



NEWSLETTER

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Friday 13th December 2024

Headteachers' message

Dear parents and carers,

At the end of the penultimate week of Term 2, there is much to update you on. This week has been busy and eventful and for those of you able to join us for our activities, I hope that you have felt some of the Christmas spirit permeating across the week. The following is a brief update on all that has happened since last Friday.

St Joseph's Choir in action

Mrs Cambray-Smith and I were very proud that St Joseph's were invited to open Malmesbury's late night shopping last Friday. The children were fantastic and sang with pride and from the heart. Over the last two weeks their singing has gone from strength to strength and last Friday was one of many recent peaks. Both Mrs Cambray-Smith and I were very proud of them.



If you would like to see photographs of the event, including the school choir's opening performance, please click on the link to the [Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard](#) in the covering email.

On Monday this week the choir visited Athelstan House and sang to the residents. Again they were brilliant ambassadors of our school. We had some lovely feedback from the residents who thanked us for bringing Christmas cheer to their lives.

PFA Christmas Bazar

Another huge thank you to the PFA for enabling another successful and enjoyable Christmas Bazar. It was so nice to see so many of our families and our close neighbours join us across the afternoon. As with previous years, every stall was a success. Aside from snow globes, Christmas games, mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies, the Auction of Promises and Tombola were real crowd pullers, and the event raised an amazing total of



£1,750. Thank you again PFA, a brilliant job, well done! And thank you to everyone who supported the event, either with donations in advance or by coming along on the day.



WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER

Christmas Carol Service

We held our Christmas Carol Service on Monday afternoon in St Aldhelm's Church. This was attended by the whole school, and parents and the community were warmly invited to join us in a simple celebration of advent that included traditional and contemporary Christmas songs as well as short readings and a tableaux that illustrated the Christmas story. Readings and tableaux were provided by the school's Chaplaincy Team and members of our school community. For those of you able to attend, I hope you could see how much work the children had put into learning the songs we sang. I think that every song was "nailed" by the children with the right level of emotion.

As a small school, I am continuously in awe of how well all children in St Joseph's sing. At the start of the service I spoke to everyone and said that we saw "song" as a priceless gift that can bring real joy to those hearing it. I hope that if you were able to attend you felt that the children lifted your spirits and enabled you to leave with a feeling of what Christmas is all about.

St Teresa Nativity - Hey Ewe!

Along with the choir and our whole school Christmas Carol Service, Miss Just's class have been hard at work practising their 2024 Nativity. Their efforts culminated in three performances over the last two days. Each one was brilliant in its own way and demonstrated that our youngest children have the passion to sing, act, entertain and bring joy to an audience. Wednesday's performances were to the nurseries in Malmesbury and in the afternoon St Teresa class performed to the whole school. Yesterday their Nativity culminated in a parents and community performance. The children were brilliant and we were very proud of them and the work they put into learning lines and the many songs they sang. My special thanks go to Miss Just, Mrs Smith and Miss Carvey who patiently brought the best out in every child. Well done all of you. See the class WOW moment for photos.

Swimming Gala

A selected team of Year 5s and 6s are representing St Joseph's in the swimming gala at the Activity Zone this afternoon. We wish them lots of luck. Find out how they got on in next week's newsletter.

Pantomime

As this newsletter is being drafted to you, the children are in the hall experiencing the fun, laughter and happiness of pantomime. This year's production is a retelling of the Cinderella story and it sounds as though things are really going down well. Our thanks go to the PFA who have so generously sponsored the event.

Christmas Events for your diary

Monday 16th - School Choir singing at Townsend Court in the morning

Tuesday 17th - Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day (bring £1 or pay on parentpay) and whole School Christmas lunch

Wednesday 18th 10am Whole School Advent Mass in the Church—led by St Scholastica, all welcome

Thursday 19th - School Choir singing at the Heals Christmas Lunch in the Town Hall

Friday 20th 2pm Awards Ceremony and Christmas Songs — This will be an opportunity for the staff in the school to nominate and celebrate the achievements of a small group of children who have really shown that they are walking our school values in all that they do. We will have special awards and certificates for Resilience, Respect, Aspiration, Peace Giving, Service and Curiosity. This is what I hope will become an established celebration each term and I would love it if as many parents as possible were able to join us. We will finish the afternoon with a small selection of Christmas Carols and songs and hope this will kick start your last weekend before the big event on the 25th December. Our awards will start at 2pm, followed by some Christmas songs, and should be finished before 3pm so you will be free to take your children home after this. If you cannot attend, please collect your children at the usual time of 3.20/3.25pm.

Weekly Attendance Monday 9th Dec — Friday 13th Dec

St Teresa 97.6%

St Lawrence 90.5%

St Francis 95%

St Scholastica 97.6%

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER

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

KS1 have had the best week performing their Nativity play called Hey Ewe! They have all learnt so much over this term, their lines, dance moves, song lyrics and so much more. I am incredibly proud of them and they should feel so proud of themselves for what they have achieved!



St Francis - Miss Thomson

Wiktorina – "I really loved being part of the freeze frames in the carol service. It was really fun being Angel Gabriel."

