

Newsletter 3rd July 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

42. Theme of the week 5th July 2026

Come to me

Weekly Reflections
5th July 2026
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time



From the Gospel of Matthew (11:25-30)

At that time Jesus declared, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'



Prayer for the Week

Loving Jesus,
Thank you for revealing the Father and bringing Him closer to us. As we learn from your words, let our hearts be opened as we share our troubles and burdens with you in prayer. As we do, allow us to grow a deeper understanding so we can be there for others like you are for us.
Amen.

Day 1

What was the theme of the week from two weeks ago?
Again, who do you turn to when worried? Why?

Day 2

Who is Matthew writing the Gospel for?
What is a Yoke in the context of the Gospel?
What is Jesus asking us to do?

Day 3

How can you be **Attentive** and **Discerning** this week to learn from Jesus?

Theme of the Week – Come to me

Can you remember the theme of the week from two weeks ago? It concerned Jesus instructing the Apostles and it also referenced sparrows within it? The theme was 'Do not be afraid' and the question posed to you in it was, 'what do you do when you are worried?' You turn to someone you trust; you confide in someone. Jesus in the Gospel today tells us what we need to do when we are worried, we need to come to him.

Remember, who is Matthew writing for? Matthew is writing for the Jewish converts during their troublesome time of not knowing what will happen to them now they have turned to following Christ. When referencing the word Yoke, a Yoke is a piece of equipment that would go around the neck of an Ox that would then be attached to a plough or cart and the Ox would pull along. Jesus, when using the word Yoke, is acknowledging Jewish Law and custom. And for the Jews at the time, following the letter of the law was an extremely important part of life. These laws however can do some much in actually stopping us from doing what is right. They can overburden us that we miss out on so much. *"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* Sometimes we forget that following Christ isn't difficult. All we need to do is listen to our conscience and do the right thing.

Jesus' message is simple but also a challenge to us. It can be so easy to get caught up in Canon law (the law of the Church) and enforce it or challenge others with it that we lose trust and wonder of the openness of God. In our world today, we can all agree that we possibly only come to Jesus when we are weary, scared or in need. It can be difficult to have Christ at the heart of our life when things are going well. How about today, if life is going well for you, ease someone else's burden. Try and be more **Attentive** and **Discerning** in listening to Christ and take upon 'His Yoke' so we can learn from Him.

Year 7 News

What a lovely end to the week we have all just had! It was a brilliant first sports days for the Year 7s, there was lots of fun, lots of cheering and most importantly lots of coming together!

Only two more weeks to go!

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Cooper-Santos - Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

Today was one of the highlights of the school year as we came together to celebrate Sports Day. A big well done to everyone who took part. It was wonderful to see so many students demonstrating determination, resilience, and excellent sportsmanship throughout the day's events. Whether competing or supporting their peers, every student played a part in making the day such a success. Congratulations also to those who were successful in their events.

With just two weeks remaining of the academic year, I would encourage all students to remain focused, continue working hard, and make the most of every opportunity.

Wishing you a pleasant weekend.

Mrs. Viegas - Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

What a wonderful day we have had! In my opinion, today is always one of the best days of the school year. A huge congratulations to every student who took part in your events. Whether you were competing, supporting, cheering from the sidelines, you all contributed to a fantastic atmosphere. A special well done goes to those who were victorious.

A big thank you to Peter House for leading this week's assembly. It was a thoughtful reflection on our Theme of the Week, **St Peter and St Paul**.

With just two weeks remaining until the summer holidays, let's continue to work hard, maintain our high standards, and finish the academic year with pride.

Look after your loved ones.

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

This week Year 10 achieved an 83% positive ratio, which is an improvement on last week. We have seen some positive movement in areas such as talking, equipment, off-task behaviour and missed lunch detentions, which is encouraging. However, there are still concerns around punctuality, truancy, homework and some disrespectful behaviour. Students must be in the right place, at the right time, ready to learn and following instructions first time.

Sports Day was a great success. Well done to all students who participated, competed, supported their houses and contributed to a brilliant atmosphere. It was a fantastic event and a great example of the energy and talent we have in Year 10.

A special shout out also goes to the students who represented the year group so well on the Geography trip into London. I am very proud of the way they conducted themselves and the positive impression they gave of St Joseph's.

We are seeing an increase in students using vapes, both in and out of school. Please be vigilant at home. We strongly encourage parents and carers to regularly check students' bags, coats and belongings for their own safety. Vaping is not permitted and will be dealt with seriously where found.

Attendance this week is below where we need it to be. We are almost at the end of the year, but standards do not drop. Attendance is paramount at this stage of the GCSE journey, and every lesson still matters. Please continue to ensure your child is in school, on time, in full uniform and ready to learn.

