St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School

Highview Crescent, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1BJ
Telephone Brentwood (01277) 227282 **Email** admin@st-josephworker.essex.sch.uk
Website www.st-josephworker.essex.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Kathryn Poulter

Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of a very long half term, we are all looking forward to a well-deserved week of rest. We are incredibly proud of the progress the children have made so far this year and all that they have achieved. It has been a busy and rewarding term, and the children should be very proud of themselves!

We are particularly proud of our enthusiastic and proactive Mini Vinnies, who have already organised both our Macmillan Coffee Morning and our Harvest collection for Daily Bread. This week, two of the group joined us to deliver the donations and learn more about the wonderful work Daily Bread does to support the Hutton community. They even rolled up their sleeves to help out by stacking shelves and wiping tables. It was a valuable opportunity for the girls to see first-hand how their acts of kindness can make a real difference to others.

Looking ahead, the Mini Vinnies are busy organising their next event: a Coffee and Bingo Morning on Friday 20th November, after the 9:15am Mass, in the school hall. This event is particularly aimed at members of our community who might appreciate some company, a friendly welcome and a warm place to spend the morning. However, everyone is warmly invited to join us! Please do share this invitation with anyone you know who might appreciate the opportunity to come along.

Finally, we wish all our families a restful and enjoyable half-term break. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the next half term!

Mrs Poulter



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As part of Black History Month, Year 3 and 4 have been learning about Oti Mabuse and her inspiring journey as a dancer. We explored how dance can tell stories, celebrate culture and bring people together, before trying some African dance moves ourselves!

The children showed fantastic enthusiasm and really enjoyed moving to the rhythm and expressing themselves through dance. Perhaps they can show you some of their new moves at home!





This week Class R recently went out litter picking in the area surrounding our school. The children worked together to help keep our local environment clean and tidy, showing care and respect for the world around us.

This activity linked to our Catholic Social Teaching theme of **"Care for Our Common Home"** and our RE lesson on looking after God's creation. We discussed how God has given us the wonderful gift of the world and how it is our responsibility to protect and care for it. Class R showed that even small actions can make a big difference in looking after our planet!







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Certificates of Achievement were awarded to the following children this week, well done to you all.

Class R: Harley and Sofia
Class 1: Arabelle, Grace and Zayne
Class 2: King and Riya
Class 3: Evelyn, Jack and Joseph
Class 4: Connor and Olivia L
Class 5: Eliza J and Logan
Class 6: Cryus and Rio



HOUSE CUP – Bethlehem (Blue) won the cup this week – Well done!

🖊️ Congratulations to Aayla, Kennedy and Scarlett on earning your pen licence! Well done!

The Kindness Award was awarded to Rocco

The Faith in Action Award was awarded to the Mini Vinnies

We are incredibly proud of you all!

After School Club collection

If you are collecting a child from After School Club, please call 07341 105623 rather than ring at the gates. The office is not open after 4pm. Thank you for your understanding.

Important Dates Next Term	
4th December	PTA Christmas Fayre
8th December	Pantomime
10th December	KS1 Nativity for parents
11th December	KS1 Nativity for parents
11th December	Choir at Brentwood Cathedral School's Concert
11th December	Flu Immunisation (for those that missed the 1st session)
16th December	KS2 Carol Concert in Church - 6.30pm
17th December	PTA Christmas Film Night
18th December	Last Day of Term – return to school 4th January 2027

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Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

This year, we are once again supporting the **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal** by selling a range of poppy merchandise to raise vital funds for this worthwhile cause.

Children can purchase items at school by bringing their donation to the school office before school or by bringing cash into school and letting their class teacher know they would like to buy one.

Items and prices:

- Paper poppies – £1
- Reflectors – £1
- Silicone bands – £1
- Ribbon bands – £1
- Snap bands – £1.50
- Pencils – 50p

Stocks are limited, so once they're gone, they're gone!

Thank you for your continued support in helping us raise funds for this important appeal.

The 2026 Christmas Artwork PTA fundraising project

You will have received this week the parent order card containing details of your child's Christmas artwork, along with instructions for viewing, approving, and ordering products online. Please hold on to these order cards until your orders have been received.

You can order products with your child's artwork as follows.

