INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE
John F Kennedy Catholic School

6th November 2026





Addressing World Youth Day in 1999, Pope John Paul II said, “Young people of every continent, do not be afraid to be the saints of the new millennium! Be contemplative, love prayer; be coherent with your faith and generous in the service of your brothers and sisters, be active members of the Church and builders of peace.”

Last Sunday we celebrated the feast of All Saints. Whilst we normally associate this celebration with the likes of St Peter, St Paul and St Carlo Acutis, the term ‘saint’ refers to anyone who has entered heaven. The former group are ‘canonized saints’ whereas the latter includes ordinary people - those who lived ordinary lives of faith, made mistakes, struggled with human weaknesses, and trusted in God. And that is what Pope John Paul II was referring to - the ability of ordinary people to achieve sainthood. Indeed Catholic teaching emphasizes that **every baptized person is called to be a saint**. Sainthood is not reserved for a spiritual elite or people born with a halo, but is an invitation for ordinary people to love God and others in their specific daily walks of life.

This was emphasised in Sunday’s Gospel reading, in which we heard the account of the ‘Sermon on the Mount’, in which Jesus taught his listeners about the Beatitudes - the attitudes, attributes and characteristics to which all Christians are called to aspire.

Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount not by outlining strategies for success but by revealing the qualities of those who belong to the Kingdom of God. The Beatitudes turn the world’s values upside down. They remind Catholic school communities that the deepest measure of our work is not achievement, reputation, or efficiency, but the kind of people we help to form. We are called to be gentle when others are impatient, merciful when mistakes are made, courageous in standing for what is right, and peacemakers wherever division arises. We are invited to recognise our own poverty of spirit, trusting that God is the source of our wisdom, strength, and hope. The Beatitudes remind us that Catholic education is ultimately about forming hearts that reflect the heart of Jesus and communities where God’s Kingdom is already becoming visible.

On Monday we celebrated the feast of All Souls - a day on which we remember and pray for family and friends and those we have known who have died, especially those who died more recently. This week in school we have facilitated this prayer opportunity in our Holy Souls

house liturgies, led by Callum and supported by our students. And this remains the focus of the Church throughout the month of November. It is particularly fitting that we pray for those members of the JFK community who have died, many of whom are commemorated on our site.

Former students:	**Former staff and governors:**
Anna Stokes	Paul Carruthers
Geoffrey Gower	Paul Smith
Daisy Mayes	Dave Janacek
Adam Clarke	Colin Evans
Donny Allen	Yunus Docrat
Michael Armstrong	David Roberts
Antoni Ochmanski	Michael Prindiville
	Daniel Zammit

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace
Amen

I would also like to share that former student Oliver Churton is running the London Marathon to raise funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust in memory of Anna Stokes:
https://2027tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/oliver-churton

Mobile Phone Pouches

Introducing phone pouches to the whole of the main school in one go was a big project. However, it has been achieved with very few teething problems. Huge thanks go to Mrs Bailey (Deputy Headteacher), who took overall responsibility for sourcing the most cost effective and high quality solution in our 'huSH' pouches and overseeing their introduction. The process has gone very smoothly this week and our students have - not surprisingly - adapted quickly to the new routines. As Mrs Bailey said at the end of her introductory assemblies on Monday, we are doing this because we care. We care about giving our students the best opportunities for learning and socialising, free from the distractions of mobile phones. And when students remove their phones from their pouches at the end of the day to find no waiting messages, they realise that they haven't missed anything during the day, but instead have been able to concentrate on all that school has to offer.

Thank you for your support with this initiative.



Mr Neves - Headteacher

ASCAT MASS & SYNOD

We had the pleasure of taking 11 of our students to represent JFK at the ASCAT Mass and Synod taking place on Thursday 5th November, at Our Lady, Queen of All Creation Catholic Church. This event was led by Deacon Liam Lynch, ASCAT's Director of Catholic Life and Mission.

Our 5 sixth formers took on the roll of group leaders, working with students from all over the trust (13 other schools) between the ages of 7 to 13. All of them did such a fantastic job, with plenty of positive feedback given from teachers present and the ASCAT staff!
Our 6 Year 9s joined groups with other students and worked hard with each other to complete a range of tasks facilitated by sixth formers.

