

Newsletter 11th September 2026



Head Teachers Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well. Click [HERE](#) for this weeks Head Teacher Message.

Please like and subscribe to be made aware of all new and exciting St Josephs content.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Miss Riddles

3. Theme of the Week Sheet - 13th September 2026

Theme of the Week - Forgive

In last week's Gospel we heard Jesus instructing the disciples on what they must do when solving a disagreement between them. And on Sunday, Jesus continues this when questioned by Peter. If we disagree with one another, we must try and find ways to resolve; but we must forgive one another as we continue to ask God for forgiveness.

Some will argue that this is the biggest challenge when following Christ. Loving someone or demonstrating love to someone can be easy. Throwing money into a charity box (a great thing to do so don't stop doing it) can be an easy thing to do especially if you have spare money. When trying to forgive, however, to say you have forgiven, is easier than actually believing and feeling you have forgiven! How many times have you said you have forgiven someone, but you know deep down you still haven't?

Many of the things Jesus taught us goes directly against our human nature. Let's face it, if someone has cheated you out of money, a place on the school football team, or blatantly lied about you so others think worse of you, how difficult is that to forgive? Forgiving someone seven times, as Peter was advocating, was a generous effort at mercy. But Jesus demands a higher standard for his followers and illustrates this with the story of the unforgiving servant. The king forgives the impossibly enormous debt of one of his officials out of compassion, but the forgiven man refuses to match this treatment when dealing with the debt of another. He resorts to violence, and so loses the mercy that has previously been offered to him.

Forgiveness always sounds very holy and sincere, but when it comes to being wronged, we can find that our feelings get in the way. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "**The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.**" So ask yourself this, how strong are you when following Christ? Or how stronger can you become in following Christ? Reflect on some of the words of the Lord's prayer: ***forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;*** It is something we say most days so let us go and be **Active** and **Curious** in living it!



Forgive

Weekly Reflections
13th September 2026
24th Sunday in Ordinary



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 18: 21-35

At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.'

'Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, "Pay what you owe." So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.'

Prayer for the Week

Compassionate Father,

In prayer I ask you for your forgiveness for my faults and transgressions.

Instil within me the spirit of forgiveness to others, so through my own actions and words, I can truly live out the message of Christ in all I do.

Amen.

Day 1

Have you ever said you have forgiven someone but really you haven't? Why is this so difficult?

Day 2

Why does Jesus demand a higher standard from us regarding forgiving others?

Day 3

How can you be more **Active and Curious** in living out the words of the Lord's prayer?

Year 7 News

Congratulations to all Year 7 students on completing their first full week at St Joseph's. It has been wonderful to see the positive attitude, enthusiasm, and resilience shown by students as they settle into secondary school life. Staff have been particularly impressed with the excellent behaviour, engagement in lessons, and the kindness shown towards one another.

As students continue to develop good routines, I would like to remind families of the importance of being fully prepared for the school day. Students should ensure that their school

bags are packed the night before, with all the equipment and books they need for the following day. Being organised helps students feel confident and ready to learn from the moment they arrive at school.

A reminder regarding PE lessons: students should arrive at school wearing their full school uniform, even on days when they have PE. Students will change into their PE kit at the start of their PE lesson and change back into their school uniform afterwards.

Have a lovely weekend :)

Miss Joseph - Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

Hello all,

Thank you to all of those who attended Welcome Evening on Wednesday, the turn out was great! As I said during the evening, please keep an eye out for future events, I will make sure these are posted on the newsletter via my weekly message. The first big one to note down is Parents Evening which is scheduled for the 26th November. Start time will be 4.15PM and will run until 7PM. More information and ParentPay invited will be out in the coming weeks so please watch out.

It has been a strong start to the Year already with the Year group keeping up their 95% Positive to Negative point ratio from last year! I can already

Have a lovely weekend

Mr Cooper-Santos - Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our Welcome Evening on Wednesday. It was lovely to see so many of you, and we really appreciate your support as we start the new school year together. It has been a really positive week overall, with 96% of points awarded being positive. This is a fantastic start and reflects the great effort, attitude and behaviour we have seen from students across the school.

There are, a few areas that we will continue to work on. I would encourage both students and parents/carers to check ClassCharts regularly. This is a great way to keep up to date with homework, positive points, behaviour and any areas that may need attention. A number of the negative points this week have been linked to students not having the correct equipment or not

submitting homework on time. I would encourage parents and carers to support students in developing strong organisational habits by ensuring they are prepared for each school day, have the correct equipment and complete and submit homework by the required deadlines. These small routines make a big difference and will help students to become increasingly organised and independent.

Overall, it has been a very good week, and I'm really pleased with the positive start our students have made. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Viegas - Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

What a fantastic first full week back! It has been brilliant to see our Year 10 students make such a positive start to Key Stage 4. Students have now experienced their first GCSE and BTEC option lessons and have settled into their new courses.

