



NEWSLETTER

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Holloway Hill, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9BB
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Friday 10th January 2025

Headteachers' message

Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Staff,

Welcome back from what seemed like a long Christmas break. We all hope you had a happy and healthy time with family and friends. The children certainly feel settled after what has been a very cold start to the term. If you are interested to know what your child will be covering this term, teachers will be updating term maps and class pages on the website over the next week. Please have a look at these to contextualise what your child may tell you about their time in school.

Worship

This term our values focus will be "Curiosity" and in particular I will look at the concept of "Seeking". This week in both the Values and Gospel worships we reflected on the Three Wise Men who followed the star to seek the birth of a king. Through this we explored their hopes for the future and I introduced the children to the Catholic Church's Jubilee theme of Hope. As part of this the children were encouraged to consider their resolutions for the year that could bring hope to others. Miss Just shared her classes discussion which we are considering adopting as a school **"Smile, Be Kind, Be Happy"**

Lord God

You gave your son Jesus to us at Christmas

As we think about the faith of Mary and the Wise Men who came to worship Jesus. Let us be guided by their faith and Jesus's light so that our love for each other may be seen by all.

Bless our school and all who learn and visit us so that we can show a kindness of heart, gentleness of spirit and the determination to do what you ask of us. We pray for this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Gift from St Aldhelm's Church

At the end of last term all the children were given a copy of a book compiled by Father Thomas about the history of St Aldhelm's Church. As part of this there are several mentions of our school. A copy of this publication has been sent home with your child. Enjoy the short read.

School Improvement Day

On Monday the school was closed to the children but teachers were at work as this was one of our five improvement days this year. Our day was based in St Joseph's Catholic College in Swindon where we joined the other schools in the Samuel Partnership. The focus of the morning was to reflect on the year ahead and our partnership together. In the afternoon the St Joseph's staff looked at the school's Pupil Premium action plan and the RE Self Evaluation and action plan. If you are interested in seeing the direction of our pupil premium strategy, our updated action plan is now on the school website.

Events to be aware of this term

Although Term 3 can sometimes feel it doesn't have the same excitement as other terms in the year, we have a lot to look forward to over the next few weeks. The term had barely got going and St Lawrence and St

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER

Francis zoomed off to the Roman Baths in Bath. Thank you to all parents who helped with this. In addition to this we will also mark National Story Telling week towards the end of January, Candlemass will be celebrated at the start of Children's Mental Health Week which runs from the 3rd of February, NSPCC Number Day is on 7th February and we will also mark the end of Term 3 with a short focus on online safety during Internet Safety Day on 11th February. Hopefully lots to look forward to.

We are also planning some exciting events in Term 4 which will include World Book Day and International and British Science Week. Even more to look forward to as the year progresses.

Is my child too ill for school?

As we now seem to be in a difficult Flu Season and this is a major area of coverage, it can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell. Guidance on this can be very confusing and very often children perk up once they arrive. Our rule of thumb would be that children should come to school unless they are visibly very unwell and distressed. We will always monitor them across the day and if they deteriorate we will contact you. NHS guidance does, however, specify a number of things that are currently very seasonal that give a clear guide to keeping your child off school. The most obvious, and one that seems to be going around at the moment is [diarrhoea or vomiting](#). If this is the case they should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

There are other seasonal illnesses that may affect your child and the [NHS help page](#) has a very clear summary of these. There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [health protection and managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](#) which is always our first port of call if we are unsure.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone us and let us know that your child won't be in and give us a clear reason. As part of our absence management policy please also expect check in calls from us subsequent to this.



Year 3&4 Trip to Roman Baths

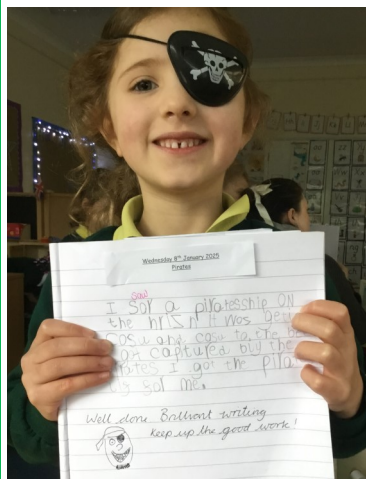
WOW moments across the school!

