



St Joseph's Catholic Infant School

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July 2025

An end of an era, the start of something new!

As this is my last newsletter I wanted to reflect on 33 years of being at, and working at, this very special school.

In my time here I have met and worked with nearly 2000 children and their wider families. I have served under 2 headteachers myself and have taught in every class including the playgroup before it became our Pre-School. Whatever my role I have always wanted the best for the school and the children, and tried to do my best to ensure they get it. There have been tears, laughter, joy, strife and sorrow and so so so much happiness and learning during these years. Each part of everyday being a memory and a reflection of the mission I was introduced to on the day I interviewed at the school and came to believe so strongly in this school. It is exciting to finally see the start of the joining of St Joseph's and St Edward's in a way that sees the great work of both schools able to expand and flourish. I leave St Joseph's school thinking of the message I always say to others who leave our school – St Joseph, our namesake loved God's Son and helped him grow and flourish - may you keep the spirit of St Joseph in your heart and share it with those you meet so they may grow and flourish. I know I will take this message away with me and believe that with this as the school's enduring legacy, the strong new vision for the school will always have this at its heart.

A huge thank you to everyone for all your support over the years, I wish all families, staff and pupils a wonderful summer and the very best for the future. Mrs Taylor

Things that have made me smile...

- The present of a tiny froglet, given at home time when a little boy remembered he had put it there for safe keeping in the morning.
- Astounding children when their pom-pom chicks grew pipe cleaner legs overnight. I never did tell them how it happened...
- Opening yogurts that nearly always explode over me and the children
- The enthusiasm of the children – especially for learning something for the first time. Wow is that really a baby ladybird!
- A child telling another child – it's ok don't be sad Jesus is looking after them in heaven so they are happy and still love you.
- Watching our children in Christmas plays and assemblies – so confident and full of life.
- The world book days with everyone dressing up
- When generations of families are still coming to our school because they want that something special that they each had by being at the school

A few things I will always remember from my years at St Joseph's.....

- The £22000 water bill after one summer holiday when a pipe burst into a drain and took a while to locate.
- The original cabin building being lifted by a huge crane over the school
- The St Joseph's flash mob in Milton Keynes for Sing up – we were the first school to get a Platinum award – thanks to Mrs Finn's work and dedication
- Taking children in Year 2 to the National Gallery in London in my first year teaching
- When the school had no boundary fences, just 2 falling off wooden gates and children had an imaginary line at the edge of the playground to keep them safe
- Adapting the whole school, the staff arrangements and the curriculum to ensure children could still learn in 'Bubbles' during COVID

Staff News



Mrs Taylor will be retiring at the end of the academic year after 33 years' service to the school. We are delighted that Mrs Heritage, Head of School at St Edward's Junior School who has worked, and is working closely, with Mrs Taylor will be leading both St Joseph's and St Edward's schools from September 2025.

We say farewell to Mrs Cordell and Mrs Akbar as Teaching Assistants for the moment, but they will be working with us as cover staff in the new school year - supporting classes when there are staff out or on training. We also say goodbye to Mrs Carpenter (Early Years teaching assistant) and Miss Gilliam who has covered PPA this year.

Our new Deputy Headteacher - Mrs Frances Derby - will be working across both sites from September.

We have appointed Mrs Stykuc-Dean as School Learning Mentor starting in September, who will work in a similar role to Mrs Halewood at St Edward's - supporting children, staff and families across the school.

We keep a number of staff in our prayers who have been unwell or are recovering from injury.

Reading Books & School Resources Return

All school books need to be collected in from 11 July. This is to enable a thorough stock take to take place and to carry out repairs and ordering of resources.



Open Visit

On **Monday 21st July from 3.30-4.00 pm**, all parents are invited to visit classrooms/teachers (current and new) with their child/children. This will be an informal event to familiarise children and parents with the inside of school. Your child will lead your tour of school!

Transition Arrangements 2025

There will be a range of activities for your child to help prepare them for the next class/school. This can be an emotional time for children and parents and it is helpful if the adults can support and encourage their children to see this as an exciting new adventure and something to look forward too. If you have any worries or questions please speak to a member of staff or send an email to the school office. If you are anxious, your child will be anxious.



End of Year Celebration for Year 2

Traditionally we hold celebrations at the end of the year for children in Year 2 moving onto new schools. This has involved a disco, leavers assembly, and the giving of St Joseph's medals.

As at this moment in time, the schools are separate entities we will still be having the celebrations as we always have.

- Friday 11th July Year 2 Disco 3.15-5.15 pm
- Monday 21st July Year 2 Leavers Assembly 2.15 for 2.30 pm start

Please see information sent by ParentMail for more details.

End of Term Collection of Medication in School

Please collect any medication your child may have in school on the last day of term. **It is important that it is checked at home and then returned to the school office on the first day back – Wednesday 3rd September 2025.**

TERM DATES

Summer Term 2025: Wednesday 23rd July: Last day of Summer Term

Autumn Term 2025: School returns on Wednesday 3rd September 2025

All term dates can be found on the school website under Key Information, Term Dates tab:

<https://www.stjosephsrcinfant.bucks.sch.uk/key-info/term-dates/>

https://www.stjosephsrcinfant.bucks.sch.uk/assets/Documents/Key-Info/Term-Dates/JIS-Term-Dates-2025_2026.pdf