

# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Headteacher: Dr. N Fernandes-Viana, Deputy Headteacher: Mr Kevin Bowles  
Lanark Road, Sutherland Avenue, Maida Vale, London W9 1DF 020 7286 3518  
Email: [office@stjosephsschool.org.uk](mailto:office@stjosephsschool.org.uk) Website [www.stjosephsschool.org.uk](http://www.stjosephsschool.org.uk)



4<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Pupils, Parents, Staff and Governors,

**Welcome back to another school year!** We hope you have had a restful break and are refreshed for another school year. It has been wonderful to see the children return this week as well as some new faces. **To all new members of our school community, we extend a warm welcome and we look forward to working with you all over the coming months and years.**

I was comforted by the children's wonderful reverence this week where, as a school, we prayed for those who lost their lives in the **tragic events in Minnesota, the devastating earthquake in Afghanistan and those affected by the recent Lisbon funicular accident.** We also continue to pray for the **school communities of Our Lady of Dolours and St Mary of the Angels during this time of amalgamation while also suffering the tragic loss of one of their most beloved colleagues, Emily Rowland. Assistant Head at Our Lady of Dolours** and finally and with great sadness, I would like to express my sincere condolences to **Sarah Alley - head of Our Lady of Dolours** and soon to be head of St Mary of the Angels – for the tragic loss of her beloved niece Emily Rowland, Assistant Head at Dolours. Emily carried out part of her initial teacher training at St. Joseph's and was a vibrant, dedicated young teacher, full of promise. **Please keep Emily, Craig – her devoted partner - Sarah and Clara – her beautiful little girl - in your prayers.**

God our Father,  
Your power brings us to birth, Your providence guides our lives, and by Your command, we return to dust.  
Lord, those who die still live in Your presence  
Their lives change but do not end.  
We pray in hope for Emily, for her family, relatives and friends.  
In company with Christ,  
Who died and now lives, may Emily rejoice in Your kingdom,  
Where all our tears are wiped away.  
Unite us together again in one family, to sing Your praise forever and ever. Amen.

Let us offer up our prayers to Our Lady and to the soon to be canonized blessed ones, Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis. Caroline Moulinet, Lay Chaplain to the SJSCAT, has shared their inspiring stories. Please see below.

Two Young Saints, One Inspiring Example

Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901–1925) and Carlo Acutis (1991–2006), two Italians who will be canonised on 7 September 2025 in Rome, led remarkably similar lives despite living in different eras. From a young age, both showed deep faith, a profound love for the Eucharist, and a commitment to prayer. They also cared deeply for others—Pier Giorgio giving away his shoes to those in need, and Carlo volunteering at soup

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kitchens and helping the homeless. They lived with joy and humour, but never at the expense of others. They died young—Pier Giorgio of polio at 24 and Carlo of leukaemia at 15—leaving a lasting impact and showing that holiness can be lived fully in ordinary life.

Pier Giorgio kept safely in his pocket St Paul's message to the Corinthians (1 Co 13): "If I do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal." He was nicknamed "the Man of the Beatitudes" by Pope John Paul II. Carlo's love of computing earned him the nickname "God's geek" or "cyber-apostle."

Some inspiring words come from Carlo Acutis: "The Eucharist is my motorway to Heaven," and from Pier Giorgio Frassati: "Around the sick and the unfortunate, I see a Light that we ourselves do not have."

The Catholic Church gives us the example of these two young saints to guide us on our path towards eternal life. Let us remember that our family of schools' patron saint, St John Southworth, too, shares some similarities: a deep dedication to people in need, and an unfailing will to proclaim the kingdom of God. Let us pray that these examples of lives devoted to God and to others guide us this year.