Please go to shop.classfundraising.co.uk/unlock and approve your child's design using the codes from the parent order card. You will need to enter your child's name and select their class – these will be printed exactly as entered on the products. If there are major issues with the design (for example needs rotating 90 or 180 degrees), this can be raised with the printing company at this stage. You will then be able to browse the online shop and purchase products; please note you will need to re-enter your child's codes again for orders.

Deadline for all orders is **2nd November 2026 at 9am**. We cannot guarantee that later orders can be fulfilled.

NEED HELP? Please text Laura (PTA rep) on 07936 879556.

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Secondary School Applications

The secondary school admission round is now open for parents and carers of children currently in Year 6 to apply for a Year 7 secondary school place for September 2027.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **31 October 2026**.

Parents and carers should visit **www.essex.gov.uk/admissions** to complete their application online. All information and guidance about the secondary school admissions process is available on the website.

Tours for 2026-27 academic school year

We warmly invite prospective parents to join us for a school tour and information session. These visits are a great opportunity to see our school in action, meet key members of staff, and learn more about what we offer.
Each session will last approximately **one hour**.
Upcoming Dates:

- **Wednesday 18th November – 2:00pm**
- **Monday 23rd November – 2:00pm**

We look forward to welcoming you!

IMPORTANT - Allergies and Medical Information

Following the introduction of Benedict's Law, all staff have completed Allergy and Anaphylaxis training to ensure that we are fully prepared to support children with allergies and respond appropriately in an emergency.

If your child has an allergy, intolerance or any other medical condition, it is essential that you inform the school and provide us with an up-to-date care plan from your GP or other appropriate healthcare professional, together with any medication your child may require. Please ensure that all medication is in date and clearly labelled.

Children who have been prescribed EpiPens (adrenaline auto-injectors) should have two devices in school at all times. The school also has a supply of spare adrenaline auto-injectors for use in an emergency, in line with our emergency procedures.

Please contact the school office if you are unsure whether your child's medical information or medication is up to date.

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ATTENDANCE

A huge well done to the children in Class 3, who have taken the lead in our attendance challenge!

Our whole-school attendance currently stands at 95.26%, so well done to everyone who has helped us achieve this fantastic result! We would love to keep our whole-school attendance above 96%, so let's continue our brilliant efforts, aim even higher, and make every school day count.

Year One	97.03%
Year Two	97.24%
Year Three	**98.25%**
Year Four	97.08%
Year Five	97.37%
Year Six	95.57%

We understand that mornings can sometimes be challenging when getting your child ready and into school. If you are finding things difficult, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We are here to support you, and together we can work out a plan to make mornings a little easier for both you and your child.

Don't forget! The year group with the highest attendance at the end of the school term will be rewarded with an extra playtime!

Let's keep up the fantastic effort and see which year group comes out on top!

🎁 Samaritan's Purse – Christmas Shoebox Appeal 🎁

It's that time of year again! We're inviting our wonderful families to take part in the **Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Appeal**, helping to bring joy and hope to children in need around the world.

Together, we can fill shoeboxes with thoughtful, fun and much-needed gifts to make Christmas a little brighter for others. Every box is an opportunity to show kindness and generosity and let a child know that someone is thinking of them this Christmas.

If you are able to take part, please send your **filled shoeboxes into school as soon as possible**, so that we can collect and send as many as we can and show our school community's support for this wonderful cause.

Please remember to **make your donation online** to cover the project costs. This also allows you to **follow your shoebox and see where it has been sent**.

For more information, including details of what can and cannot be included, please visit How to Pack a Shoebox | Samaritans Purse

⚠ The deadline for all shoeboxes to come into school is **Thursday 19th November 2026** ⚠

Thank you, as always, for your kindness, generosity and support.

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Mayor's Christmas Card Design & Christmas Poetry Competition 2026

Pupils are invited to take part in the Mayor's Christmas Card Design and Christmas Poetry Competitions. Pupils can enter one or both competitions, with winners receiving a gift and certificate and the opportunity to join the Mayor for the switching on of the Brentwood Christmas Lights.

Christmas Card Design

Create a Christmas-themed design on A4 paper in portrait format. The winning design will feature on the Mayor's Christmas card. Please do not use materials such as glitter or cotton wool, as these cannot be easily reproduced.