I'm also delighted to share some excellent news: as I write this, we have recorded 0 homework Xs across the year group. Thank you to all of our parents and carers for the support you continue to provide at home.

Let's keep this positive momentum going into next week and continue setting the high standards that will help Year 10 thrive throughout the year.

Have a restful weekend, Look after you loved ones,

Mr Hunt - Head of Year 10

Year 11 News

We have now completed our first full week back, and Year 11 currently have an 88% positive behaviour ratio. While there have been many positive starts, this is below the standard we need for such an important year.

The biggest concern this week has been missed homework, with 31 Homework Xs already issued. This is far too high at the start of Year 11. Please make sure you are regularly checking ClassCharts at home, discussing homework with your child and ensuring that all work is completed and submitted on time.

Next Thursday is Open Evening, which means students will have a half day. Please make sure your child is aware of the arrangements and uses the additional time productively.

I have also spoken to Year 11 about creating a revision timetable. Revision needs to begin now, not after Christmas or just before the next PPEs. Please support your child in creating a realistic weekly timetable and encourage them to build revision into their normal routine at home.

The message is simple: the earlier students start, the more confident and prepared they will be when the exams arrive.

Every lesson matters. Every homework matters. Every revision session matters.

Our motto this year remains:

“Effort turns potential into achievement.”

Let's keep raising the standard and make this year count.

God Bless,

Mr Whiteside - Head of Year 11

Year 12 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of our first full week back in Sixth Form! Thank you to those of you who were able to attend our Information Evening this week. If you were not able to come, you should receive a call from your child's form tutor in the coming days where you will have an opportunity to ask about the details shared there. I am particularly looking forward to seeing who has taken the challenge of applying for Student Leadership, Coaching or even the Challenges Abroad scheme! In case you were not aware, here are some practical details about life in Sixth Form at St Joseph's. The students are expected to attend school every day from form time onwards no matter how many lessons they have on that day - we need them in school and studying for a full day and there are too many temptations to sleep in or get distracted at home! They should come through the school gates by 8.15 in the morning. If they do not have a lesson period 5 they are able to go home after reading time but not before then. So the earliest they can leave each day (potentially) is 2.15pm. Reading time is compulsory to all students and happens between 1.40pm and 2.15pm daily. Remember that if you have any questions or concerns you can always speak to myself or Mrs Finn. Form tutors are also available for support and advice. So far it has been a great start to the term and we look forward to many engaging weeks of learning to come!

Have a good weekend!

Miss Stevens - Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Mrs Finn - Head of Sixth Form

Year 13 News

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of our first week back and what an action-packed week it has been. Thank you to all parents and students who attended our Information evening on Tuesday. For those who were unable to attend, you should receive a phone call from your child's form tutor in the coming weeks to help answer any questions that you may have or find out more about what you missed. I offer my sincere thanks also to the students who helped to support us with the practical organisation of the Information evenings for other year groups in the school - of which there were many. Year 13 have come back very focused and with an excellent attitude to their studies which has been great to see. A number of them have begun their UCAS applications and writing their personal statements. Do continue to have conversations with your son or daughter about their future plans and ensure that if they need help with anything, they know they can come and see either myself or Mrs Finn for advice. In a matter of just a few weeks the students will sit class assessments and we will have another data drop/report cycle which will give us a clearer idea of how the students have developed since their PPEs in the summer. Do encourage them to look back at their feedback which they received in the summer as this continues to be of value and support to them in their progress.

Wishing you all a great weekend,

Miss Stevens - Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Mrs Finn - Head of Sixth Form

Students of the Week

Year 7: Isobella Lee and Bryan Antczak for receiving the most positive points this week

Year 8: Frances Okafor and Nathanael Sumith Oommen for an excellent first week back!

Year 9: Victoria John for with the Nationwide Seneca Competition and Benjael Rebelo for the most positive points this week.

Year 10: Zain Andaloussi - Sadsad & Elena Rooney for impressive starts to the year

Year 11: Wiktorja Wrobel and Max Matuszewicz

Year 12: Mikolaj Ignatowicz for great contributions in English Language lessons and Emma Powell for an excellent start to Sixth Form

Year 13: Rosa Bavington and Darragh O Connor for excellent motivation and focus with their UCAS applications

GL Testing Advent (Autumn) 2026

We have reviewed our GL Assessment programme for this academic year and have **reduced the number of assessments students are required to complete**, bringing our approach more closely in line with the recommended GL testing schedule. This ensures that standardised testing remains purposeful and proportionate, while continuing to provide us with valuable information about students' progress and areas for development.