I hope everything is going well as the new year starts.  
God bless,

**Please find the attached link to our term dates for this academic year.** <https://www.stjosephsschool.org.uk/term-dates> Please note, schools do not generally authorise leave from school during term time. I attach the current guidance from Westminster City Council. <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/children-and-families/education/school-attendance/attendance-advice-parents-and-carers>

**Please find a reminder of class times, entrances and collection times.**

Year group	Arrival time	Drop off point	Collection time	Collection location
Nursery	8:40	Lanark road gates	3:15	Lanark road gates
Reception	8:40	Playground, Randolph Ave gates	3:15	Playground, Randolph Ave gates
Year 1, Pink 1	8:40	Playground, Randolph Ave gates	3:20	Playground, Randolph Ave gates
Year 1, Pink 2	8:40	Astroturf Randolph Ave gates	3:20	Astroturf Randolph Ave gates

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Year 2, Pink 3	8:40	Playground, Randolph Ave gates	3:20	Playground, Randolph Ave gates
Year 3	8:40	Astroturf Randolph Ave gates	3:25	Astroturf Randolph Ave gates
Year 4	8:40	Astroturf Randolph Ave gates	3:25	Astroturf Randolph Ave gates
Year 5	8:40	Astroturf Randolph Ave gates	3:25	Astroturf Randolph Ave gates
Year 6	8:40	Lanark Road Sharp Suite	3:30	Lanark Road Sharp Suite

**Please note, children in Nursery, Reception Year 1 and 2 do not need to bring fruit.** The Government provides a selection of fruit for EYFS and KS1, which is distributed accordingly. Children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 should bring a piece of fruit or vegetable. **Please do not send in crisps, biscuits, chocolate bars, granola bars, yoghurts or fruit snacks.** All children should bring a labelled water bottle. Please note, water fountains are always available for children who forget their bottles. **Additionally, all children across the school are entitled to a school meal (UFSM no payment required).** Meal Choices are for the whole week and you may change your preference half termly. Please ensure the school office is aware of your child's meal preference. Please note that if your family is in receipt of means tested benefits eg: Income Support, Universal Credit with a low income, or Child Tax Credit (without Working Tax Credit) you may also be entitled to **FSM (free school meals)** families in receipt of FSM benefit are also entitled to one free afterschool club per term, meal vouchers and holiday clubs in addition the school would also benefit from extra funding. Please email the school office if you think you might be entitled to further support [office@stjosephsschool.org.uk](mailto:office@stjosephsschool.org.uk)

As in previous years, class teachers will be delivering **Curriculum Meetings** in the next few weeks. These will be in person, please see the timings below for each year group.

Curriculum Meetings list, times and locations:

Pink 1/Y1 Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September @ 9:20am – Pink 1 classroom

Pink 2 Y1/2 Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September @ 9:20am – Pink 2 classroom

Pink 3 Y2 Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September @ 9:20am – Pink 3 classroom

Blue 1/Y3 Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September @ 2:30pm – Blue 1 classroom

Blue 3/Y4 Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September @ 9.20am – Blue 3 classroom

**Our annual Macmillian Coffee Morning** will take place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September. I know CVCs will be in touch soon with more details for this wonderful cause.

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**Our Welcome Mass for KS1 and KS2 parents and children is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 9:00. It would be lovely to see you all then,** as Fr. Kevin leads our first Mass of the academic year.

**After-School Clubs** start on the week beginning 15<sup>h</sup> September. Mrs Dunphy will send the clubs timetable with booking links from the various providers on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September via parentmail.

As always, we endeavour to inform parents of events in advance. Please see below for upcoming dates. **Our visits for children in Reception Class to Year 4 to Forest School will be starting over the next few weeks. We ask for a yearly contribution for this and have managed to keep this cost at £15.00 which is the same as last year. Mrs Harrington will be sending emails to this effect in the next week.** May God bless you and keep you safe.

Dr. N Viana and Mr K Bowles

## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

YEAR GROUP	Percentage Attendance (target >97%)	Late %
RECEPTION 1	98.4%	0.5%
Y1 PINK 1	93.3%	0.5%
Y1/2 PINK 2	99.5%	0.0%
Y2 PINK 3	94.8%	0.7%
Y3 BLUE 1	90.1%	0.7%
Y4 BLUE 3	98.4%	0.0%
Y5 VIOLET 1	93.0%	2.5%
Y6 VIOLET 3	98.4%	0.5%
Totals	93.3%	0.5%