

St Jude's Catholic Primary School Autumn 1 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first half term of the academic year is always a busy one, with our new Reception children settling into school life and our older pupils embracing the opportunities and challenges that come with a new class and teacher. It has been a wonderful start to the year, and as always, we have been busy ensuring that all our children enjoy engaging and enriching learning experiences. Our Key Stage 2 pupils have already enjoyed a number of educational visits, and Year 5 have successfully completed their swimming lessons.

Our Reception children are already well on their way to becoming confident readers. They have begun learning how to decode through their daily phonics sessions and are enjoying taking home their Little Wandle reading books to practise each evening. Miss Rowlands led a very informative phonics workshop for our new parents, explaining how we teach early reading and how families can support learning at home. This presentation is now available on the school website for anyone who was unable to attend.

It has also been incredibly pleasing to see so many children collecting Bronze and Silver Reading and Maths certificates in our Friday Celebration Assemblies. Reading every evening and regularly practising number facts really does make a significant difference to children's confidence and attainment by the end of Key Stage 2. Thank you for the support you continue to provide at home. Working together, we can give every child the best possible opportunity to succeed.

As 2026 is the National Year of Reading, we have continued to place a strong emphasis on developing a love of books and storytelling. Throughout the year, children have enjoyed visits from authors and participation in online literacy events. In September, we were delighted to welcome a Viking storyteller to school, who captivated the children with tales of ancient myths and legends while sharing stories outdoors on the field. The children were

completely enthralled, and I hope many of those stories found their way home for retelling around the dinner table!

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the PFA, who have once again provided the school with a generous donation. These funds will be used to purchase additional books and improve our library furnishings, helping us to continue fostering a love of reading throughout the school. Mr Heiford has taken over the management of the library and has generously dedicated his time to creating attractive displays that encourage children to explore new authors and change their books regularly. We are also fortunate to have three dedicated Year 6 librarians, Cheigh, Rose and Leon, who are working hard to keep our library welcoming, organised and well cared for.

This half term has also provided many opportunities for us to come together in faith and thanksgiving. Our Harvest Festival was a wonderful reminder of God's generosity and the importance of being grateful for all that we have, while also remembering those in our local community who may be facing hardship. We have split your donations between two charities Sophie's Legacy and Acts of Kindness. Thank you for your generous donations.

God bless and enjoy a restful break with your families.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sarah Wall

Headteacher

Governor News

Following our first Governing Board meeting in September, I am pleased to share that Mrs Barnsley-Parsons, our current SEN Governor, has been elected as Chair of Governors. She will be ably supported by Mrs Mary Stribling, who has been appointed Vice Chair.

We are extremely fortunate at St Jude's to have such a dedicated and committed team of governors who give their time and expertise to support the strategic leadership and continued development of our school.

Following the retirement of Mr Greenaway, our Local Authority-appointed Health & Safety Governor, and with Mr Jordan and Mr Gino stepping down at the end of last term, we currently have vacancies for two Foundation Governors and one Local Authority Governor.

The Foundation Governor role is open to practising Catholics who wish to support the school's strategic leadership. As we already benefit from strong parental representation on our Governing Body, we are particularly keen to hear from members of our wider parish community who may be interested in serving in this important role.

This is a significant time in the journey of Catholic education within our Diocese. The Bishop has expressed his desire for all Catholic schools in the Diocese to become academies before 2030, and there will be important decisions ahead as we continue to shape the future of St Jude's.

We also have an opportunity for a Local Authority Governor. This role is open to individuals from all backgrounds, regardless of faith, who have an interest in education and would like to contribute to the governance and strategic direction of our school. If you know someone outside of the Catholic community who may be interested, we would be delighted to hear from them.

Many families have strong and lasting connections with St Jude's, with parents, grandparents and other family members having attended the school over the years. If you know someone within your family, friendship group or parish community who may be interested in becoming a governor, we warmly encourage you to share this opportunity with them.

Anyone interested in either the Foundation Governor or Local Authority Governor role is invited to contact the school office. I would be delighted to discuss the responsibilities of the role and the rewarding opportunity to contribute to the future success of St Jude's.

School Uniform & Safety

At St Jude's, we are extremely proud of our school uniform. Visitors and members of the public regularly comment on how smart, respectful and well-behaved our children are, and our uniform plays an important role in creating this positive impression.

There are many benefits to wearing a school uniform:

- **Creates a sense of belonging** - School colours and badges foster pride, unity and a strong team ethos amongst our children.
- **Supports learning** - Putting on a uniform helps children make the transition from "home mode" to "school mode", encouraging a positive mindset for learning.
- **Simplifies morning routines** - A designated school outfit makes mornings easier for both children and parents by removing daily decisions about what to wear.
- **Promotes equality** - Uniform helps reduce peer pressure, fashion-based judgement and clothing-related bullying by ensuring children are dressed consistently.