During the **Advent (Autumn) Term**, students will complete the following assessments:

- **Year 7:** English, Maths, Science, Spelling and Reading
- **Years 8 & 9:** Reading and Spelling
- **Years 10 & 12:** Reading
- **Years 11 & 13:** No GL assessments

Year 8 will receive their English and Maths testing in the Pentecost (Summer) term where Year 9 will receive English, Maths and Science.

Why have we reduced the number of tests?

GL assessments are designed to provide schools with a nationally standardised picture of students' attainment and development. They are most valuable when used at appropriate points alongside, rather than in place of, the assessment that takes place routinely within lessons and subjects.

Our revised schedule therefore avoids unnecessary repetition of standardised testing. Where we already have recent and reliable GL assessment information, teachers will continue to use this alongside classroom assessment, internal examinations and other evidence of progress. Students are therefore **not receiving less assessment or less monitoring of their progress**; we are simply making more effective use of the information already available.

Reading will continue to be assessed across several year groups because secure reading is fundamental to students' ability to access the curriculum successfully. The more extensive suite

of assessments in Year 7 also provides an important baseline as students begin their secondary education.

This approach allows us to maintain a strong understanding of students' needs while reducing unnecessary testing time and protecting more time for teaching and learning.

Receiving your child's reports

Students completing assessments during the Advent Term will receive a **paper copy of their results** once testing and reporting have been completed. Students who completed assessments during the previous Pentecost (Summer) Term have already received a paper copy of these reports.

Parents and carers can also request **electronic copies of their child's Advent Term reports and/or their most recent Pentecost Term reports** by contacting the school office at office@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me, Mr Stack-Clark, at g.stack-clark@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Music Department News

Welcome Back

It's so good to see everyone back and ready to practice and prepare. There's a lot going on this year within the music department, including clubs, performances and lessons.

Congratulations to all of our music students over the summer who performed or passed/excelled at their examinations. A particular shout out to Year 13 music student Peace, who performed at The Curve in August as part of **Slough's Got Talent**. Not only did Peace put on a stellar performance, but he also won **Second Place**. Massive congratulations Peace!

We had a typically busy, but excellent musical start to the term, with our Mass Choir and musicians providing some excellent leading and accompaniment for our Whole School Mass, (with the addition of hauling all of the equipment back to music afterward) and auditions were held for some of our new year 7's who wanted to join St Joseph's Theatre Company, and be as part of our upcoming school production of *Grease*.

Extra Curricular Music At St Joseph's - Core Highlights

Monday Lunch 1: Guitar Club - KS4 and 5

Tuesdays Afterschool (3:15pm-4:5pm): GCSE Music Help Centre (GCSE Music Students Only)

Thursday's Before School (8am-8:20am): Singing Club

Friday's After School (3:15pm-4:15pm): String Ensemble

Music Classwork and Homework

Lots of our homeworks encourage independent learning. Please see below the range of homeworks that will be set to enhance learning. For many of these, access to the internet is key, therefore if there is an internet issue at home, there are computers in Music for students if needed.

KS3: Physical exercise, Music Notation Reading, Listening tasks, Research assignments, Teams Quizzes.

KS4: Extended listening exercises, Reading Music theory, Revision Booklets, Reading music scores, Composition skills development, Performance skills.

KS5: Extended listening and research exercises, Music theory reading and producing examples, Practice logs and performance skills, Analysis, evaluations and comparisons.

If any students have any issues with homework, they need to speak to their teacher in person or send a message through teams in advance of the lesson, or come to the music room at lunch times for guidance.

Slough Music Service - Instrumental Lessons

Here at St Joseph's we are really happy to work with Slough Music Service to provide instrumental lessons to students. A variety of instruments are available on either a 1:1 or group basis. Paper applications are available if preferred, otherwise you can apply for instrumental lessons via their website in the **Parents > Instrumental Lessons in School** Section. If you are a year 7 student and want to continue lessons from Year 6, please either contact Miss Ure (Head of Music) or Slough Music Service to continue your lessons.

<https://www.sloughmusicservice.co.uk/instrument-lessons/>

Design and Technology

Welcome Back!

It has been a real pleasure to welcome pupils back to the workshops and kitchen. We look forward to seeing you build and develop your practical skills and knowledge in Design and Technology and Food and Nutrition.

A reminder that you should always bring your apron if you have a food lesson (even if you are not due to be cooking- (it is good to get into the routine) You should also bring a suitable container to take food home if you are cooking.

Long hair needs to be tied up in DT and Food so please remember to bring a hair band with you as part of your equipment on those days.

We look forward to sharing pupil work with you in the coming weeks.

DT club starts on Monday.

DT Make IT elective.

This week pupils tapped away with hammers to create a piece of pin art. Many finished in the first session. Well done Mark house Makers :) We look forward to sharing more work from this term with you.



1 - Pin art from the first elective of the term.

