



Newsletter May 2026

Dear Families,

As we approach the May half term, I want to thank you for your continued support throughout this special month.

May, the Month of Mary, has given the children meaningful moments of reflection and kindness, and it has been lovely to see this shine through in their daily actions.

We enjoyed a joyful Family Day that truly brought our community together and are now looking forward to a successful Sports Day, where the children can show fantastic teamwork and enthusiasm.

We are so proud of the children's efforts and achievements.

Wishing all families a peaceful and refreshing half term break and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 2nd June.

Mrs Philpott



A Prayer for the Month of Mary

*Our Lady of May,
you who said yes when the
world needed a Savior,
teach us to say yes - to
grace, to sacrifice, to love.
Take our prayers this month
into your hands.*

*Bring them to your Son, who
refuses you nothing.*

*And in the silence of these
spring days,
let us hear your voice once
more:*

*“Do whatever he tells you.”
Amen.*

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school is vital for children's learning, confidence, and wellbeing. Year 4 continue to lead the way!

Year R – 95.5%

Year 1 – 97.1%

Year 2 – 97.1%

Year 3 – 97.1%

Year 4 – 97.4%

Year 5 – 97%

Year 6 – 96.5%

Whole School – 96.8%

Well
done
Year 4

No Sweets!



We know children love bringing in treats to share on their birthday, but please remember that St. Joseph's is a **NO SWEETS** school.

This helps us because it:

- promotes healthier eating habits,
- protects pupils with allergies,
- supports those who follow a sugar-free diet,
- keeps costs down for parents.

Thank you for respecting this rule and for helping us keep every child safe, included, and cared for.

CELEBRATIONS

We are proud of these boys who recently celebrated the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Salvador upheld family traditions by choosing to attend his First Communion wearing the regional costume of his roots, how wonderful!



ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

On 1st May, we had a lovely celebration for St Joseph's day. The whole school walked to Church and when we returned, we cooled off with an ice lolly. A huge thanks to the PTA for buying these - they were well received!



Congratulations to our year 6 pianist who achieved Grade 3. We are very proud and look forward to hearing some pieces played in school.



Congratulations to M in year 3 who completed the Junior Marathon – amazing!

Diary Dates



Diary Dates	Class	Event
Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th	All	MAY HALF TERM
Monday 1 st June	All	INSET DAY/ Teacher Training Day
Friday 5 th June	Year R	Class Assembly @ 9am
Monday 8 th June	Year 1	Phonics Screening Week (Mon – Fri)
Tuesday 9 th June	Year 3	Parent workshop - Kaboom Maths
Friday 12 th June	Year 1	Class Assembly @ 9am
Monday 15 th June	Choir	Junior Music Festival - Performance
Wednesday 17 th June	Year 5 Girls	9am Mother & Daughter Session (60 mins)
Friday 19 th June	Year 2	Class Assembly @ 9am
Friday 26 th June	Year 3 & 4	@ 9am – Celebrating First Holy Communion
Friday 26 th June	Year R	A Trip to Chertsey Museum
Monday 29 th June	Year 6	Year 6 Performance 1 @ 6.30pm
Tuesday 30 th June	Year 6	Year 6 Performance 2 @ 2pm
JULY	ALL	We are having a Plastic-Free July
Wednesday 1 st July	All	Transition Day – visit new class
Thursday 2 nd July	All	Transition Day – visit new class
Friday 3 rd July	All	Science Day
Monday 6 th July	Years 4,5 and 6	SHP Wilde Day
Monday 6 th July	Year R, 1,2,3	In school prayer space session with the Kerrith Centre
Week of 6 th July -10 th	All	SPORTS WEEK
Tuesday 14 th July	Year 6	Class retreat at Church – all day
Thursday 16 th July	Year 5 & 6	Candle Service @ 2pm
Wednesday 22 nd July	All	Leavers Mass @ Church am Time TBC
Wednesday 22 nd July	All	END OF TERM

PE DAYS - AFTER HALF TERM

****Please note there are some changes**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 1 Year 4 Year 5	Year R Year 1 Year 6	Year R Year 2 Year 3	Year 2 Year 5 Year 6	Year 4 Year 3

VIKING DAY



Year 4 and 5 had a wildly victorious 'Viking Day', bursting with adventure, imagination, and plenty of history. From crafting and weaving to fearless teamwork, the children threw themselves into every challenge like true Norse heroes. It was wonderful having Emily from Chertsey Museum with us - her brilliant knowledge made the day feel even more magical. And a huge thank you for the fantastic costume efforts; the helmets, braids, shields, and tunics turned the school into a mini Viking village!



