



NEWSLETTER

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Friday 27th September 2024

Headteachers' message

Dear parents, children and families,

We have had an amazingly busy and eventful week. The children in Year 5 and 6 have been at Kilvrough Manor and, without stealing their thunder, they have had a brilliant time and I know many have grown as people as the week has progressed.

Things have also been exciting for the children in Year 3 and 4 who visited Avebury and the West Kennett Long Barrow on Thursday while the children in Miss Just's class ruled the roost for a day with all the other classes out. I know, from talking to Miss Just, that they have searched the school in a "scavenger hunt" looking for lost things and have also had a picnic with the Ginger Bread Man.

Worship:

I was impressed by the amazing contributions from our School Council who worked with me to draft a set of Golden Rules that could form the basis of our school's Behaviour for Learning Policy. In worship this week I was very proud to share these Golden Rules with the children. They are as follows:

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Golden Rules for school happiness

In St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we walk in the Footsteps of Jesus by:

- Using kind words and actions.*
- Being confident in our ability and resilient when things are difficult*
- Celebrating the success of others and not being modest in our success.*
- Following instructions first time*
- Looking after all property.*



Our scripture reading came from Colossians and I used the simple example of stone balancing to get the children to think about how we all need to be in balance and working together to keep our community strong and in harmony.



I then got the children to reflect on how, when we all have certain rules to follow, this helps us to keep in balance.

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER

Before School Clubs:

As many of you will know, the Government recently announced a trial of free breakfast clubs. At the moment there is little information about this other than the opportunity for schools to tender to be one of 750 schools in a pilot for the project (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/breakfast-clubs-early-adopters-scheme>). We have registered for this but will not hear if we have been successful until early 2025. The scheme will not become operational for trial schools until April 2025.

For this reason, please be patient with our breakfast club staff in your requests. If we are successful in our bid we will let you know, but for clarity, free breakfast provision is not yet available in our school. We would however welcome any new "breakfast clubbers". Doors open at 07:30 and our provision is flexible and a reasonably priced part of our wider before and after school offer.

Harvest:

This year we will be celebrating Harvest with two events that parents are invited to attend. The first is on **Monday 7th October**. This will be a special harvest service led by members of our Chaplaincy Team, Mrs Cambray Smith and myself. The second celebration is the school's traditional harvest celebration which will have harvest themed presentations from each of our classes on **Tuesday 8th October**. Both celebrations will start at 14:40. We will be taking food donations for Foodbank in Malmesbury and for Doorway, the homeless charity in Chippenham. Any packaged and in-date food items can be donated.

Home Learning Survey:

Thank you for taking the time to complete our home learning survey. This, and some separate feedback, has been very helpful in the drafting of our home learning policy. As a staff we are still working on this and hope to have a copy of this in the coming weeks.

Parent Forum:

Our first parent forum of the year will be held on Tuesday 15th October at 14:40. I aim to keep this informal and would like to use this as an opportunity to share the updates to the school's virtues and to also overview what the school's improvement priorities will be for the coming year. I would also welcome any suggestions for future meetings.



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Malmesbury - Facebook Page Now Live!

We are delighted to announce that we have launched a new Facebook Page to showcase all the amazing experiences that the children enjoy at our school. If you are a Facebook user please like and share the page.

Facebook is one of a number of media platforms we will be using over the next few weeks to positively raise the profile of our school. We ask that if you have anything that you would like to discuss with the school, questions you have or concerns you would like to raise, then please contact us directly and we will be happy to arrange a meeting. Please do not do this via Facebook. Thank you for your support.



This week's Wednesday Word is GOODNESS.

"Let us allow God to fill our hearts with his goodness. A good example brings about so much good. Goodness always tends to spread." Pope Francis. The Wednesday Word is on our website: www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/



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 in Reception we have been exploring phase 2 sounds and had a great time joining in with lots of activities, like making orange juice. The whole class had lots of fun playing in the rain, we splashed in puddles, painted rainy pictures and wrote stormy stories.



St Lawrence - Mrs Cambray-Smith and St Francis - Miss Thomson:

A combined WOW moment this week from St Lawrence and St Francis classes when we went back in time and visited the West Kennett Long Barrow and Avebury Stone Circle. Our focus was to look at changes in time during the Stone and Bronze Ages and think about the achievements of our ancestors. We explored both sites and also used flint tools and antlers to cut, slice and dig. Zoe - "I really enjoyed trying to push all the stones over." Finn—"I was really excited to find the flint and learn about how the Stone Age people survived."



St Scholastica - Mr Wilkinson:

The class have been having a fantastic time at Kilvrough Manor this week and it's great to see them smiling, despite the weather. We're looking forward to sharing more photos and the children's reflections on their experiences in next week's newsletter.



Harvest Festival Collection



We are now collecting items for this year's Harvest Festival. We will be donating to Doorway, the homeless charity in Chippenham, and the Malmesbury & District Foodbank who have kindly provided us with a list of items that they are most in need of, on display in the front noticeboard. Last year the foodbank provided 4,136 three day emergency food packages to local people who are referred to us in crisis, so this is a much needed and very worthy cause.

Please could children bring their donations into class NEXT WEEK. We will add these to the collection box in the school office and will take these to the foodbank.

Opportunities Club October Bookings



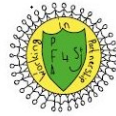
October starts on Tuesday so, if you haven't done so already, please send all completed booking forms for October into the office by MONDAY. Also, to help us understand the demand for a holiday club over the October half term, please could you email the office (also by Monday) if you need childcare during this break. Thank you to those who have already contacted us. We will confirm holiday club arrangements at the beginning of next week.

Weekly Attendance Monday 23rd — Friday 27th Sept

St Teresa 94.6%	St Lawrence 97.3%
St Francis 99.4%	St Scholastica 100%

PFA AGM

The PFA's Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday 1st October, 8pm at The Old Bell. All welcome—please join us and find out how you can get involved.



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

School Uniform Orders

A reminder that we only have a limited amount of new stock kept at school now. We do a bulk order in Term 2, Term 4 and Term 6 when you can order items to be delivered to school. In between times we will always endeavour to fulfil your order but if we can't you can order direct from our supplier:
<https://ohmclothing.co.uk/shop/schools/primary-schools/st-josephs-catholic-primary-school/>