



NEWSLETTER

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

Friday 6th December 2024

Headteachers' message

Dear parents and carers,

Christmas has properly arrived in school! The Christmas Tree is up in the hall and in our classrooms, and the "Elf on the Shelf" has made an appearance in some classes. What more could we ask for? This weekend brings us the choir opening Malmesbury's late night shopping tonight and the PFA Christmas Bazaar on Saturday. Next week we will get into full swing with school based Christmas festivities. Please read on to find out about the activities this week which have included the start of Advent, community singing and some excellent, wet and muddy cross country running.

Advent has arrived!:

This week we combined the virtues from Term 1 (Aspiration) and Term 2 (Respect) to reflect on what the real meaning of Christmas is. We particularly focussed on what unconditional giving means. The scripture we used to illustrate this was the [Widow's Mite](#) from (Luke 21:1-4). As a school, all classes have been writing Christmas wishes and prayers to go in our class advent calendars. This concept was extended by challenging the children to identify individual kind acts they could give each day across the Christmas period.

We are all hoping that some of these will come home

to you and you will all experience some priceless gifts of kindness. In our Gospel Worship this week Miss Thomson encouraged the children to reflect on the hopes they have for a better world and happy future.

Advent 1 : A prayer of Hope
Loving God,

Jesus calls all of us his friends. He showed us how to live as friends by doing anything we can to care for others.

Help us to live his challenge to love one another, by putting aside unkind words, by never saying or doing anything that would hurt anyone else; by being an example of friendship, kindness and welcome with everyone, especially those who feel left out.

Let us live in the love of Jesus as friends.
Amen.



Kindness brings hope and calm.
Kindness is one of the most powerful gifts to show love and care, for ourselves, others and the natural world.



Building and growing within our community:

One of the things that the School Council agreed to do this year was to contribute to our community and, through this, show that we care and want to bring happiness to Malmesbury in different ways. This started earlier this term when St Teresa class generously gave unwanted toys and clothes to charity so that those with little this Christmas could have good quality gifts. This spirit of giving has continued this week under the direction of Mrs Cambray-Smith who has actively enabled our children to spread the joy of song in the Malmesbury community. I was very proud to join her and our choir when they sang with the Good Afternoon choir on Wednesday. For those of you that do not know, [Good Afternoon Choirs](#) are a West Country music project that aims to bring communities together with the simple act of singing. The Good Afternoon Choir sings every Wednesday and we were very honoured to be invited to join them to raise funds for the

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER

[Alzheimer's Support Wiltshire](#) as part of their Christmas celebration. St Joseph's School Choir sang three songs on their own and two with the GAC, and they sang them beautifully—it was a lovely concert. Thank you to all the parents who came to support us.



Our gift of singing will also be shared at the opening of the Malmesbury Late night shopping this evening and we will be singing again next week at several of Malmesbury's care homes.

Christmas Events to keep in your diary:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Tuesday 10th 2.00pm | Christmas Carol Service for whole school in St Aldhelm's Church, all welcome. |
| Thursday 12th 2.00pm | KS1 Nativity performance in school, all welcome |
| Friday 13th 1.30pm | Rainbow Theatre Company Cinderella pantomime in school |
| Tuesday 17th | Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day, bring £1 or pay on parentpay |
| | Whole School Christmas lunch—order on Parentpay by 6th December |
| Wednesday 18th 10am | Whole School Advent Mass in the Church—led by St Scholastica, all welcome |
| Friday 20th 2pm | Term 2 Awards Ceremony—all welcome |
| Friday 20th | Last day of term 2. Leave at 3.20/3.25pm. |



PRIMARY SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY EVENT

Yesterday our year 3/4 and 5/6 teams participated in a cross-country competition at Castle Combe race circuit. While we may not have come home with medals, I couldn't be prouder of the determination, effort and team spirit shown by every single one of our runners.



The afternoon began in some challenging conditions - rain and strong winds but with lots of excitement! All our pupils ran their hearts out, giving their absolute best on a tough course and against some strong competition. Their efforts were rewarded with a post run hot chocolate and biscuit! It's ok to feel disappointed about the results - it shows they care. I hope this event inspires everyone to keep trying, keep training and keep aiming high. Well done to all our runners - hold your heads high and keep running toward our next challenge!



What stood out to me most today was the incredible sportsmanship displayed by our children, cheering each other on, congratulating others and best of all, the spontaneous clapping and congratulations to Malmesbury Primary school pupils as they got off the coach. It was so genuine and showed qualities that make us proud to call you St Joseph's Catholic Primary School pupils.

Many thanks to Mrs Raines and Mrs Courtier for all their help. Mrs Bennett



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

We are in Advent, preparing for a very special event. We have decorations in our classroom, a mischievous elf and we are having lots of fun.



Very importantly, we are rehearsing and practicing for our Christmas production. We still need to keep practicing our lines and would love our grown ups at home to

help us with this please. We are looking forward to welcoming you next week to see our play!

