

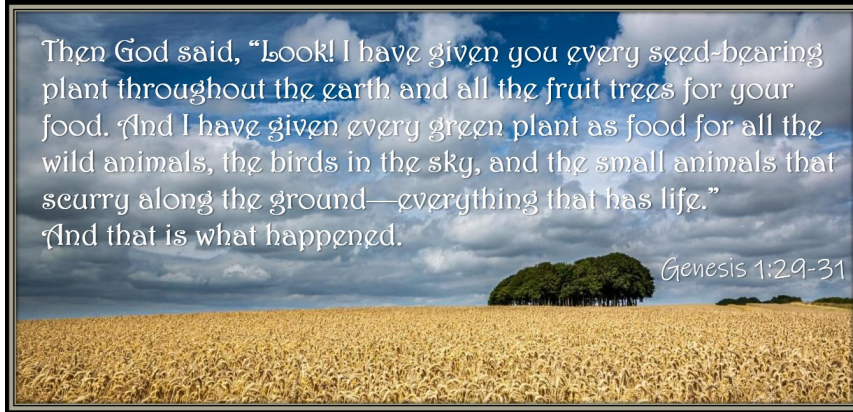


# NEWSLETTER

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Holloway Hill, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9BB  
admin@st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk Tel: 01666 822331

**Friday 11th October 2024**

## Headteachers' message



Dear parents, carers, children and families,

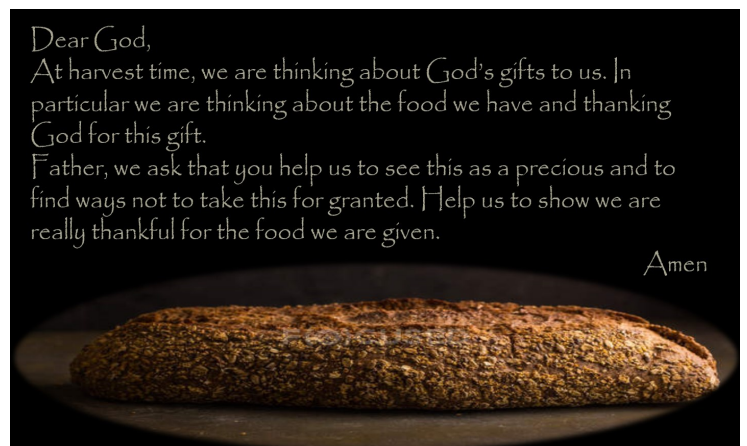
We have had a very successful week with two Harvest celebrations, victory at the Year 3/4 Rugby Festival, Stone Age history immersions in year 3 and 4 as part of this term's theme and very active play and lunch times.

Thank you to everyone who has made donations for our Harvest celebration and in support of Malmesbury's District Foodbank and Doorway charity in Chippenham. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

### Worship:

This week's worship focused on the importance of Harvest time and the gratitude we should all have for the food that is available to us. As part of Monday's worship I asked the children to reflect on all the other things they could be grateful for and how the lives of children in other parts of the world can be very different from their own.

Our scripture reading came from Genesis and recognises our responsibility for being thankful for all that God has given us. Our prayer was a conversation with God to acknowledge this.



### Mrs Bradley:

I am sorry to inform the parents and children in St Lawrence Class that sadly Mrs Bradley has decided that she is unable to return to school. Up until now we have been fortunate to have Mrs Cambray Smith's dedication to the school to draw on and very lucky to have found an excellent supply teacher in Mr Parish who has been covering Fridays. As detailed when I first informed you of Mrs Bradley's absence, the current arrangements were only a short term solution to ensure stability for the class. Going forward this has remained our priority and I am pleased to inform you that we have been able to secure a teacher called Ms Weatherall until the end of the year. Ms Weatherall worked with the class this week - she is an experienced KS2 teacher, and is also particularly skilled in supporting children with special educational needs.

**WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER**

### **Home learning:**

Thank you to parents and carers who completed our home learning questionnaire. We recognise that for some families this may be a contentious subject however we hope the following will allow you to have consistent guidance on our expectations and goals with respect to children's learning at home. The following is our policy with respect to home learning and personal study:

### **Home Learning and Personal Study**

We believe there is a place for home learning but also see the value in children having space and freedom to pursue interests and activities beyond school. To this end we believe that there is a fine balance between home and school commitments and have tried to balance what we think will support learning whilst at the same time allowing children to pursue out of school interests.

### **Why we believe home learning and personal study is important:**

We know that children who read and are read to regularly at home develop a wider vocabulary, have ideas to tap into and see reading as something that can open doors. We also know that children who practice spellings and basic number operations (multiplication and number bonds) develop quick recall and this enables them to progress faster in writing and mathematics computation. In addition to the above we also recognise that home learning also encourages independence and self-discipline, particularly as children get older.

### **What we are asking parents to support their child to achieve:**

- Reading: (3- 4 x / week) – This can be a school or any appropriate book from home. All we ask is that when children read to you or themselves you record or witness this in their reading record.
- Spelling: (5 days, 5 – 10 minutes). We will provide 5 separate sheets to complete this on. Children's spelling practice also supports their development of a neat and efficient handwriting style
- Maths Fluency Activities: This might be TT RockStars or any other appropriate activity to strengthen number skills (3 - 4 x / week) 5 – 10 minutes

So that the organisation of home learning is consistent, all classes will collect and give out Home Learning on a Friday. Spelling tests will happen as part of Friday's routine.

Other occasional home learning tasks may also be included for some classes, age groups or children at specific times. These may help children get more from their school learning or to help address a specific area of need.