We could write paragraphs on this day! However, it's better to hear from the students themselves. Below are some reflections from students who took part in today's event:

"Through leading activities with the 14 schools in our Trust, I felt a greater community feel guiding the younger students in prayer and reflection." - Kuba, Y13

"Today, many Year 9s and Year 13s went to Our Lady's for ASCAT's Synod Mass. We did many reflective and eye-opening tasks for deepening our faith."- Kayne 9K

"I am so grateful for this wonderful leadership opportunity handed to me, being able to improve my communication and leadership skills with the primary schools and most importantly connect with my faith.Teaching and helping the children reflect on their own values and actions it became a great opportunity to also connect with the ASCAT community and it is pleasure to be apart of SYNOD.The tasks and activity were very entertaining and if I were to be given this chance again I would take it." - Vesariah Y13

"When we went to Our Lady, Queen of All Creation, it was spectacular. All of the children from the 14 schools had such big, good ideas. There were loads of ideas, loads of big smiles and a lot of happiness. It was really good to see all of us praying and singing in harmony!" - Eli 9D

"Throughout the day, we did different activities, such as reading passages from the Bible in the church. We also did roots and fruits, where we wrote a value on the root and ways we can show it on the fruit. Finally, we made a motto for the new version of ASCAT. We also had a mass before our lunch, and one after. It was a great day!" - Freya 9F

"It was a very calming day which helped us reflect. We really enjoyed the activities. I think it was a well put together day." - Sabina, 9D

A massive thank you to all of our students who took part, students from other schools, the amazing staff who facilitated today to make it the best for our students and, of course, Deacon Liam for organising and producing today to deepen our understanding in what it means to be part of the Trust. God Bless!

Youth Ministry Team

Check out our instagram page - jfkymt

ENRICHMENT

On 22nd October we were delighted to welcome back former student Federica, who is now working as a doctor in Manchester, as part of our Sixth Form Enrichment Programme.

Federica delivered an excellent and engaging presentation, sharing her journey from Sixth Form to a career in medicine. She provided fascinating insights into the medical profession, her experiences as a doctor and the future of healthcare, including the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) and how emerging technologies could transform the way healthcare is delivered.

Beyond medicine, Federica spoke about her travels, hobbies and personal interests, highlighting the importance of embracing opportunities and maintaining a healthy work-life balance. She also offered valuable advice to our Sixth Form students about university and apprenticeship applications, career pathways and making the most of their time in education.

It was fantastic to welcome Federica back to JFK and hear about everything she has achieved. A huge thank you to her for such an insightful and inspiring presentation!



Mr Wainman, Assistant Director of Sixth Form

Check out our instagram page - jfk_6thform

HISTORY

On Thursday 22nd October Year 13 History A level students visited a medieval house in Piccotts End containing an original 16th Century religious wall painting. The Grade I listed cottages have been dated to the second half of 1527. This is a crucial year in the history of the English Reformation as it was the year in which Henry VIII attempted to have his marriage to Catherine of Aragon annulled. This places the house and its Catholic religious wall paintings at the heart of the story of the English Reformation. The paintings represent Christ in Majesty, blessing with one hand and holding the Orb in the other, the Baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan by St John, and the Pieta, showing the Virgin Mary cradling Chrit's body following crucifixion. Below this other important religious figures are shown; St Peter holding the keys to the Gates of heaven, an image of St Clement with his symbol of the anchor on each shoulder, and St Catherine standing beside her wheel. However, the faces of all of these figures have been obliterated as a result of the Protestant Reformation and the new laws outlawing images of Christ and the saints that were introduced under the reign of Henry VIII and Edward VI.

This was a fantastic opportunity for our A Level students to observe such a unique and local example of the Tudor Reformation and iconoclasm in action. The talk given by the owner of the house, Karen Murphy, was extremely engaging and informative and gave our pupils a great insight into the local history of the Reformation in Hertfordshire. Not only did this support students in their A Level study of the Tudors it also sparked much discussion about the importance of preserving and caring for unique historical buildings. Although the cottages in Piccotts End are under private ownership and are not open to the public as a museum they do open up several times a year as part of English Heritage open days. For more information about the wall paintings at Piccotts End please visit their website: https://www.piccottsendpaintings.uk/





