



# NEWSLETTER

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Holloway Hill, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9BB  
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Friday 24th May 2024

## Interim Co-Headteachers' message

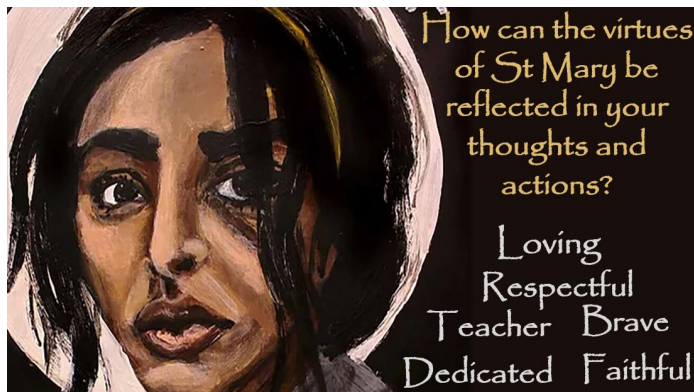


A big thank you to all staff and families for another brilliant term in St Joseph's. It seems hard to believe that we are now approaching our last term of the academic year and all of our children will be soon moving up year groups and some moving to new schools. As is always the way, we have had another busy week which has included a celebration of St Mary, a brief deceleration in Year 6 following a huge build up to last week's assessments and active learning across our classes including magical Chocolate Cake baking in Miss Thomson's class and a Samba Workshop.

With this being our last newsletter of the term, Miss Bathe and I wanted to wish you all a happy, healthy and restful break and would also like to remind you that we have a school closure day on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The focus of this closure will be the planning of classes and the curriculum for 2024-2025.

### **Celebrating May the month of Mary**

To mark May as the month of Mary the whole school celebrated Our Lady through songs, prayer and reflection. As part of this service we reflected on the importance of St Mary in bringing her son Jesus into the world, but in addition also recognised the importance of all mothers in supporting and nurturing us all. As part of our celebration, we reflected on St Mary's virtues and I challenged the children to focus on ways they could walk in the footsteps of Jesus to live these virtues in their thoughts and actions.



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Through our reflection, all children lay flowers at the feet of St Mary in our own grotto on the Nun's Walk.

Through Gospel Worship on Thursday we also refocused on Jesus's commandment "30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31).

**This week's Wednesday Word is FRIENDSHIP.**

**"There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship." St Thomas Aquinas**

**The 3 week holiday edition of The Wednesday Word is available on our website. [www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/](http://www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/)**



### **Athelstan 1100:**

Given that our school is sited on top of the Iron Age fortifications of Malmesbury, it goes without saying that we will be fully involved in the Athelstan 1100 celebrations. This week staff worked with Historic England to explore some of the activities we could undertake across this period to both mark this historic event but also support children's understanding of this important King in British history and the history of our very special town.



To give you a taster of our plans the following events are in the pipeline. Further details will also follow as our plans evolve so please do continue to read this section of the school newsletter.

**Oh! Athelstan:** This wonderful musical interpretation of events surrounding Athelstan is being held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm in Malmesbury Abbey. It was written by John Hughes (music) and Mike Scanlon (lyrics) in the early 1980s, and is a light-hearted approach to history with a little poetic license thrown in for good measure! The first performance was held in 1982 by students at Malmesbury Secondary School and subsequently by Malmesbury WI. This year's production is the first one of this century and we are proud to say that we have a major part in the production which is directed by Mrs Cambray-Smith.



This priceless event is free to attend but admittance is by ticket only so you do need to register. You can do this through the [Athelstan 1100](#) information page.

**Who was Athelstan and why was he important?:** So that our children have a good understanding of who Athelstan was, how he fitted into Malmesbury, Wessex and British History, we will have a block of history focus activities starting in the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> June and ending on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July. During this period we will be attempting to answer historical questions through looking at timelines and maps, researching through history archives, looking at artefacts and being archaeologists. If you are interested in supporting any of our practical activities or have history skills you are willing to share, please get in contact with the school office.

**The Big Dig:** As part of our history exploration, we will also be joining other locations in Malmesbury to provide Cotswold Archaeology with access to our school grounds on the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July. During this weekend archaeologists will be opening a test pit on the school land to search for evidence of Athelstan and his community. If this is an activity that you would like to join, or if you are willing to be a steward to direct visitors through our gated entrance, past our test pit and along the Nun's Walk to St Aldhelm's Church, please also contact the school office.