Christmas Poetry Competition

Write a poem titled "My Christmas Wish", of no more than 200 words. The poem will be published in the Mayor's Christmas card. Artwork and decoration are not required.

Please include the pupil's name, age and school on the back of each entry.

Entries should be sent to The Mayor's Office, Brentwood Borough Council, Town Hall, Ingrave Road, Brentwood CM15 8AY, or scanned and emailed to zoey.foakes@brentwood.gov.uk by Wednesday 11th November 2026.

Please include a covering note stating who the winner should be contacted through.

Fireworks night at Event Brentwood – Saturday 7th November

Wrap up warm and join us for an unforgettable evening of dazzling colours, booming displays, and community celebration! Light up the night sky with a spectacular show, complete with fairground activities, delicious food options, and fully stocked hot and cold drinks bars.

- Date: Saturday, 7th November 2026
- Timings: Doors open at 4:45pm | Display starts at 6:15pm|Event closes at 8:30pm
- Location: Brentwood School (Pedestrian entrance via Ingrave Road or Bayman Gate on Middleton Hall Lane)
- Important Info: All children aged 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Please note: There is no on-site parking available for this event. Town centre parking options are available a short walk away.

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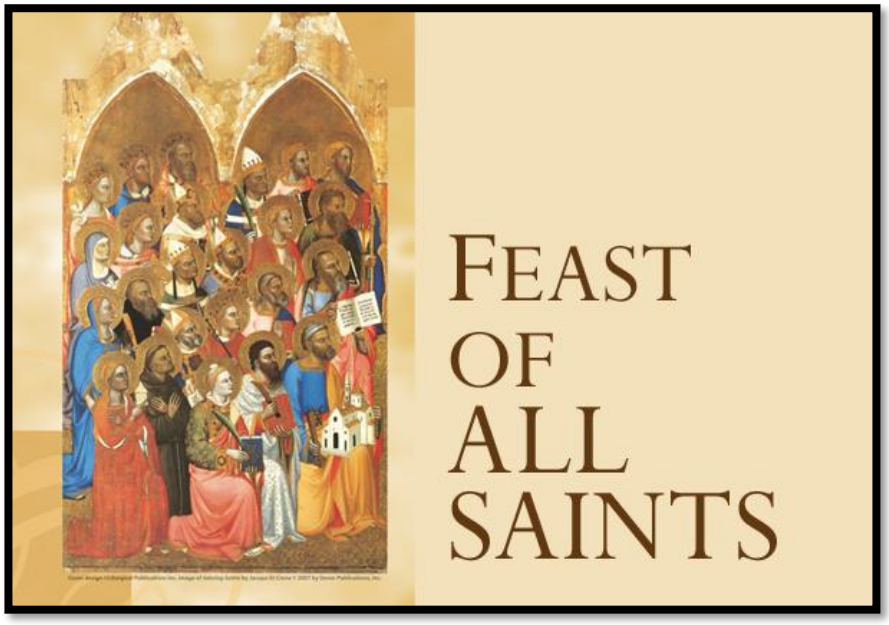
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And finally...

Wishing all our families a very happy and blessed Feast of All Saints for this Sunday!

May the example of the saints inspire us to live with faith, love and courage, bringing the light of Christ to those around us each day.





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Week Commencing Monday 2nd November 2026:

Monday 2nd November 2026	
Class R	Height, weight and vision screening
Class 1 and 5	PE
Years 3 & 4	Netball Club - 3.30-4.30pm (Miss Meadows)
Tuesday 3rd November 2026	
All Student	PTA Bake Off
Class 5 and 6	Netball – 8am – Junior Playground
Class R, 2, 3, 4 and 6	PE
Enrolled Students	Piano Lessons
Enrolled Students	Guitar Lessons
Selected Students	Basketball
Wednesday 4th November 2026	
Class R and 6	PE
Class 5	Swimming
Enrolled Students	Drumming Lessons
Years 4, 5 & 6	Choir – 3.30-4.30pm
Thursday 5th November 2026	
Year 3 and 4	Multi Sports – 8am – Junior Playground
Class 3 and 4	PE
Friday 6th November 2026	
Class 5 and 6	Football – 8am – Field (Please check school website for cancellations)
Year 1 and 2	PE
Enrolled Students	Guitar Lessons

ChildLine 0800 1111

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