DT Club- Make it MondayDESIGNeers.

DESIGNeers- DT club - Monday afterschool 3.20-4.15



Make it Monday!
If you love a challenge; enjoy solving problems and
Designing and Making; consider joining our D&T team!
Please see or message **Mrs Stacey on Teams**
Join us in A3 for DT Club on Monday afterschool. 3.20-4.15.

DESIGNEERS

2 - Monday Make it club reminder

*****DT Stars of the week*****

Csenge Bodor - Fabulous start to A level product design

Shyde Carvalho - For being active, curious and enthusiastic. - DT club is on this week- see you there :)

I Can do Maths



Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- C** First note that $0.9\dot{5} < 0.9\dot{5} < 0.9\dot{6}0 < 1 < 1.\dot{0}4\dot{0} < 1.\dot{0}5$, so $0.9\dot{6}0$ or $1.\dot{0}4\dot{0}$ is closest to 1. Also, note that $0.9\dot{6}0 = 0.960960\dots$, which differs from 1 by less than 0.04. However, $1.\dot{0}4\dot{0} = 1.040040\dots$, which differs from 1 by greater than 0.04. So $0.9\dot{6}0$ is closest in size to 1.

Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

- E** We are told that 40% of 50% of x is equal to 20% of 30% of y .
Therefore $0.4 \times 0.5 \times x = 0.2 \times 0.3 \times y$. Hence $0.2 \times x = 0.2 \times 0.3 \times y$.

$$\text{So } y = \frac{x}{0.3} = \frac{10x}{3}.$$

Puzzler of the week

My recipe for apple crumble uses 100 g of flour, 50 g of butter and 50 g of sugar to make the crumble topping. When my family come for a meal, I have to use two and a half times each amount to provide enough crumble. In total, how much crumble topping do I then make?

- A 0.5 kg B 2 kg C 2.5 kg D 5 kg E 50 kg

Break-Time Teaser

What is 20% of $3\frac{3}{4}$?

A $\frac{123}{200}$

B $\frac{13}{20}$

C $\frac{7}{10}$

D $\frac{3}{4}$

E $\frac{4}{5}$

Send your answers to Mr Allinson. Complete answers will get positive points on Class Charts.

Lunch Menu for Week 3

WEEKLY MENU St Josephs Catholic High School - Week Three				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chilli Con Carne served with Rice, Sour Cream & Cheese	Pork Sausages served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	Beef Lasagne	Szechuan Style Chicken served with Rice	Oven Baked Fish served with Chips & a Lemon Wedge
Quorn Cottage Pie	Mixed Bean Enchilada	Quorn Sausage served with Cheesy Mash & Gravy	Gnocchi with a Tomato & Basil Sauce	Sticky Sesame Cauliflower Wings
Vegetables or Freshly Prepared Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared Salad	Baked Beans or Mushy Peas
Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	-
Sticky Ginger Cake	Apple & Pear Crumble served with Custard	Iced Chocolate Sponge	Bread & Butter Pudding served with Custard	Tottenham Cake

Esquitos, Sandwiches and Bagnis, Saled Bar, Assorted Fruit Pies & Cold Desserts.

HARRISON
food with thought

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 15th September: Riding a dream.

Thursday 17th September: School finishing at 12:30pm. Open Evening

Clubs

PE Lunch and After school clubs Sept 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and table tennis	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball (GCSE students only)	Basketball and Volleyball
Lunch 2	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and table tennis	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and Volleyball
Afterschool	Netball Year 7-13 AAN and MJO Football Year 7+8 boys FWA Football Year 9-13 THU and JCO Badminton Year 7-13 KBR	Basketball Year 7-13 JCO Fitness Year 7-13 THU	Trampolining KBR Year 7-13 Badminton Year 7-13 AAN Girls Football Year 7-13 MJO	Fixtures	

DESIGNeers- DT club - Monday afterschool 3.20-4.15



Make it Monday!

If you love a challenge; enjoy solving problems and Designing and Making; consider joining our D&T team!

Please see or message **Mrs Stacey on Teams**

Join us in A3 for DT Club on Monday afterschool. 3.20-4.15.

Term Dates

School Year 2026 - 2027

Autumn Term

Inset Day Tuesday 1st September 2026

Year 7 + 12 Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Whole school returns Thursday 3rd September 2026

Half Term Monday 19th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026

Term Ends Friday 18th December 2026 (12:30pm finish)

Spring Term

Term Begins Monday 4th January 2027

Half Term Monday 15th February 2027 to Friday 19th February 2027

Term End Thursday 25th March 2027 (12:30pm finish)

Summer Term

Term Begins Monday 12th April 2027

Half Term Monday 31st May 2027 to Friday 4th June 2027

Term Ends Friday 16th July 2027 (12:30pm finish)