Mr Morgan, Subject Leader History

YEAR 9 - FIRST GIVE



SIXTH FORM

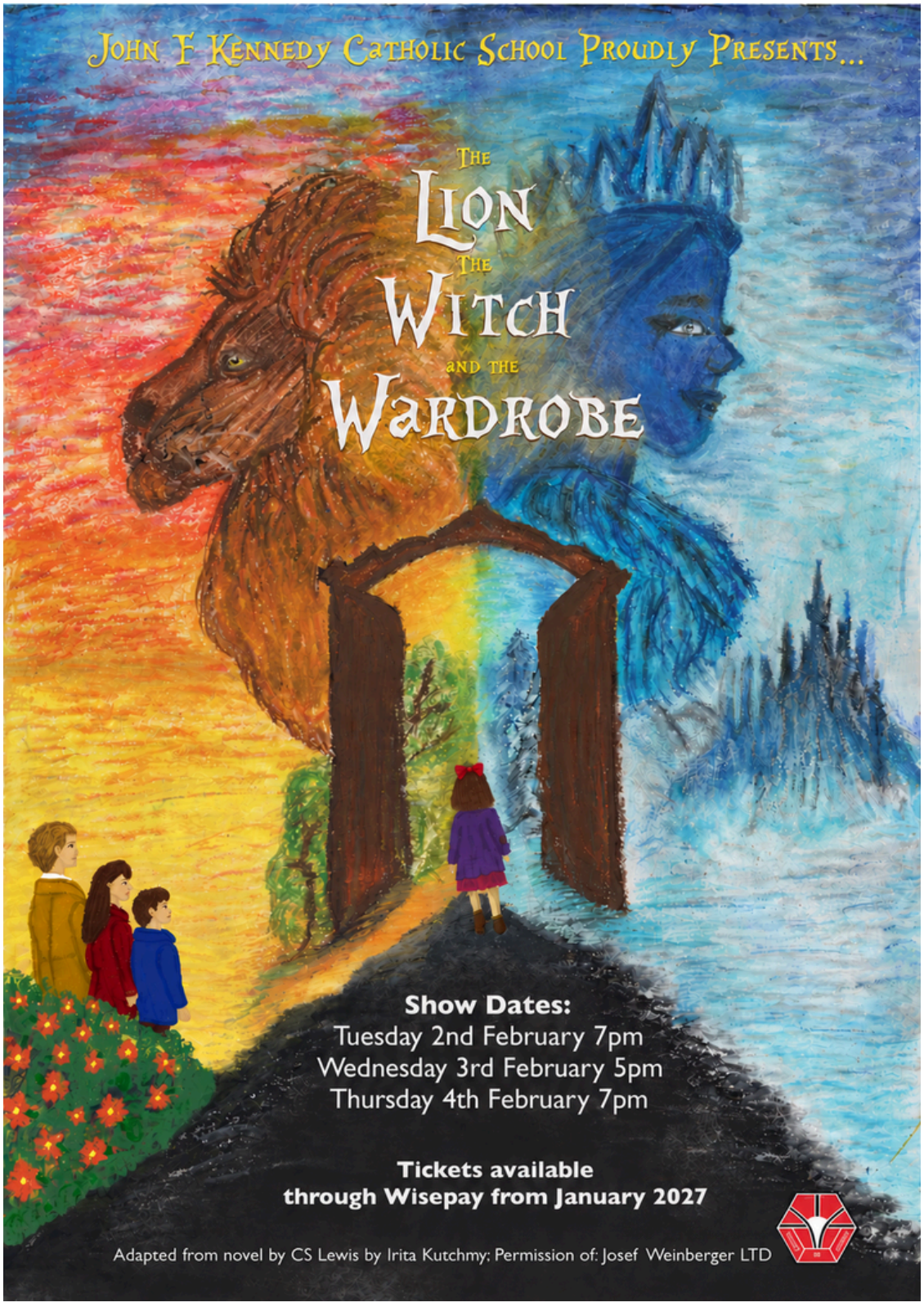
DRAGON'S APPRENTICE CHARITY EVENTS



Register HERE

Check out our instagram page - chromex.dragons.a

DRAMA



Poster designed by Sofia Gazza 9H

Tickets will be on sale December and January through Wisepay, more details to follow.

Ms Horton - Drama Subject Leader & Ms Brewer - Drama Teacher

Check out our instagram page - jfkdramadept

MUSIC

Monday 7th December - Christmas Concert - 7pm JFK Hall
This will be a wonderful evening bringing together musicians from the chamber choir, orchestra, rock bands, soloists, and the Year 7 Singers. Information regarding tickets will be sent after the half term holiday but please put the date in your diary!