Year 2 Trip to Pizza Express



Year 2 enjoyed a wonderfully successful trip to Pizza Express where the children learned about making fresh pizza, tried their hand at preparing their own dough, and represented the school brilliantly. Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and impeccable behaviour made the experience memorable for everyone involved. Delicious!



LOCAL MP VISIT

On Tuesday 12th May, we were delighted to welcome our local MP, Mr Peter Swallow, into school. Our Year 5 children made us incredibly proud because they prepared thoughtful questions and showed real confidence when presenting them.



Well done to a year 6 child who proudly shared her letter asking for the government to take action against plastic pollution.



The discussion covered a wide range of important topics, from plastic pollution to parking in our local area, giving pupils a valuable opportunity to engage with real-world issues and understand how their voices can contribute to positive change.

Staff and governors also used this visit as a chance to highlight the parking challenges faced by our school community, emphasising our shared commitment to finding safer, more considerate solutions for everyone.

NO TOYS ALLOWED!

We have noticed an increased number of toys and jewellery being brought into school – especially the sticker bracelets and fidget toys. These items are not allowed as they can be a distraction during learning time and may easily get lost or broken.



They can also cause disagreements between children when items are shared, swapped, or damaged.

To help us maintain a calm, focused, and safe environment for everyone, please ensure your child leaves these items at home.



BERKSHIRE LEADERBOARD

St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary School and Nursery ↗	184
Lambrook School ↗	146
Holy Trinity CofE Primary School, Cookham ↗	110
St Piran's School ↗	108
Lowbrook Academy ↗	100
St Teresa's Catholic Academy ↗	87
Cookham Rise Primary School ↗	71
Clewer Green CofE First School ↗	65
Wellington College Prep ↗	59

Year / Age	Pacts
Pre-school (3 - 4)	1
Reception (4 - 5)	1
Year 1 (5 - 6)	1
Year 2 (6 - 7)	1
Year 4 (8 - 9)	1
Year 5 (9 - 10)	1

Would you like to hear more about the Smartphone Free Childhood?

A parent has kindly set up a group chat – please join!

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/GoPrRRbAjMTDzUWrJvzl6e>

FAMILY DAY 2026

Sunday 10th May was a wonderfully successful Family Day, There was a brilliant community spirit, and families enjoyed an amazing range of activities from inflatables and a thrilling visit from the fire engine to the ever-popular lucky dip, tombola, and mountains of delicious cakes. A huge thank-you to the PTA for organising such a fantastic event, and to our wonderful compere Mr Clark, who kept the day lively and full of laughter.



PARKING

To help ease the ongoing parking challenges and keep our school environment safe for everyone, we kindly ask parents to be considerate of others during busy drop-off and pick-up times. Please avoid blocking access points or stopping in ways that create congestion.

Where possible, we encourage families to walk to school, lift share with a friend, or arrange to meet up and walk together as a small group. For our older pupils, particularly Year 6, we also recommend using a nearby drop-off point so they can walk the final part of the journey independently as this prepares them for secondary school.

We have discussed the situation with our local MP and are following up potential ideas with Bracknell Football Club, but despite these efforts, parking continues to be a significant challenge.

Your support, patience, and willingness to adapt make a real difference to the whole school community.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We encourage all families to check whether they may be eligible for Free School Meals, as this support can benefit both your child and the school. Even if your child brings a packed lunch, a successful application provides extra funding that helps enhance their learning.

Registering is really quick and easy

- online www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals
- phone 01344 352000

If you're unsure whether you qualify, please take a moment to check your eligibility or submit an application - the process is quick and confidential.

ST JOSEPH'S PTA

UPCOMING EVENTS

2026



HOT CHOC/ ICE-LOLLY SALE DATES TBA

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT !

The Family day raised
an amazing £1031.90



MORE THAN MARTIAL ARTS

TRY US FREE!

BOOK YOUR FREE
TRIAL CLASS TODAY!

WE BUILD CONFIDENCE, FOCUS
& STRONGER FUTURES!



**BUILDS
CONFIDENCE**

Grow self-belief &
self-esteem



**IMPROVES
FOCUS**

Better concentration
in school & life



**LEARN REAL
SELF-DEFENCE**

Practical skills for
real-life situations



**MAKE FRIENDS
& HAVE FUN!**

A positive, supportive
environment

CLASSES FOR EVERY AGE

4 - 6 YEARS	5.15PM - 6.00PM
7 - 9 YEARS	6.00PM - 6.45PM
10 - 12 YEARS	6.45PM - 7.30PM
TEENS & ADULTS	7.30PM - 8.15PM

SPECIAL OFFER

2-FOR-1 FAMILY TRAINING!