Let's finish Year 10 strongly.

God bless.

Mr Whiteside - Head of Year 10

Year 12 News

I would like to start this week by saying a huge thank you to all of our students for their commitment and professionalism during Interview Day. We welcomed 15 business volunteers into school to conduct the interviews, and everyone I spoke to was incredibly impressed by the way our students conducted themselves and by their excellent manners. As Head of Year, I have the privilege of seeing this every day, but to hear such positive feedback from people who had only met them once is a real testament to just how fantastic they all are.

Today, we held our annual Sports Day, and it was wonderful to see so many students taking part and getting involved in the wide range of events on offer.

As we approach the final couple of weeks of term, it is really important that students know what they need to be working on in each subject so that they can make a strong start to Year 13. Students should now be receiving feedback on their PPEs and, whilst it is important that they have time to rest and recharge over the summer, they also need to ensure they are addressing any gaps in their knowledge. Please do encourage your son or daughter to speak to their subject teachers if there is anything they are unsure about.

I hope you all have a fabulous weekend,

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 12

Students of the Week

Year 7: Hollie Timms & Jake Kemp for excellent weeks

Year 8: Hollie Thynne & Alex Leonard-Finn for an excellent week

Year 9: Roman George & Antoinette Forsdick

Year 10: Darren Bailey & Lucas Leonor

Year 12: Nick Tolwinski for earning the most positive points this week and Matilda Kemp for making an excellent impression on Interview Day

GL Assessment Reports – Summer 2026

Over the coming week during form time, students will receive the results of the GL Assessments they completed earlier this term.

These nationally standardised assessments help us understand each student's strengths and areas for development, allowing us to target support, evaluate the impact of our curriculum and monitor progress against national benchmarks. In addition, the reports have personalised insights and suggestions as to how the student can make improvements.

Students will receive:

- Individual reports for each progress test completed (where applicable).
- An overview report summarising their **Standard Age Scores (SAS)**, progress since the autumn assessments and guidance to support the development of reading and spelling.

The reports provide just **one measure of your child's progress** and should be considered alongside their classwork, teacher assessments and wider achievements throughout the year.

A detailed letter explaining how to interpret the reports, including answers to frequently asked questions about Standard Age Scores (SAS), GCSE indicators and progress, will accompany the reports. This will be on Class Charts.

If you would prefer to receive a PDF copy of your child's reports, please contact the school office at office@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

We hope these reports provide a helpful insight into your child's progress and continue to strengthen the partnership between home and school as we work together to help every student flourish and achieve their full potential.

Upcoming PE dates



Wednesday 8th July- Berkshire School Games

Thursday 9th July-British Racing school simulator and jockey fitness

Thursday 9th July- Boys dance with creative Academy

Thursday 9th July-SEND Tennis

Monday 13th July - Try it

Year 10 Geography Trip to London

This week, our GCSE Geography students travelled to London to carry out their fieldwork investigations. They explored regeneration in Stratford and studied biodiversity in Hyde Park, collecting valuable data to support their GCSE studies. Despite the hot weather, students demonstrated outstanding resilience, enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the day. They were a credit to the school, and we are incredibly proud of the excellent effort and maturity they showed.



The Lodge Gardening Elective

We have some exciting updates from The Lodge Garden. As you will have seen in Miss Riddles' video message last week, we have our 3 troughs in the garden.

Below is some photos of our troughs:

- **Plants growing in the white 'greenhouse' we have tomatoes which are coming along nicely.**
- **We have some runner beans growing.**
- **Students planted their sunflowers not so long ago and they are beginning to come along nicely too!**

We are really excited to see this garden grow and develop!



1 - Tomatoes



2 - Runner Beans + Sunflowers



Music Department News

Extra Curricular Clubs:

- **Strings Club:** Friday's afterschool in XA room 3:15-4:15pm
- **Singing Club:** Thursday mornings before line up in Music room. 8am-8:20am

- **GCSE Music Help:** Lunch 1 Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

Instrumental Lessons - Slough Music Service:

At Joseph's, instrumental lessons can be provided during the school day via Slough Music Service. If you are interested in taking lessons in a particular instrument, please complete the application form via the Slough Music Service website.

If you want to have lessons but do not have access to an instrument, or have any questions, please speak to Miss Ure.

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

Design and Technology News

Food Preparation and Nutrition

A 'normal' week in the kitchen this week :) Phew! A highlight was Year 9s who showcased fabulous chopping skills and layered love onto their Bruschettas. Super work year 9 chefs!