"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

What an exciting start to 2025 we returned to school on Tuesday morning to a white playground and had great fun playing in the snow! Later in the week two scurvy pirates invaded our classroom searching for treasure. They were looking for a tall person who knew where the treasure map was ... they measured some of the class to find who was the tallest and made Miss Just walk the plank! They recruited some new pirates from our class and left with all the treasure. We searched the school and could hear pirate voices in Mr Bacon's office but he managed to escape from them. Phew! After that we wrote our own versions of the morning's events.



St Scholastica - Mr Wilkinson

This week we have started a new writing topic, looking at creating an emotive story based on the book Kensuke's Kingdom. In our first lesson we read the first chapter of the book and created freeze frames based on what we remembered. The children enjoyed listening to the story and are looking forward to finding out what is going to happen next.

Gabriella - "I enjoyed making a prediction about what might happen in the rest of the story."

Austin - "I enjoyed thinking about the characters' emotions."

Josh - "I enjoyed thinking about the surroundings of the characters."



St Lawrence - Mrs Cambray-Smith & Miss Weatherall and St Francis - Miss Thomson

We had a great time at the Roman Baths. We learned how to say 'hello' in Latin. We dressed up in Roman clothing, practised being an archaeologist, made mosaics, and learned about bathing in the baths.

Marcos - "It was such fun and we got to see the Roman Baths and drink water that tastes like paper."

Oléssia - "It was interesting because we had the phones and they explained more about the Baths."

Victoria - "I loved digging because we felt like actual archaeologists trying to find what was covered over for 2000 years."

Saoirse - "I loved the school trip because we got to hear lots of interesting facts about Ancient Rome."

Flick - "I liked the trip to the Roman Baths because we got to drink the water there - it was pretty disgusting!"

Finn - "On the trip I enjoyed using a model crane from Ancient Rome. It didn't use any technology - it was just string and wood and metal!"

This week's Wednesday Word is
BAPTISM



"Baptism gives strength and it gives light." - Pope Francis. The Wednesday Word is on our website:

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

ITALIAN CLASSES

Key Stage 2

Ciao ragazzi, (hello children)

Come and learn Italian in a fun way.

It's a beautiful language and simple too..

BUONGIORNO

grazie

CIAO

Come Stai?



Classes are held at St Joseph's Primary School
To book or for more information call Angela 07872836193

| Weekly Attendance Tuesday 7th Jan — Friday 10th Jan | |
|--|--------------------|
| St Teresa 100% | St Lawrence 90.1% |
| St Francis 98.6% | St Scholastica 99% |

After School Italian Lessons

Is your child interested in learning Italian? We are delighted to advise that Mrs Halton is offering Italian lessons for KS2 children as an after school club. Learning a language is great for the brain and lots of fun!

The club will run on a Monday from 3.30-4.30pm starting on Monday 13th January, and the cost is £5 per session.

Note that this club is being run privately by Mrs Halton using school premises with sign up and payments organised directly with her. Please see poster for Angela's contact details.

Congratulations to the December PFA 100 Club Winners:



- 1st – No. 6 = Andy Dawson (£18)
- 2nd – No. 12 = Claire Statton (£10.80)
- 3rd – No. 7 = Mel Watts (£7.20)

Winnings will be available from the office next week.

For existing club members, the annual membership fees are due this month. If you pay by DD these will come out automatically. Alternatively you can pay by Parentpay - a new PP item has been set up for this today.

If you're not already a member, now is a great time to join. For £24 a year (£2 a month) you will be allocated a number between 1-100 and each month three numbers are pulled out at random for a cash prize. The more members we have, the greater the winnings every month. More information and the membership form can be found on our website and paper copies are available from the school office.

<https://www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/pfa/>



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Parents and Friends Association
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