Mrs Metcalfe - Director of Music

Check out our instagram page - jfk.music.department

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

JFK SPORTS CLUBS: Term 1

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	After School
Duty/Cover	Netball/Football			Recreational Sport	Rugby/GFB	
	1st Half term: LUNCH 1.35pm – 2.20pm					3:30 - 4:40pm
TJ	**Y11 Football** Recreational & Performance	**Y8 Football** Recreational & Performance		**Y7 Football** Recreational & Performance		**Y7 FB** **Y8 FB** **Y11 FB**
JJY	**Y10 & Sr Football** Recreational & Performance				**Y7&8 Rugby** Recreational & Performance	**10 FB** **Y7&8 Rugby**
SC*		**Y9 Football** Recreational & Performance	**Girls Football** Recreational & Performance		**Girls Football** Recreational & Performance	**Y9 FB** **U13 GFB** **U15GFB**
JSH			**Y7&8 Bball** Recreational & Performance Until Oct HT			
LT		**Y8 Netball** Recreational & Performance	**Gymnastics** Performance: Gym			**Y8 NB**
FH	**Y11 Netball** Recreational & Performance Until Oct HT					**Y11 NB**
MR	**Y9 Netball** Recreational & Performance Until Oct HT	**Y7 Netball** Recreational & Performance Until Oct HT		**Y7 Netball** Performance Until Oct HT	Detensions & Intervention	**Y7 NB** **Y9 NB**
RP	**Y10 Netball** Recreational & Performance Until Oct HT			**Girls Football** Recreational & Performance		**Y10 NB**
	Due to the Gym & Dance show, after October half term Netball will be paused until after Christmas.					
LT	Y10 Dance: L&E Performance: D/Studio	**Jazz: H&P** Performance:/Gym		**Commercial: Sha** Performance: Studio	Y8 Dance: K&A Performance: D/Studio	**Monday: Tap** Performance
FH	**Y8 Gymnastics: S&S** Performance: Gym		Y7 Dance: Maddy Performance: D/Studio			
MR		Y9 Dance: B&L Performance: D/Studio	Y9/10 Gymnastics Performance: Gym	**Y7 Gymnastics: R** Performance: Gym	Cheer Irish Performance:/Gym	**Thursday: Ballet** Performance
RP			**Y9/10 Gymnastics Tomi & Mercy** Performance: Gym		**Cheer O&S** **Irish K** Performance:/Gym	**Thursday: Y11&Elite Gymnastics** Performance: Gym
	Sr Dance - Super Curr/ Bi-weekly Friday P2					

Ms Rooney - PE Subject Leader

Check out our instagram page - jfkpedept

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Ms Rooney - PE Subject Leader

Check out our instagram page - jfkpedept

GENERAL NOTICES

Appointments During School

Please try to avoid making medical appointments during the school day. If this is not possible, please alert the Year Team via email with confirmation of the appointment letter/email/ screenshot at least 24 hours in advance.
If your child does need to leave for a pre-arranged medical appointment please ensure that they are aware of the time and date of the appointment and are instructed to be ready in reception to be collected. There have been a number of occasions recently whereby the office staff have had to search for a student in order for them to be picked up.

Illness During the School Day

We have seen an increase in students calling parents prior to seeking medical attention at school. Any student feeling unwell during the school day should report to Student Services where they will be seen by a medically trained member of staff. Please do impress upon your children the importance of the school contacting home if it is required during the school day. It can cause parents unnecessary worry which we would like to avoid.

Absence	
Year 7	01442 229105 year7@jfk.herts.sch.uk
Year 8	01442 229124 year8@jfk.herts.sch.uk
Year 9	01442 229131 year9@jfk.herts.sch.uk
Year 10	01442 229132 year10@jfk.herts.sch.uk
Year 11	01442 229136 year11@jfk.herts.sch.uk
Sixth Form	01442 229137 6thform@jfk.herts.sch.uk

If your son/daughter is going to be absent due to illness please telephone the school absence line by 9.00am on each day of absence

NHS

Is my child too ill for school?

NHS advice about when to keep your child off school

ROAD SAFETY



Parents/Carers are reminded about the importance of road safety and we highlight a number of points you may wish to discuss with your child:

- The importance of crossing the road at a safe place.
- Using either a zebra or pelican crossing where possible
- Avoid crossing behind parked cars
- Never run out into the road
- Be aware of your surroundings – take out earphones and stop talking with friends or on the phone when crossing the road
- Have reflective items on jackets or bag.
- If cycling, follow the same instruction and make sure you have lights on your bike and wear a helmet at all times.

