



NEWSLETTER

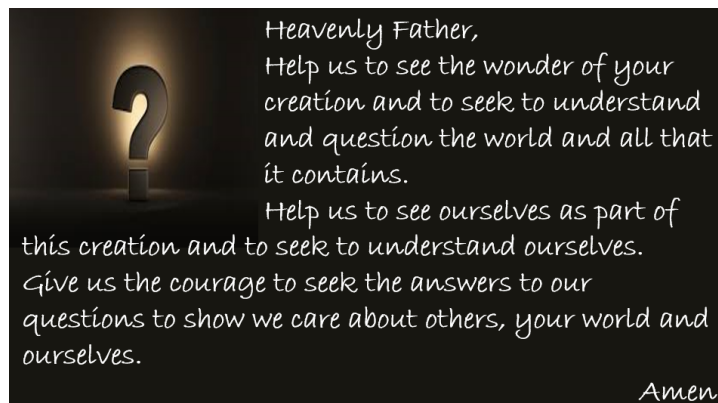
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Friday 17th January 2025

Headteachers' message

Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Staff,

This week has been a more settled week where the children have settled into some normality with the exception of St Teresa's class who I think have again been visited by pirates. We have heard lots of plank walking, "Yo, ho, hos" and "Pieces of eight". This weeks newsletter contains information on some old initiatives we are re-introducing and some general updates.



Worship

We have continued the new values theme of "curiosity" by exploring what we mean by this word. My worship didn't use a story but instead introduced the idea that through our curiosity we seek to answer questions about the world around us, ourselves and, from this, we are often presented with thoughts and situations that we may need to take action to meet. The metaphor I used to describe this was "Windows" where we look out on the world, "Mirrors" where we look in on ourselves, our thoughts and actions, and lastly "Doorways" where we are invited to act.

The passage from the bible that was used to support this came from Matthew 7:7 "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you".



Dodgeball Festival

Our upper key Stage 2 children attended the Dodgeball Festival yesterday, competing against other primary schools in the area.

"When we arrived at the Dodgeball Festival we were really nervous but after our first match we built up our confidence. When we played our second match it was tough at first and we lost the first quarter, but during the remaining time of the match we played well and ended up winning that match. We went on to win all but one of our remaining matches. We are now waiting to hear how we finished in the overall ranking. It was brilliant fun. Thank you to Mrs Bennet, and to Mrs Cockram for driving us to and from the tournament on the minibus." Charlie, St Scholastica

Superstar learning

The following is a general note to keep all parents in the loop about an initiative we have re-introduced this term. As a staff we have been exploring ways to provide some children with bespoke learning to either reinforce or fill in gaps that might affect progress. Unless we have contacted you personally this is not something you need to action, but I am including this in the newsletter for transparency as something we are trialling.

This additional learning time has been timetabled to happen daily from 08:40 – 09:00 and will capitalize on a time when children mostly transition into school and are registered. These sessions will be led by a mixture of class teachers and our skilled higher level teaching assistants and teaching assistants. The sessions will run every day from Monday for the remainder of this term. We will review progress at the end of term and update you as appropriate.

It is our plan to keep this provision going across the year or as needed. We hope you will see this as a positive initiative and look forward to your support if your child has been invited

Double “Yellow Line” Trouble

Could we respectfully ask parents driving to school to “park and stride” from the town car park. If possible, please avoid dropping off on the double yellow lines up Holloway Hill. We work hard to keep positive relationships with all our neighbours and, although there is nothing in highway law to prohibit a drop and go, this is causing some ill feeling with our neighbours. We thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Illness and Infection

The season of higher than average illnesses and infections continues, and children are particularly susceptible to conditions such as threadworm, sickness and diarrhoea, slapped cheek, coughs and colds. The NHS webpage <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> contains lots of useful information about common illnesses in children and when to keep them off school. Prevention is always the best medicine, and we are reminding the children of the importance of hygiene, and encouraging them to wash their hands regularly.

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.

Opportunities Holiday Club in February Half Term

Our Opportunities Club will be open during the half term break in February from 8am until 5pm on Monday 17th through to Thursday 20th and from 8am to 4pm on Friday 21st. The booking form is now available on our website and a hard copy will be sent home with regular users of the club. Please book early to avoid disappointment - we have already received interest from non St Jo's children and places are limited. Thank you.

Date	February 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	
17	Monday							
18	Tuesday							
19	Wednesday							
20	Thursday							
21	Friday							



This week's Wednesday Word is JOY

“If we are close to Jesus, we will have joy in our hearts and a smile on our face.” - Pope Francis.

The Wednesday Word is on our website:

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



Weekly Attendance

Tuesday 13th Jan — Friday 17th Jan

St Teresa 94.4%

St Lawrence 89%

St Francis 98.4%

St Scholastica 98.5%

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

This week we are enjoying our research about pirates. All the crew in St Teresa now have a pirate name and a job on board ship ask your child about theirs! We've been learning some pirate songs and about famous pirates including Grace O'Malley and Zheng Yi Sao. Miss Just has taught us lots of pirate phrases and shared out some stale old biscuits earlier this week at snack time.

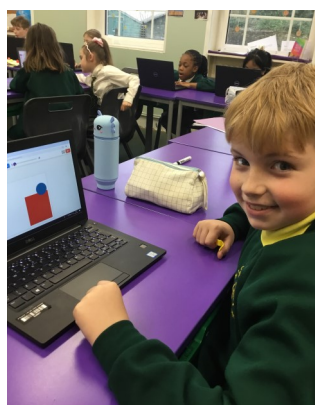


St Francis - Miss Thomson

Marvin – "My wow moment was using the computers, because I loved drawing something and making it move about with music."

Jack – "My wow moment this week was computing because I had fun creating the backgrounds and sounds for my animation."

Sanugi – "My wow moment was when we did computing because I enjoyed creating an animation with sounds and different backgrounds."



St Lawrence - Mrs Cambray-Smith & Miss Weatherall

St Lawrence are enjoying our topic on Ruthless Romans. This week we learned about



catapults and had a go at making our own.

Charlie - "I liked working with a partner to make the catapult."

Grace - "I enjoyed making a catapult because I like crafting."

Harriet - "I liked watching the videos to see how to make it and then we're going to design our own next week."

Sean - "It was fun experimenting to make my catapult work better."

Lilly - "I liked watching how the gladiators trained."

St Scholastica - Mr Wilkinson

This week our WOW moment in St Scholastica has been the science investigation that we undertook. In our investigation we looked at how arteries have different areas in which the blood flows. In order to look at how quickly blood can travel in these different areas we poked different size holes in some cups, filled the cups with water and timed how long it took for the water or 'blood' to poured out of the cup. The children really enjoyed this

investigation, particularly seeing the red water leave the cup.

Leighton - "I liked seeing how quickly the blood left the cup."

Freddie - "I enjoyed timing how quick the blood poured out of the cup."

Ellie - "I enjoyed finding the average time."