### **Harvest Festival**

We enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of Harvest Praise and celebration on Tuesday. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers in school and this helped make it a special and memorable event. Well done to all our classes for coming together to celebrate the season and enjoy each other's performances. Thank you to everyone who brought in donations for the Malmesbury District Food Bank and Doorway in Chippenham.



## 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:

The children's favourite moment of the week was performing Big Pink Combine Harvester in the Harvest Festival celebration, they did a fantastic job! We have also had lots of fun exploring the sound b. All of the children had a great computing lesson this week, they all were able to log in and complete the tricky activities.



### St Scholastica - Mr Wilkinson:

This week St Scholastica carried out a science investigation looking into how different pieces of bread react in different environments and whether they grow mould. The children were very excited to take part in this experiment and have enjoyed recording their findings every day.

Connor - "I am excited to find out what happens to each different piece of bread."

Gabriella - "I liked the fact that we got to choose where we could put the bread."

Ellie - "I liked coming up with different ways to make the experiment a fair test and that we were testing something natural."



### St Lawrence - Mrs Cambray-Smith

### St Francis - Miss Thomson

In art this week, St Lawrence Class used natural pigments from plants and soil collected on the land to imitate cave paintings. They discovered that petals from flowers and cow parsley leaves make good colours.



St Lawrence and St Francis had a great time learning more about life in the Stone Age this week. They had a go at cooking, moving large stones and weaving fish baskets from willow.



Thomas – "I liked Forest School because we were building a massive net – it was meant to be a fish net."

Rosa – "I enjoyed bending the sticks to make them bendy so we could make the fish traps."

Felicity – "I enjoyed the tag rugby tournament, I loved running around playing a sport I enjoy."



### Weekly Attendance Monday 7th Oct — Friday 11th Oct

St Teresa 96.4%

St Lawrence 96.8%

St Francis 92.8%

St Scholastica 97.7%

## YEAR 3/4 TAG RUGBY TOURNAMENT

WOW! What an amazing start to the sporting year! Yesterday an exciting rugby competition took place at Minety RFC. Teams from local Primary Schools played competitive matches against each other. St Joseph's had two teams; both teams showed enthusiasm, boundless energy, teamwork and were able to showcase some fantastic rugby skills. For many, this was their first inter-schools competition, and I know, along with much excitement there were a few nerves too!

Team B, although less experienced, showed huge improvement throughout the tournament, they created several scoring opportunities and did some great defensive work. Team A, who were undefeated throughout the tournament, displayed speed, accurate passing and incredibly brave defensive tagging. They came away as joint overall winners!

The Year 3/4 tag rugby trophy returns to St Joseph's for the 2nd consecutive year!

A huge well done to all 20 players who took part, we couldn't be more proud of you, and of course a big thank you to our volunteers: Mel Watts, Archie Bennett and Keren Cockram.

Mrs Bennett



### Remember, remember Bangers Day on 5th November!



Don't miss out on our whole school lunch in the main hall. Bonfire night themed dress - black, red, orange, sparkles, glitter.....

#### Menu

Sausages (meat/vegetarian), homemade mashed potato, peas & sweetcorn. Homemade multi coloured sprinkle cake, yoghurt, or fresh fruit.

Price £2.75

Please book and pay via Parentpay in the usual way **by Monday 21st October**

If you don't usually book lunches via Parentpay and need assistance with ordering, please contact the school office and we can raise this as an individual payment item.

twinkl [www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk)

### Cauliflower Cards for Christmas

By the end of this week, all children will have been given a template to bring home on which they can draw and colour a Christmas card design. If you would like to order cards/wrapping paper/gift labels/mugs/notebooks showing your child's design then you must return the artwork to the school by **Friday 18th October** and place your order direct via the Cauliflower Cards website, using the unique code in the top left hand corner of the template. See link for product details and how to order <https://www.cauliflowercards.co.uk/parents-shop>



### Term 2 After School Sports Clubs

Payment items for term 2 after school sports club are now available on Parentpay shortly. Please make the associated payment to register your child for their chosen club(s).

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## Opportunities October Half Term Holiday Club



We are now taking bookings for our October Half Term Holiday Club. A booking form has been emailed to all our regular users and is available on our website. Please contact the office if need a paper copy. Please book early to guarantee your childcare requirements as places are limited.

Date	October Half Term	Breakfast 8.00-8.30am Includes Breakfast £4.90	School Day 8.30 – 3pm	Packed lunch	3.00-4.00pm	4.00-5.00pm	Hot Tea SERVED 4.30 – 5.00pm	Amount to pay £
			£29.50	£2.75	£3.85	£3.85	£2.75	
21	Monday							
22	Tuesday							
23	Wednesday							
24	Thursday							
25	Friday							
28	Monday							
29	Tuesday							
30	Wednesday							
31	Thursday							
1	Friday							

### IMPORTANT MESSAGES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

If you have a time critical message for the office e.g. that your child will be absent, or is being collected by someone other than yourself at the end of the day, then **please contact us by telephone**. Whilst we endeavour to read emails in real time, this is not always possible due to other work commitments, and email messages may not be seen until later in the day, or after the school day has ended. Thank you.

## This week's Wednesday Word is HAPPINESS.



“Jesus is a teacher of truth who shows us the way to happiness.” Pope Francis. The Wednesday Word is on our website: [www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/](http://www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/)

### Free to a good home - upright piano

One of the school's neighbours has contacted us to ask if there is a local family who would like their much loved family upright piano (make: Waldberg, Berlin - sold by Green & Marsh). All the keys work but it will need a maintenance piano tune. It is on castors but is pretty heavy to move (definitely 2 people with van). Its dimensions are W149cm, D 64cm, H 130cm. If you are interested, please contact the school office and we will put you in touch with the owners.