Sanugi – "I enjoyed going to perform for the people in the care home, and it was fun singing!"

Jack – "I liked maths because we got to play a special maths monopoly game."



St Lawrence - Mrs Cambray-Smith & Miss Weatherall

This week, the children have completed their non-chronological reports about Pangolins and have incorporated some amazing facts. Did you know that a Pangolin's sticky tongue is longer than its body? Apparently, they eat more than 70 million insects a year! Ask your children what other fascinating information they included in their writing.

In Science, we have been learning about food chains

using terms such as producer, primary or secondary consumer and predator. The children worked in groups to research and create their own food chains to



put on display in the classroom. The discussions, whilst they worked, using the scientific vocabulary they had just learned was delightful to hear.



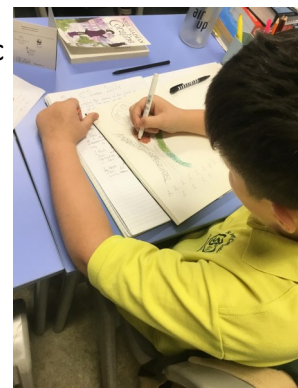
St Scholastica - Mr Wilkinson

This week our WOW moment was from our RE lesson when we looked at the feast of Christ the King and some artists impressions of the celebration. The children were asked to become artists themselves and create a piece of art in their sketchbooks that gave a representation of the celebration of the feast of Christ the King.

Otilie - "I liked this lesson as we got to see lots of different artistic impressions of the feast of Christ the King."

Leandra - "I really enjoyed creating my own art."

Leighton - "I enjoyed looking at everyone else's art and comparing our own impressions."





Term 3 Extra Curricular Clubs

Clubs will need to be booked and paid for each term in advance via Parentpay.

Day	Key Stage/ Year Group	Activity	Booking Cost for Term 3	Additional Information	Prompt pick up times. Late pick up charges will apply if children need to be supervised by Opportunities Club staff after the 4.20pm pick up time.
Monday	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6	KS2 Netball	£15.00	Start date 13th January 5 week term	4.20pm
Tuesday	Year 1 and 2	KS1 Gym Club	£18.00	Start date 7th January 6 week term	4.20pm
Tuesday	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6	KS2 Chess	£18.00	Start date 7th January 6 week term. Maximum of 10 players. This club is run by school staff and offers an opportunity to play and develop the game in a quiet environment. This club will suit committed chess players only.	4.20pm
Wednesday	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6	KS2 Gym Club	£18.00	Start date 8th January 6 week term	4.20pm
Thursday	Y2 and above	Art Club	TBC	Art club is run by Mr Owen and booking is via Mr Owen's booking form available at end of December	4.30pm
Thursday	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6	KS2 Football	£18.00	Start date 9th January 6 week term	4.20pm
Friday	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6	KS2 Dodgeball	£18.00	Start date 10th January 6 week term.	4.20pm

To help us plan, we ask parents to book in advance before the start of the term. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis for extra curricular clubs. **Please note that you will need to make payment before the club starts. Payment is required your Parentpay account.**

In order for the club to remain self-funding, we regret that we cannot accept short notice cancellations. We do also understand that parents' working arrangements do change and this can lead to differing childcare needs. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Parents will be refunded if there is a closure of the school (for example if it is required to close due to unforeseen circumstances, i.e. weather) or a child has an extended period of absence (e.g. illness (medical certificated required) over two or more weeks). This will be reviewed at the discretion of the school.

If there is an occasion where the Sports Club coach is unable to attend due to illness or unforeseen circumstances, children booked into the sports club will be supervised by Opportunities club staff and provided with activities until 4.20pm pick up time.

Please note the pick up times for clubs. Late pick up charges will apply if children need to be supervised by Opportunities Club staff after the 4.20pm pick up time, when our sports coaches leave.

Walking in the footsteps of Jesus, loving and serving together.

You can now book after school clubs for Term 3. Please do this by paying the associated Parentpay item. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

January Booking Forms Now Due



Please complete your January booking form for Opportunities Club and return it to the office next week so that we can plan for the first week back after the holidays. Hard copies of the forms have already been given to all our regular bookers, or you can download a copy from our website: <https://www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/breakfast-after-school-holiday-clubs/>

THE Wednesday WORD ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2024



Wishing you a blessed Christmas from your School



"May the joy of the Gospel be always in our hearts, especially this Christmas." Pope Francis

Artwork © The Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey and McCrimmon Publishing Co Ltd.

The Wednesday Word Christmas Holiday Special is on our website:



www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/



Christmas Jumper Day

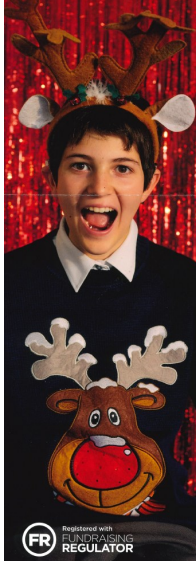
is coming. Be part of it!

Where **St Joseph's School**

When **Tues 17th Dec**

Other details

*Wear your Christmas Jumper!
Also whole school Christmas lunch that day!*



Donations via Parentpay or cash on the day. Thank you.