JFK enjoys good relationships with our neighbours and local community.
Please be mindful of driveways, access and residential parking areas in Hollybush Lane, Long Chaulden, Boxted Road and neighbouring roads if dropping off/picking up your child from school.
Please also try and avoid leaving your car engines running outside of school.

Disabled Parking Zones

Please can we ask that the disabled parking bays located along Hollybush Lane be kept clear. They are marked on the path and are needed to be accessed by local residents.

Cycling to and from school

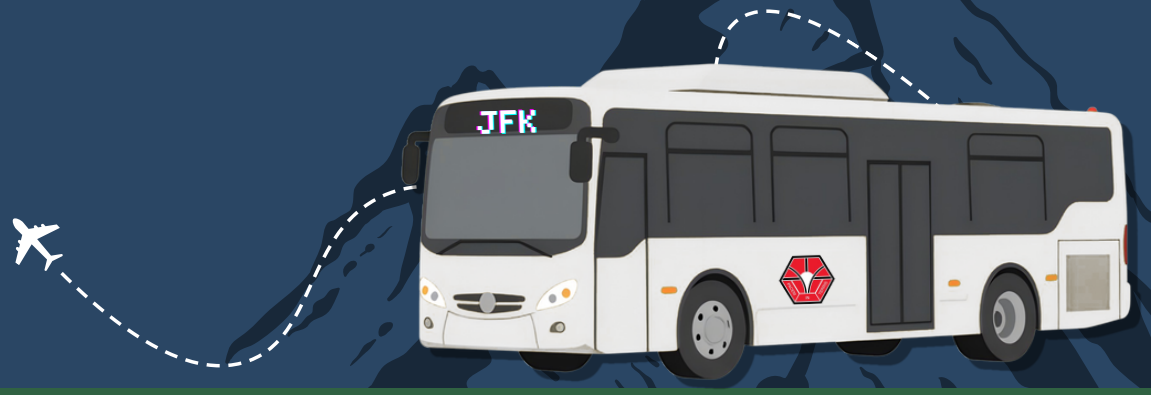
A reminder to students that you must dismount before entering the school grounds and walk your bicycle in.

TRIPS 2026/27

A GENTLE REMINDER

Monthly Instalments are dues on the 1st of each month for the following :

- Theatre Trips - Oliver
- Year 7 Pantomime
- Iceland 2027
- Sports Tour 2027
- A Taste of Italy 2027
- Rome 2027



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UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTH OF NOVEMBER

- Monday 16th November, Year 11 Mock exams begin
- Wednesday 18th November, Oliver Theatre Trip (Yr 8 Students)
- Friday 20th November, Year 8 Sleepover
- Monday 23rd November, Year 11 Mock exams continue; Year 13 Mock exams begin
- Wednesday 25th November, Year 10 Netball & Football Tournament
- Friday 27th November, SCHOOL CLOSED
- Monday 30th November, Christmas Bake Off (3.30-6pm)

FUTURE DATES

- Wednesday 2nd December, Presentation Evening (invite only)
- Thursday 3rd December, Year 10 BTEC Travel & Tourism Trip
- Monday 7th December, Carol Concert
- Tuesday 8th December, KS 5 Drama Conference
- Wednesday 9th & Thursday 10th December, Gym & Dance Display
- Tuesday 15th December, Yr 12 & Yr 13 Art & DT Trip to Design Museum
- Wednesday 16th December, Yr7 Pantomime
- Friday 18th December, School closes at 12.35pm

SAFEGUARDING IN FOCUS



At John F Kennedy Catholic School, safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do, and we work hard to ensure that every child feels safe, supported and listened to within our school community.

Our safeguarding team plays a vital role in this work. The team works closely with students, families, staff and external agencies to promote a culture where safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Students and families can reach out to the safeguarding team for support. We recognise that parents and carers are key partners in safeguarding. We encourage families to familiarise themselves with our safeguarding approach, policies and procedures, which are available on the school website:

Safeguarding information and policies

In addition, the school provides a range of supportive links and resources for students and families, covering areas such as mental health, online safety, wellbeing and external support services:

Support for students and families

If you ever have a safeguarding concern, no matter how small it may seem, we urge you to share it. Concerns can be raised confidentially by emailing:

staysafe@jfk.herts.sch.uk

Letting us know about concerns, however small they may seem, allows us to offer the right support when it is needed. Working closely with families helps us maintain a safe, inclusive and caring school community where every child can feel secure and valued.