We ask all families to help us maintain our high standards by ensuring children attend school in the correct uniform. Please refer to the **Uniform List** available on our school website for full details.

Support Available

We recognise that purchasing school uniform can be challenging for some families.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, or your family is experiencing financial difficulty, support may be available through uniform vouchers or a free school jumper. Our PFA also operates a **Pre-Loved Uniform Shop**, providing good-quality second-hand uniform at a reduced cost.

All requests for support are treated sensitively and confidentially.

Key Points to Remember

- **Headbands:** Girls should only wear simple headbands in school colours. Decorative, oversized or themed headbands are not permitted.
- **Hairstyles:** Boys should not have closely shaved hairstyles featuring patterns or tramlines. Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be tied back.
- **Earrings:** Earrings **must be removed for PE lessons**. If your child is unable to remove earrings independently, they should not be worn to school. Tape may only be used during the first six weeks following ear piercing, in line with Hampshire PE Health and Safety guidance.

- **Shoes:** Shoes should be plain black school shoes and **not trainers or trainer-style footwear**.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain the high standards that make St Jude's such a positive and welcoming school community.

Attendance



We ended the last academic year with our attendance in the top 5% of schools nationally, which is a fantastic achievement. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that children attend school regularly and are ready to learn.

We have made a great start to this academic year, and I have been particularly impressed by the significant reduction in late arrivals. The school day begins promptly at **8:40am**, and

those first few minutes are incredibly important for helping children settle, complete morning routines, and prepare for a successful day of learning.

Arriving late can leave children feeling rushed and unsettled and may mean they miss important instructions and learning opportunities. Please continue to help us by ensuring your child arrives at school on time each day. Punctuality not only supports their learning and wellbeing but also helps to develop positive habits that will benefit them throughout their lives.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maintain these exceptionally high attendance standards.

Hampshire HCC Attendance Advice for Parents [1]

Is My Child Too Ill for School[2]

Congratulations to **Year 2** who are the winning class this half term with an **98.7% attendance!** They will be rewarded with a non-uniform day early next half term.

Whole Year Class attendance is as follows:

Reception 98.4%

Year 1 97.4%

Year 2 98.7%

Year 3 97.3%

Year 4 98.3%

Year 5 94.9%

Year 6 97.5%

If you are requesting an absence from school please would you complete the absence request forms 2 weeks before the absence date you are requesting. More information and absence forms are available on the school website St Jude's School and Pre-School - Attendance[3]

[1] https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/behaviour-attendance-parents
[2] https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/
[3] https://www.st-judes.hants.sch.uk/Attendance/

Mental Health & Family Support



At St Jude's we follow the Stormbreak[4]. This is a mental health support programme that teaches children how to recognise and manage their emotions . It focuses on 6 main areas:

Hope and Optimism

Self Worth

Self Care

Relationships

Resilience

Parents can create an account and also Stormbreak with their children and explore the above themes and gain a greater understanding of how to support their child by clicking the link above.

Please click on the Back to Basics link and follow the Notice tab if you would like more information. Back to Basics | Children and Families | Hampshire County Council[5]

There is also excellent parenting support and guidance (Birth to teenagers) through the Solihull Approach which can be accessed www.inourplace.co.uk[6] use access code **FAMILY.**

Fareham Citizens Advice

[4] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twEdaWZrtVU
[5] https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/back-to-basics
[6] https://www.inourplace.co.uk/

We know in the present financial climate, that many families are struggling to make ends meet. We have been made aware of the wide range of support that Citizens Advice can offer: from budgeting; debt management; housing; utility bill management to name but a few areas they support. To get confidential advice and support please contact. Citizens Advice Fareham[7]

We can also offer support to families who have no recourse to public funds , if you feel your family is in this category, please contact Mrs K Fry the School Business Manager directly and she will offer confidential advice as to how to access support.

School Mental Health Nurse The MHST will be running a parent support event on **Tuesday 10th November at 9.00am** in The Hub at St Jude's the focus will be Emotional Regulation. We will send a reminder email and a confirmation form nearer the date.

Smartphone Free Childhood Mrs Shembry Major, Pupil and Staff Wellbeing Governor, will be supporting me in a parent event scheduled for November focusing on Children's use of smartphones and screens on **Friday 27th November at 9.00am and then again at 5.00pm.** More details to follow nearer the event.

[7] https://public.citafareham.org/citizensadvicefareham

Prayer Chaplains



For many years we have had Oscar Romero Rangers in a school. Elected children who have represented service within our school and the wider community. Something they have done with humility and compassion. Yet this year sees a change with the development of a new role for children within our school to support and enhance worship within our school. This will mean that Oscar Romero Rangers will no longer be elected. However, children in Year 5 and 6 have been able to apply for the role of Prayer Chaplain. Our previous RE inspection highlighted the high-quality prayer and worship opportunities created by our older pupils and asked us to consider how we can share this talent across the school. Children have applied asking for this opportunity because 'I want to share with others how to live a Catholic Life' as one child wrote in their application. Another expressed how they would 'help with writing prayers, helping with rosary club and support key times in the year like Advent and Lent'. Another applicant wrote 'I believe if we can raise our school spiritually,

they will rise up both mentally and physically'. I could not have expressed this opportunity better myself! So congratulations to our new Prayer Chaplains: Toby, Neha, Arlo, Ethan, Sienna and Oliver Z.

