

St Joseph's

Catholic Primary School



The Way, The Truth, The Life

Friday 12th September 2025

Dear Parents,



In Celebration of the Word this week, we looked ahead to the upcoming celebration of the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time and prepared our hearts once more to listen to the well known parable of the Prodigal Son. Whilst the young son's behaviour is outrageously selfish, when he sees the error of his ways and chooses to turn back to his father, all is quickly forgiven.

We have focused this week on the Gospel value of forgiveness - the readiness to let go of the hurt caused by other's actions. It is a gift that we can offer and receive in equal measure and it helps to build God's Kingdom. Children reflected on times they have been forgiven or forgave others at home or in school, whilst some older children were able to share their experiences of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

You can read more about our week in school on the [Headteacher's Blog](#).

Please come and join us from 2:45pm on Wednesday 17th September to hear about changes at St Joseph's this year and to meet your child's Year Leader. We will supervise your children so you can attend!

Wishing you a peaceful weekend. God bless,
Mr Collins

New Approach to Phonics Teaching



With the support and guidance of Xavier Catholic Education Trust, we have transitioned this year to a new phonics scheme: Read Write Inc. In Read Write Inc, we teach children to read and write sounds, spell words and craft written sentences. Children are provided with decodable books containing sounds and words they can read. They read each storybook three times at school and again with you at home,

increasing in fluency and comprehension each time they read. Alongside this, we read stories to children: stories they cannot yet read for themselves.

Children are taught in progress groups with others who are ready for the same sounds - this might mean your child is taught alongside children from another class or year group. Children work in these progress groups for one hour each day. This means they are learning to read at their 'challenge' level for five hours a week. Children are assessed and re-grouped every half-term. This allows us to whisk children through the phonic stages as quickly as possible.

Our deepest thanks to Mrs Johnson who has led this important change at St Joseph's and continues to be our Read Write Inc expert on a daily basis.

School Gates



Many thanks to families for their patience and understanding as we have introduced a number of changes to gate procedures this Autumn Term. In response to a number of "near misses" with small children disappearing from the school site or being at risk of harm in the car park, we have made some changes to our procedures:

- Only one side of the double gates is now open on West Way and the Infant Playground.
- The double gates from Year 2 into the car park will remain closed, to encourage families to use the footpath for their safety.

Xavier Teach South East



Please see attached the various opportunities available locally to learn about a career in teaching. If you've been thinking about it, now is the time to find out more!

Upcoming Diary Dates

Wednesday 17th September

Welcome Back Meeting (Years 1 - 6) from 2:45pm

Friday 19th September

6I's Class Assembly at 10:10am

5A Swimming

Monday 22nd September

Year 6 Residential Trip Departs

PFSA AGM (online) - 7:30pm

Friday 26th September

5A Swimming

Year 6 Residential Trip Returns