St Lawrence - Mrs Cambray-Smith & Miss Weatherall

Earlier this week, the children submerged eggs into different liquids - sprite, tonic water, water, vinegar and orange juice. In this experiment, the eggshell represents the enamel on our tooth. When we took them out to see what had happened the children noticed that the eggshell that had been in vinegar had the most decay, with the shell disintegrating fully. However, the egg in water (our control egg) had no plaque on it telling us it is the healthiest drink. Next, we gave the shells a gentle brush using children's toothpaste, observed what happened and had a conversation about the importance of brushing our teeth, especially after eating or drinking sugary items.



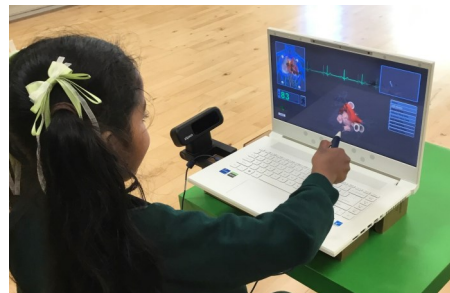
St Francis - Miss Thomson

This week the children were fascinated by a 3D laptop display of the heart that Mrs Jones kindly demonstrated for us as part of our learning about the human body. The children could use the stylus pen to move the heart, feel its beat and identify all of its parts. A huge thank you to Mrs Jones for sharing this tool with us.

Rosa - "I enjoyed using the 3D computer to see the heart!"

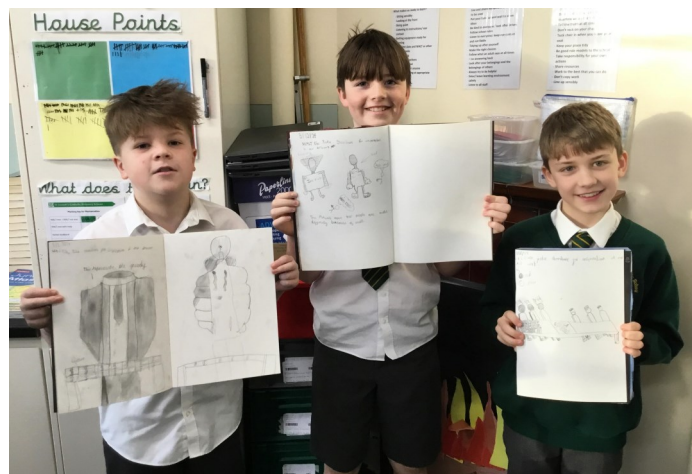
Felicity - "I liked making food chains in science because I learnt that some big birds eat little birds - and I didn't know that!"


Zoe - "I liked doing maths on the computer this week."



St Scholastica - Mr Wilkinson

This week St Scholastica have been looking at some different black contemporary artists such as Yinka Shonibare. The children have been studying a lot of his work and some of the inspirations behind it. The children were then asked to sketch out a piece of their own artwork that takes inspiration from Yinka Shonibare's work. I was very pleased to see that lots of the children thought deeply about their pictures with pieces of art having special meanings behind them.



CI **THE Wednesday WORD** **mas** 
 Good News for Families
SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER
11:00AM - 1:30PM **BAZAAR**

The PFA Christmas Bazaar is TOMORROW! This is their main fundraising event of the year so thank you for all of your support so far with donations, the purchase of raffle tickets and the bidding of items in the Auction of Promises. Please come along tomorrow to browse the stalls, play some games, enjoy a coffee and a mince pie, and hear the school choir singing carols. It is guaranteed to get you in the festive spirit!

On-line bidding is also now open for all the goodies up for grabs in the Auction of Promises. Click on the link below .

<https://auctionofpromises.com/StJosephsCatholicPrimarySchool2024>

Extra raffle tickets will also be available to buy on the day. See you there!



The school hall is already looking fabulously festive thanks to our amazing tree, kindly donated by the Moloney family, and supplied and delivered by Foxley Road Nurseries. Come along tomorrow to see it for yourself and enjoy the Christmas fun!

Christmas Panto

On 13th December we will be welcoming the Rainbow Theatre Company to the school who will be performing the pantomime Cinderella for the children. We are asking for a small, voluntary contribution of £1.50 per child towards the cost of this festive event, the majority of which will be subsidised by the school PFA. This has been added to Parentpay today, payable in the usual way.

We also have the capacity to invite 30 parents to attend the pantomime and enjoy this experience with us. We have added a separate Parentpay item for an adult ticket at £1.50 - if you would like to attend then please log into Parentpay to pay the contribution for both yourself and your child. The 30 places will be allocated on a first come/paid first served basis.

The performance itself will start at 1.30pm and last for most of the afternoon.

This week's Wednesday Word is PREPARATION.



"In this second week of Advent, we ask for the grace to prepare ourselves with faith to celebrate Christmas." Pope Francis.
 The Wednesday Word is on our website: www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/

Weekly Attendance Monday 2nd Dec — Friday 6th Dec

St Teresa 98.2%

St Lawrence 94.2%

St Francis 96.7%

St Scholastica 97.6%