Join today and a
second family member
trains **FREE!***

*Terms & conditions apply.



**ALL ABILITIES
WELCOME!**

FIND US HERE!



St Joseph's Primary School
Gypsy Lane
Bracknell
RG12 9AP

Parking available on site

Please enter via the
main school entrance.

JOIN TODAY AND KICKSTART YOUR MARTIAL ARTS JOURNEY!



VISIT OUR WEBSITE &
BOOK YOUR FREE TRIAL

BLAZEMARTIALARTS.COM



QUESTIONS?

Message us on Facebook



or call **07551 195384**



**WORLD
CUP
2026**



**MAY FUN
WEEK
AGES 5-13**

WHAT'S COMING UP

MAY HALF-TERM LINEUP



ROAD TO WORLD CUP FUN WEEK, ASCOT

TUES 26TH TO THURS 28TH MAY
10:00-15:00
CHARTERS LEISURE CENTRE,
CHARTERS ROAD, SL5 9QY

ROAD TO WORLD CUP FUN WEEK, SANDHURST

TUES 26TH TO FRI 29TH MAY
09:30-15:15
SANDHURST SPORTS CENTRE,
OWLSMOOR ROAD, GU47 0SD

SCAN
ME





GEMS

Autism & ADHD Support Service
East Berkshire

Virtual Coffee Morning - Family, siblings and homelife

Friday 19th June - 10:00 - 11:00am

**25 spaces
available!**

Join our online informal discussion to cover the following areas:

- Creating a home that works for everyone's needs and rhythms
- Supporting sibling bonds
- Navigating family tensions with empathy and realistic expectations
- Letting go of 'perfect' parenting

Please note this is not a workshop but support group for parent/carers and any medical advice should be sought from your medical practitioner.



Sign Up Today!

Available for families who reside in or have a registered GP in East Berkshire with a child who is Autistic/ADHD (suspected/pathway/diagnosed)

To book your place contact GEMS:



Gems.4Health@nhs.net



0800 999 1342

Upcoming Events



GEMS

Autism & ADHD Support Service
East Berkshire

Please visit our website to book your space - www.Gems4Health.com

MAY
05

7 PM TO 9 PM

3 Part Autism Course

MAY
13

10 AM TO 12 NOON

Empowering Calm

MAY
18

7 PM TO 9 PM

**Understanding
Emotional Regulation**

JUNE
03

10 AM TO 12 NOON

**PDA - Demand
Avoidance**

JUNE
09

7 PM TO 9 PM

**Sleep - Autism and
ADHD**

JUNE
10

10 AM TO 12 NOON

Managing Anxiety

JUNE
10

7 PM TO 9 PM

3 Part ADHD Course

JULY
01

10 AM TO 12 NOON

**Barriers to School,
Can't go, Not won't go!**

TBC
00

7 PM - 9 PM

**AuDHD & Interoception
workshop coming soon**



Parenting
Special
Children

NHS

Frimley



Employers For Childcare

Why is Employers For Childcare closing their childcare voucher scheme?

In 2018 the UK Government closed the childcare voucher scheme to new entrants thereby signalling the eventual end of the scheme. Since then, the number of employees participating has significantly declined. Some childcare voucher providers have already ceased operations and eventually all will do so, however timescales will differ. It is not financially viable for Employers For Childcare Trading Limited to continue beyond December 2026.

What is the final date parents can use childcare vouchers to pay for registered childcare?

Parents must submit final childcare voucher payments to childcare providers before 12 noon on Friday 11 December 2026. Childcare voucher payments submitted after this will not be processed. If parents make regular childcare voucher payments via standing order to pay for childcare, they must ensure this is amended on time. On **Friday 11 December 2026** all parents childcare voucher accounts will be closed permanently, and they will no longer have access to them. Final childcare voucher payments that have been submitted by parents will be with childcare providers by **16 December 2026**.

How can parents ensure they are getting the most appropriate form of financial help with their childcare costs?

Childcare vouchers are a convenient way to pay for registered childcare costs, but parents who wish to explore alternative financial support should contact the Family Benefits Advice Service which provides free, impartial and confidential advice on a wide range of childcare and work-related issues including Universal Credit, Tax-Free Childcare, NI Childcare Subsidy Scheme and Carer's Allowance. Email fbas@employersforchildcare.org

Employers for Childcare have contacted parents directly but if you would like to check any information, email secretary@stjosephsbracknell.co.uk

Year 5's Simon has been busy drawing flags. How many flags do you recognise?