KS3 D&T Challenges

Testing has commenced..... How Slow can you go for the Year 7 Marble runs which have to include and showcase all 4 motions. Year 8 Structures have to be Strong and lightweight.... Who will be the champions of the challenges..... Looking forward to sharing next week!

DT Club-Designers- Make It Monday

Yahooooo the 'dispensers' were completed and we were able to test them out. Still a few to go home, next week we will try a bit of Tinkercad to end the term. Thankyou Designers, We have really enjoyed Make It Mondays with you. :)



PIC•COLLAGE



PIC•COLLAGE



PIC•COLLAGE

DT STARS

*Well done to **Hollie Thynne** and **Jakub Krystynski** for being **Active and curious** in lessons and achieving most Positives in DT this week. :) Keep up the good work.*

Karting Elective

A man in a black hoodie and cap is kneeling and working on the rear wheel of a red and black go-kart. The kart is elevated on red jack stands. The background shows a workshop with various tools and equipment. The text "CAN YOU HELP?" is prominently displayed at the top in a bold, distressed font, with "CAN YOU" in black and "HELP?" in red. Below this, three bullet points with icons (gear, two people, and an envelope) provide details about the project and contact information. A checkered flag graphic is visible in the bottom right corner.

CAN YOU HELP?

 Do you have **mechanical** or **engineering** experience?

 We are looking for **parents** who are willing to help with a project.

 Please contact **Mr Allinson** for more information.

Holiday Activities Programme - Summer 2026



Kooth – Free Online Mental Health Support for Young People

Did you know that our students have access to **Kooth**, a free, safe and anonymous online mental health and wellbeing service for young people aged **10–18**?

Commissioned by the NHS and accredited by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), Kooth provides confidential support to help children and young people manage their mental health and emotional wellbeing. It complements existing support available through schools and other services.

What Kooth offers:

- **Free online counselling** with qualified mental health practitioners via live text chat or secure messaging.
- **Self-help tools** including journals, goal-setting activities and wellbeing exercises to help young people build resilience and develop positive coping strategies.

- **Peer support** through moderated online discussion boards where young people can safely connect with others experiencing similar challenges.
- **Helpful resources** including articles, videos and activities covering a wide range of mental health and wellbeing topics.

Why use Kooth?

- No referral is needed – young people can register themselves in just a few minutes.
- The service is **completely anonymous**, helping many young people feel more comfortable seeking support.
- Available **365 days a year**, with live counselling offered: **Monday to Friday: 12.00 pm – 10.00 pm** **Weekends: 6.00 pm – 10.00 pm**
- Content is carefully moderated and tailored to be appropriate for different age groups.

Kooth offers an additional source of support for young people who may be struggling with their mental health, feeling anxious, stressed or overwhelmed, or who simply want someone to talk to. It provides a safe, welcoming space where they can access professional advice and practical wellbeing tools whenever they need them.

For more information or to register, visit www.kooth.com.

I Can do Maths



Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- B** When one third of the circle is shaded, the angle at the centre of the shaded sector is $360^\circ \div 3 = 120^\circ$. In diagram A, the sector angle is 90° . In diagram C, the sector angle is $90^\circ + 90^\circ \div 2 = 135^\circ$. So the correct diagram has a sector angle greater than that shown in A, but smaller than that shown in C. The only such sector angle is that in B.

Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

- A** Consider the units digits of the squares of the integers 0, 1, 2, 3, ..., 9. These are 0, 1, 4, 9, 6, 5, 6, 9, 4, 1. Note that none of these is 7, so no square ends in a 7.

Puzzler of the week

Someone has switched the numbers around on Harry's calculator!

The numbers should be in the positions shown in the left-hand diagram, but have been switched to the positions in the right-hand diagram.

7	8	9
4	5	6
1	2	3

9	8	7
6	5	4
3	2	1

Which of the following calculations will *not* give the correct answer when Harry uses his calculator?

- A 79×97 B 78×98 C 147×369 D 123×321 E 159×951

Break-Time Teaser

How many three-digit numbers are increased by 99 when their digits are reversed?

- A 4 B 8 C 10 D 80 E 90

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

Menu

WEEKLY MENU				
St Joseph's Catholic High School - Week Three				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
"Steve's Lava" Chicken with Penne Pasta	Chilli Con Carne served with Rice, Sour Cream & Cheese	Chicken Souvlaki Flatbread with Salad & Tzatziki	Beef Pastitsio	Battered Fish served with Chips & a Lemon Wedge
Vegetarian Sausage Roll	Roast Vegetable Tart with a Pesto Drizzle	Mozzarella, Spinach & Tomato Pasta	Tuscan Bean Stew served with Crusty Bread	Black Bean Burrito filled with Coriander Rice served with Salsa
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
Oriental Style Vegetable Noodles	Pasta with Cheese & Ham Sauce	Pasta with Garlic & Parmesan	Pasta with Tomato Sauce	-
Jacket Potato with assorted fillings	Jacket Potato with assorted fillings	Jacket Potato with assorted fillings	Jacket Potato with assorted fillings	-
Lemon & Blueberry Sponge	Apple & Cinnamon Cake served with Whipped Cream	Jam Turnover	Pineapple Upside Down Cake with Custard	Iced Carrot Cake

Baguettes, Sandwiches, Bagels & Wraps. Salad Bar. Assorted Cold Desserts & Fruit Pots.

