



# Joy Lane Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please may we ask that you do not enter the Joy Lane Primary School site before the gates are opened at 8.40am. Oyster Bay Nursery parents and carers are an obvious exception, as are families bringing in children for early morning interventions.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.

## SMARTPHONE-FREE SCHOOL

Having had our first full governing body meeting of the new academic year, we thought it appropriate to feedback to parents and carers that the board were unanimously in favour of consistently applying the *smartphone-free policy* for our Year 6 children.

As previously communicated, our feedback from parents and carers has been overwhelmingly positive regarding this new policy, and in recent weeks it has been observed by members of the community that the older children are now walking to and from school having conversations with each other rather than staring down at their phones.

As a reminder, children are not permitted to bring their smartphones to school and that if we receive communication that pupils may have smartphones in their bags, the school will conduct impromptu bag searches, as having a smartphone concealed in a bag would be a breach of our safeguarding policy.

Children are able to bring in text/call phones as an alternative.

*The Joy Lane Primary School Leadership Team*

## OPAL PLAY PARENT SURVEY

As you know, our school is part of the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme, which aims to make playtimes more active, creative and enjoyable for every child.

In December, we will be taking part in an OPAL accreditation process to recognise the progress we've made so far. As part of this, we need to gather feedback from parents and carers. We would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete our short [survey](#).



Your views are an important part of the accreditation and will help us continue to improve play for all our children.

Coming soon... OPAL Play Parent Sessions! We're inviting parents and carers to come along and experience the fun of OPAL play for yourselves. More details will follow soon – we can't wait to share the play experience with you!



# CENSUS DAY MENU – THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 is School Census Day, which is the day when the government take a count of all the children that we have in our school to calculate our funding for the year ahead.

The number of children choosing a school dinner on that day decides a large element of the funding, and as a result, we would like to encourage as many children as possible to opt-in for a school dinner on this day.

We have an exciting, alternative menu for Census Day this year, and we hope to see lots of children enjoying this meal.

No pre-booking required. Your child can order their lunch as usual at morning registration. Please pay via Arbor.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

## CENSUS MENU ALL DAY BREAKFAST

THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2025

### OPTION 1

ALL DAY BREAKFAST  
BACON, SAUSAGE (WH,SUL)  
& OMELETTE (E/D)

### OPTION 2

VEGAN BREAKFAST  
VEGAN SAUSAGE (S) & BACON

### OPTION 3

PASTA (WH)  
HOME MADE TOMATO SAUCE & CHEESE (D)

### SIDES

HASH BROWN, BEANS,  
MUSHROOMS & TOMATOES

### DESSERTS

APPLE CRUMBLE (WH) & CUSTARD (D,E)

YOGHURT (D) & FRESH FRUIT

ALL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS WILL BE CATERED FOR



## PARENT PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

We are looking forward to meeting you – either virtually or in person – on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September or Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October (or Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October for Oysters) for our Parent Partnership Meetings. If you are attending a virtual meeting, this will be via telephone call. *If you have a child in Oysters, please contact the school office to make an appointment, rather than via Arbor.*

After School Club is being held in our Oysters SRP building; however, please still come to the main school office at your collection time and a staff member will call over for your child. Please remember that Extended Learning clubs will not be running during the week of Parent Partnership Meetings.

### Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Key Stage 1            Virtual Meeting 3:30-7:00pm  
Key Stage 2            Face-to-Face Meeting 3:30-7:00pm

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025

Key Stage 1            Face-to-Face Meeting 3:30-7:00pm  
Key Stage 2            Virtual Meeting 3:30-7:00pm  
Oysters                 Face-to-Face Meeting 3:30-7:00pm

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Oysters                 Virtual Meeting 3:30-7:00pm

## ATTENDANCE UPDATE

### Attendance data week ending 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025



JLPS Whole School attendance	96.4%
Number of Persistent Absentees (less than 90% attendance)	82 pupils 13.05%

Klee – 93.4%	Kahlo – 98.7%	Kandinsky – 98%
Van Gogh – 95.7%	Voysey – 88.9%	Vallotton – 95.2%
Picasso – 98.0%	Postgate – 94.3%	Potter – 96.8%
Riley – 97.2%	Rousseau – 91.5%	Ringgold – 92%
Hockney – 95.9%	Heron – 97.5%	Hepworth – 96.2%
Degas – 92.4%	Dali – 98.5%	Da Vinci – 93.3%
Bailey – 98.6%	Banksy – 93.3%	Boyce – 92.4%
Oysters – 87.6%		



## FRIENDS OF JOY LANE

Join us for our next PTA meeting on Monday 6th October at 7:00 PM at the Rose in Bloom Pub along Joy Lane.

It's a great opportunity to stay informed, share your ideas, and connect with other parents, teachers, and staff who are passionate about supporting our school community. Whether you're a regular attendee or joining for the first time, everyone is welcome—and every voice matters! Come along, enjoy a relaxed atmosphere, and help us plan exciting events and initiatives that make a real difference.

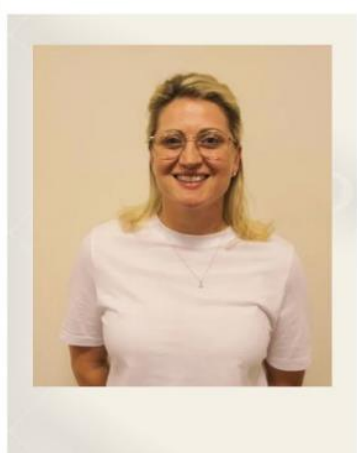
We look forward to seeing you there!



### ✿ Meet the Committee ✿

Our committee is made up of dedicated individuals who are here to support, inspire, and create opportunities for the Joy Lane community. Over the next few weeks, you'll get to know the faces, stories, and motivations behind the team.

This week we are introducing our FOJL chair - Sarah



## Hello, I'm Sarah

Hi, I'm Sarah, Chair of FOJL. I have a daughter in Year 6 and love being part of something that brings the Joy Lane community together. Through FOJL, I'm able to support the school and help create memorable, happy moments for all children to look back on during their primary years.

FOJL is a friendly, supportive, and hardworking group, and I'm proud to be part of a team that makes such a positive difference to our school.



## NEW RECEPTION STARTERS 2026



# JOY LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAYS RECEPTION STARTERS 2026

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October: 10 am-12 pm  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October: 9:15 am- 11 am  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October: 6 pm- 7 pm (adults only)  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November: 9:15 am- 11 am  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November: 9:15 am- 11 am  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January: 9:15 am- 11 am



Please follow to book:



01227 261430



[WWW.JOYLANE.KENT.SCH.UK](http://WWW.JOYLANE.KENT.SCH.UK)



## PARENT & CARER CHECKLIST

- Next week will be **Week 1** of the [menu](#).
- A reminder of our school 'lockdown' times where driving is prohibited on the school site: Morning: 8:30am – 9:00am / Afternoon: 3:00pm – 3:35pm
- Remember to book you Parent Partnership meeting via Arbor (Oysters, via phone call to the school office).
- Send your child in with appropriate clothing for outdoor OPAL play now that it is getting colder and wetter.
- Please complete our short **OPAL Play survey**.
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October is our special **Census Day** menu.
- It is our **Open Day** next **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October** for prospective **2026 Reception** starters. Spread the word about Joy Lane!

