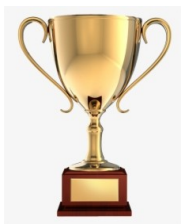
Class 2:

Class 3:

Class 4:

Whole School Attendance this week: 97.08%

Winning Class this week: Class 1—98.10%



*Winning House Team This Week:
Will continue next week*

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Tues 18th March	3.20pm Football Match at St Joseph's
Weds 19th March	9.30am St Joseph's Mass at School
Fri 21st March	Community Diversity Day Festival
Fri 28th March	Mother's Day Breakfast—Tickets on Sale now
Mon 31st March	10am Stations of the Cross at Church
Weds 2nd April	1.30pm Class 3 Play—Matilda
Thurs 3rd April	9.30am Lent Walk 6pm Class 3 Play—Matilda
Friday 4th April	Last day for Children before Easter break PTA event.....I'm a teacher..... starts at 1pm School finishes at 2pm
Mon 21st April	BANK HOLIDAY—EASTER MONDAY
Tues 22nd April	First day back after the Easter break for Children and Staff
Thurs 1st May	Year 6 individual photos and whole school year group photos
Mon 5th May	BANK HOLIDAY—SCHOOL CLOSED
Mon 12th May	Year 6 SATs Week

REMINDER

Our school classrooms open at 8.35am. Our registers are taken at 8.50am. Children that arrive between 8.50am and 9am are given a late mark. This is a code 'L' in the register.

If your child arrives after 9am they are given an unauthorised late mark. This is a code 'U' in the register.

If your child has 10 unauthorised late marks in any 10 week period you could be fined by the local authority and this could lead to a prosecution.

WE DON'T WANT THIS TO HAPPEN TO ANY OF OUR PARENTS.

**This week there were 24 late marks and
5 unauthorised late marks across the school!**

Week Beginning 17th March 2025

WEEK 1 of the Dinner Menu

There are changes due to our Cook being on a training course

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Week 1

Monday

Mild Mexican Chilli
served with baked jacket wedges
and sweet crunchy coleslaw

Jacket Potato
With a choice of Ham, Cheese, Tuna,
Beans or Chilli

Tuesday

Chicken Nuggets
served with new potatoes and leaf
salad

Jacket Potato
With a choice of Ham, Cheese,
Tuna, or Beans

Wednesday

Cheese and Tomato Pizza

Jacket Potato
With a choice of Ham, Cheese,
Tuna, or Beans

Thursday

Tomato Pasta Bake

Jacket Potato
With a choice of Ham, Cheese,
Tuna, Beans or Meatballs

Fresh
All our food is
cooked fresh each
day

Healthy
Our pasta, rice and
breads are healthy
wholemeal products

Checked
We always



Friday is Diversity Day—The school kitchen is closed. We will contact families that asked for school provision during the week to arrange lunches.

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->



HEP ARE EXCITED TO INTRODUCE OUR

Inclusion & Diversity Festival

Friday 21st March

Lots of exciting activities and experiences for the whole family to enjoy!

Plus a diverse range of foods available to purchase!

JOIN US IN AND AROUND THE
HARWICH AREA... MORE DETAILS!
TO FOLLOW SOON!



"THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL AND THE UK GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND. THE DIVERSITY BENCH, THAT WILL BE LAUNCHED DURING THE FESTIVAL IS SPONSORED BY GALLOPER WIND FARMS. OUR THANKS GO TO BOTH, WITHOUT WHO THIS EVENT COULD NOT GO AHEAD."



I'M A TEACHER, GET ME OUT OF HERE - TRIAL TIME!

FRIDAY 4TH APRIL - SHOW UNDERWAY AT 1PM - TICKETS ON SALE NEXT WEEK.

YOUR CONFIRMED TRIALS -

- It's not Break Time, Its Snake Time!
- No Lunch Time Bell, Just Lunch Time Hell!
- Afternoon Stink Drink!
- Take off your Socks, to feel inside the box!
- Plunge into the Gunge!
- Have a Feel it could be an Eel!!

Every Friday - children can bring money in to vote who does what Trial above. For just 20p a vote, you can select a teacher to take on one of the above trials. After Lunch, our Head Girl and Boy will be in the School Hall ready and waiting to collate your votes - You can vote as many times as you like - £1.00 for 5 Votes or £5.00 for 25 Votes - if you want the Teacher to face their fears, now its time to cast your vote, the power lies with you all. Parents will also be able to vote if they wish to do so before and following Assembly via Mr Gueizelar who will be in reception.



Empower Yourself with Essential First Aid Skills

Join our **FREE** Family First Aid sessions to gain the knowledge and confidence to handle common emergencies. Ensure your loved ones are safe with practical skills.

Course Highlights

Everyday first aid techniques, Confidence to act swiftly

Why Attend?

Empower yourself, Connect with local parents and carers, Ensure your family's safety

 When: Book now for sessions taking place March to July 2025

 Where: Chelmsford, Colchester, or Witham

Don't miss out—sign up today!

Visit our website acessex.com and type 'Family First Aid' in to the 'Find a course...' box

COMMUNITY &
FAMILY LEARNING



Free Screening at The Electric Palace!



Part of Diversity & Inclusion Festival

Friday March 21st – Film will start at 10am

Anyone wanting to attend this screening, please email Hayley at- educationofficer@electricpalace.com to secure your seat and avoid disappointment. Children Must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Thank you