ATTENDANCE

Supporting Every Student's Journey

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." — John 10:10

At the heart of our Catholic community is the belief that every child is a unique gift from God, blessed with individual gifts and talents. Our mission is to nurture the whole child—spiritually, academically, and emotionally—so they can flourish and thrive.

To truly experience "life to the full" within our school community, consistent attendance is vital. When your child is here, they aren't just attending lessons; they are building friendships, growing in faith, and developing the resilience they need for the future.

Working in Partnership

We understand that life can sometimes bring challenges that make school attendance difficult. Whether it is a health concern, anxiety, or a change in family circumstances, please know that you are not alone.

In line with the latest Department for Education guidance, we believe that attendance is a shared responsibility. Our goal is to work in partnership with families to remove any barriers your child may be facing.

How We Can Help

The best time to reach out is always the early stage. If you notice your child is reluctant to attend or is struggling, please don't wait for the situation to escalate.

- Early Conversation: A simple phone call to your child's Achievement Team can start a supportive dialogue.
- Tailored Support: We offer a range of internal pastoral support, from mentoring to counselling and mental health support.
- Our Online Support Hub: We have a dedicated Attendance page on our school website. This includes practical tips, links to external wellbeing resources, and a clear guide on how we work with families to improve attendance.

Attendance JFK Website

By working together we ensure that every student feels safe, valued, and ready to learn.

Mrs Bailey - Deputy Headteacher

RECEPTION TOURS FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2027

St Albert the Great Catholic Primary School

Reception Tours available:

Thursday 12th November, 9.15-10.15am

Wednesday 25th November, 2.00-3.00pm

Tuesday 12th January, 9.15-10.15am

Please book HERE



COMMUNITY

RECEPTION TOURS FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2027

School Tours - St Rose's Catholic Infant School

Pre School 2027, Nursery 2027 & Reception 2027

We are now taking bookings for tours of St Rose's on the following dates:-

- Wed 4th Nov at 1.30pm
- Wed 2nd Dec at 1.30pm
- Wed 13th Jan at 1.30pm
- Tues 2nd Feb at 1.30pm (this one is after Reception admissions closes)

To book please click HERE



DSPL8 **Delivering Special Provision Locally**

Please see the DSPL8 Parents/Carers Newsletter Autumn 2026 **HERE**

COMMUNITY

ST THOMAS MORE CELEBRATES

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Friends of St Thomas More,

This academic year, we are celebrating 90 years of St Thomas More Catholic Primary School and 60 years at our home on Greenway.
We would love our current families, staff, former pupils and wider community to be part of this special year. It is an opportunity to celebrate the school's history, reconnect with old friends and look ahead to what we can build together for future generations.
Our Catholic faith is at the heart of St Thomas More. Across the generations, our school has been shaped by people who have cared for its children, supported its work and helped it grow. We hope the anniversary will bring many of those people together again.

Share your memories and help us reconnect
We are launching a St Thomas More Alumni & Friends network, open to former pupils, parents, staff, governors and others with a connection to the school.
If you would like to join, please complete our short form:
St Thomas More – Alumni & Friends
We would also love to collect photographs and memories from across the years. These could include a favourite teacher, a school performance, a memorable trip or an everyday moment that has stayed with you. Please contact alumni@stmore.herts.sch.uk if you have something to share.
If you know someone with a connection to St Thomas More, please pass this letter on.

Celebrating together
Our first event will be an informal Alumni Drinks Evening at school on **Friday 13 November, from 7.00–9.30pm.**
We warmly welcome former pupils, parents and staff, alongside current families and friends of the school, to reconnect and share memories. There will be photographs and memories on display, and I will say a few words about the school's future.
Please save the date. A separate invitation will follow shortly with details of how to let us know you are coming.
We are also planning a larger anniversary celebration later in the academic year and will share more details once these are agreed.

Looking ahead
Alongside the celebrations, we are developing plans for a St Thomas More Development Fund to support the school for current and future pupils. Governors are working with us to agree what the fund will support, a fundraising target and how donations will be managed. We will share these details before launching an appeal.
We would also welcome current parents who would like to become Parent Ambassadors, helping us welcome prospective families, share the school's story and strengthen our connections in the community. Please contact the school office if you are interested.
Thank you to everyone who contributes to the life of St Thomas More. We look forward to hearing your memories and celebrating this anniversary year together.

COMMUNITY



Please see further details HERE