Car Park Safety



Car Park

The school car park gates close at 8am every morning for staff use only, if you use breakfast club and arrive after this time, please park locally or in the Church car park (please register your vehicle). The gates will continue to lock between 8.30 – 8.40 and 3.05 – 3.20. Please do not allow your child to run around the car park.

Bus Layby

Please do not park in the bus layby. It is not a drop off zone and it is dangerous

Bikes and Scooters

Please remind your children to dismount at the gates and walk their bike or scooter to the racks behind the kitchen. Please follow the path along the side of the school; when this finishes at the end of the ramp, please take care walking around the side of the building as

there could be vehicles moving in the car park. Children in classes under Year 5 should always be accompanied on school grounds.

Railings and Trees

Please do not allow your children to climb on the green railings and gates outside the main buildings and around the school site, these are there for safety only. We are so lucky to have so many wonderful trees on our site but please do not allow your children to climb on them for their own safety and for the safety of others.

Stars of the Week Autumn 1



Well done to all the children who have been recognised as Starts of the Week in their classes. Our focus this term has been on the school value of Independence.

Year 1: Phoenix Shembry Major, Olivia Mirica, Nataniel Sole, Oscar Gray, Sienna Jackson &Anaya Thomas

Year 2: Willow Hooper, Daire Acheson, Sophie Brown, Harry House, Ella Smith &Penny Smith

Year 3 Deborah Akele, Eunice Gradinariu, Mokshit Joshi, Eric Wrona, Margo Bishop &Niamh Russell

Year 4: Anne Rose Varghese, Noah Saas, Harry Copperwheat, Isla Smith &Alba Mallis

Year 5: Ollie Cake, Sienna Sterland-Isaacs, Gloria Sen, Florenec Thompson &Julia Nowicka

Year 6: Alice Grundy, Seyi Ateni, Honey Bishop, Daniel Divin, Rose Carter & Isaac Deboo

Mission Statement



Congratulations to the following children who have been recognised for living out St Jude's Mission

Reception Alfie Nguyen

Year 1 Emilia Edwards

Year 2 Eliza Millerchip

Year 3 Anliya Thomas

Year 4 Jude Fairman

Year 5 Ruth Gradinariu

Year 6 Felix Mathews

Clubs



We have a range of clubs after school for children.

Rocksteady Monday afternoons in school

Language Club Tuesday 3.15-4.00pm Year 4, 5 & 6

Gymnastics Tuesday & Wednesday 3.30-4.30pm (school)

Camouflage Club Tuesday 3.15-4.15pm (Service Children)

Drama Club Thursday 3.15- 4.15pm (Big Mouth Theatre)

Netball Years 4,5 & 6 Thursday 3.15-4.15pm

Karate Thursday 3.15-4.30pm

Friday Dance and Football club 3.15-4.15pm Superstars Sports

Places to be booked via school office. admin@st-judes.info[8]

The school offers Wraparound care for children from 7.30am-5.30pm everyday. Please book via the school office.

Dates 2026

Monday 2nd November INSET DAY school closed

Tuesday 10th November School Mental Health Nurse Emotional Regulation workshop for parents

[8] mailto:admin@st-judes.info

Wednesday 11th November Remembrance Mass

Wednesday 18th November KS2 Camo Club to Book Launch HMS Warrior

Thursday 19th November 9.30am and 3.30pm New Parents walk round book via office

Monday 30th November 9.30am New Parents walk round

Monday 7th December New Parents walk round 3.30-4.30pm

Tuesday 8th December Year 6 trip to Search Museum

Tuesday 8th December 2.00pm KS 1 Nativity

Tuesday 8th December 6-8pm PFA event Wreath Making further information to follow

Wednesday 9th December Yr 5&6 Reconciliation Service

Wednesday 9th December KS 1 Nativity 4.00pm

Thursday 10th December 2.00pm KS 1 Nativity

Friday 14th December Rocksteady Concert 2.00pm

Tuesday 15th December School Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 16th December 1.30pm Advent Mass

Thursday 17th December 2.00pm School Carol Service Year 6 Parents invited

Friday 18th December 1.00pm Finish NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Monday 4th January 2027 Spring Term begins

Spring Half Term 15th February -19th February 2027

Easter Holiday 26th March - 12th April

May Half Term 31st May - 5th June

Summer Holidays break up Wed 21st July at 1.00pm

Inset Days 2026-2027 2nd November May 28th June 18th