## WOW moments across the school!

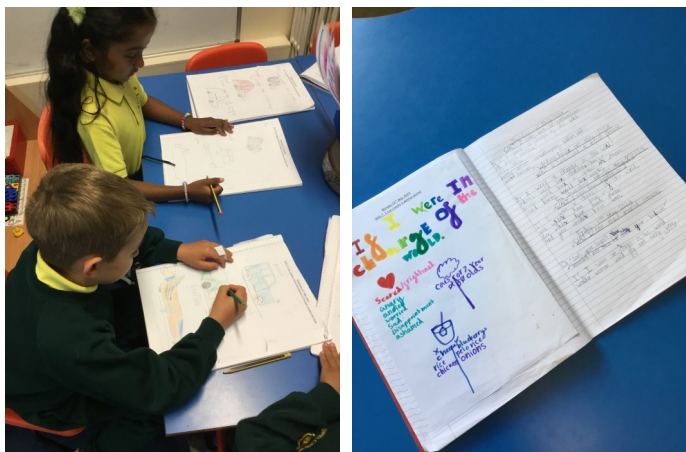
"Pupils enjoy coming to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. They find lessons interesting. Pupils are eager to talk about their learning. They feel safe to make mistakes and to learn from them" OFSTED March 2023

Here is just a snap shot of the exciting, wonderful work and activities going on across the school this week.

### St Teresa - Miss Just:

This week we have finished our topic on the history of transport. The children have also looked at what future transport could be like and have designed their own futuristic ways of travelling.

We have also been poets this week and have written fantastic poems titled 'if I were in charge of the world.' We can't wait for you to read them!



### St Lawrence - Mr Wilkinson:

This week our Wow moment in St. Lawrence has been our Samba drumming workshop. The children very much enjoyed learning about the different types of drums that are used in Samba. We also had an opportunity to play the drums and create our very own groove which the children loved.

Victoria - "I liked copying the lead drummer with our own drums."

Thomas - "I really liked the man that came to teach us about the drumming."

Aryan - "I enjoyed trying the different types of drums."



### St Francis - Miss Thomson:

Jayda - "I liked baking the chocolate cake because it was a social activity and we got to eat it afterwards!"

Charlie P - "I enjoyed the Mary celebration, I liked when we went down to our Mary shrine as a class."

Gabriella - "I loved the samba class because we got to try different drums and learn about all the instruments!"



### St Scholastica - Mr Heavey:

Cameron - "I enjoyed science because we got to experiment and learn about pulleys and levers and how they help lift a load."

Benjy - "I enjoyed PE and playing tennis matches."

Eva - "When we did karaoke and Just Dance to Ghostbusters."



### Weekly Attendance Monday 20th May — Friday 24th May

St Teresa 97%

St Lawrence 94.6%

St Francis 93.5%

St Scholastica 83.6%

## Chess Club from September 2024

We are in the process of planning our after-school club provision for the next academic year from September 2024. It would be very helpful for us to gauge the interest and take up for our Chess Club that currently runs each week on a Tuesday. This is a fee-paying club, run by an external provider and currently costs £5 per week.

Please can you let us know if your child would like to continue next year with Chess Club, or if your child has not joined the club, is this something they would likely join? You can follow this link <https://forms.office.com/e/JmVbCdcag8> to provide your response, or confirm with the school office.



All feedback gratefully received to help us with our planning. Many thanks.



## PFA School Quiz

The PFA would like to thank all of the parents and staff who joined us for an enjoyable Quiz Night last Friday, all in aid of funds to support our School. We enjoyed a delicious Sri Lankan Curry supplied by Roost, and a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Mr Bacon for presenting the prizes to the winning Team that included parents from Malmesbury Primary. We are hoping for a rematch next time!



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
Parents and Friends Association  
Registered Charity No: 1145152

## Class Photographs ready to view and order

Order forms for the recent class photographs will come home with your child today. The full size copies will be on display today in the large noticeboard on the left wall as you walk round to the playground. Please note that the **deadline for ordering for free delivery to school is Wednesday 5th June** and not 28th May as stated on the order form.

## Dine and Dance

*with us at our*

## Sri Lankan Evening



**Friday 21 June, 7:00 to 10:30**

**The Town Hall, Malmesbury, SN16 9BZ**

**Bar Available**

**Tickets £25 From Gabrielle 01666 838 391**

*In Aid of The St Aldhelm Parish Development Fund*

## FLOWERS

for

## St. Aldhelm

**Saturday 25th May 2024**

**Free Event 11am to 4pm Malmesbury**

All are welcome to come along and enjoy the beautiful floral display at

## St. Aldhelm's Church

26 Cross Hayes Lane, SN16 9BG

with Hope Church and  
United Reformed Church

Refreshments will be available to purchase.

Supported by Malmesbury Town Council  
and Malmesbury Churches Together



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