HARRISON food with thought

Clubs

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.



Ham Radio Club

Most Fridays 15:15-16:15, at the top of the Tower Block.
An interesting club for everyone.
For any questions, please message Mr Allinson



Radio Society of Great Britain
Advancing amateur radio since 1913



KEY STAGE 3 AFTERSCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB

WEDNESDAYS FROM 3:15PM TILL 4PM

Come along and see why
Science is so cool!

Led by
Mrs. Lionel and Mrs.Hameed

For more information please
contact Mrs. Lionel

Welcome to Geography Club



Aims

- 1) To appreciate nature and its resources.
- 2) To create awareness of the environmental problems and adopt various measures to protect the earth.

Geography club meetings will be held every week after school on Fridays, 3.20-4.00pm. Open to year 7 to year 9.

In these sessions we will have geography quizzes, competitions (Wealth out of Waste, poster competition), paper bag making, creating coastal landform models and planting herbs.

The first Geography Club meeting will be held on Friday, 3rd October 2025 in T-15 at 3:20 - 4:00 p.m.



WELCOME TO OUR AMAZING KS3 MFL CLUB (SUMMER TERM)

Reaching out to all you empathetic and enthusiastic languages lovers. Get ready to join us after school WEEK 8 TUESDAY 15.20 in Room T5 (arrange to travel home safely 16.30). Have fun with your friendship group & also make fantastic new acquaintances! Join us for much fun & many snacks - bring your own, but must be nut free). You can also take charge of a club session like a "mini mentor" role; just Teams your Powerpoint and let Ms Shaw know beforehand so I can print out any student resources. Gain extra-curricular points, prizes or even a Goldfish Bowl nomination! We play languages games, music videos & competitions! We make projects, displays & assemblies! **SEE YOU SOON**

MFL Tamer

- To foster curiosity about different cultures.
- To allow communication with people in another language.
- To enhance cultural and linguistic understanding and create compassionate and tolerant students.

HOW TO SAY FRIEND IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

- friend
- 朋友 (péngyǒu)
- kabigan
- ami (m) / amie (f)
- 友達 (tomodachi)
- 친구 (chingoo)
- papir (droog, m) / nappya (podrooga, f)
- amigo (m) / amiga (f)
- Freund (m) / Freundin (f)
- amigo (m) / amiga (f)
- amigo (m) / amiga (f)
- amigo (m) / amiga (f)






St Josephs Dance Club

Starting Monday 12th January in the Assembly Hall



Move. Groove. Repeat.

Dance Club — Mondays after school

Fun routines • New skills

No experience needed!



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1	Badminton and Basketball	GCSE Students Badminton	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and Volleyball
Lunch 2	Badminton and Basketball	GCSE Students Badminton	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and Volleyball
Afterschool	Netball Year 7-13 AAN and MJO Football Year 7-13 boys FWA and THU Volleyball/ Badminton Year 7-13 JRO Fitness KBR Year 7-13 Dance Year 7-13 HST	Basketball Year 7-13 JCO Fitness Year 7-13 THU	Fitness KBR Year 7-13 Badminton Year 7-13 AAN Girls Football Year 7-13 MJO		

Term Dates

Term Dates

School Year 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term

Inset Day	Monday 1 st September 2025
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Inset Day	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
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Year 7 + 12	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
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Whole school returns	Thursday 4 th September 2025
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Inset Day	Friday 19 th September 2025
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Half Term	Monday 20 th October 2025 to Friday 31 st October 2025
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Term Ends	Friday 19 th December 2025 (12:30pm finish)
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Spring Term

Term Begins	Monday 5 th January 2026
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Half Term	Monday 16 th February 2026 to Friday 20 th February 2026
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Term Ends	Friday 27 th March 2026 (12:30pm finish)
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Summer Term

Inset Day	Monday 13 th April 2026
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Term Begins	Tuesday 14 th April 2026
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Half Term	Monday 25 th May 2026 to Friday 29 th May 2026
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Term Ends	Friday 17 th July 2026 (12:30pm finish)
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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)