



# NEWSLETTER

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**Friday 7th February 2025**

## Head Teacher's message

Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Staff,

This week we had a specific focus on children's mental health as part of Children's Mental Health Week 2025. We particularly followed the theme from Places2Be which was "Know yourself. Grow yourself." This was very closely linked to our values theme of Curiosity and the importance of reflecting on our feelings but also being aware of how people around us feel and how we can all play a part in the happiness of others.

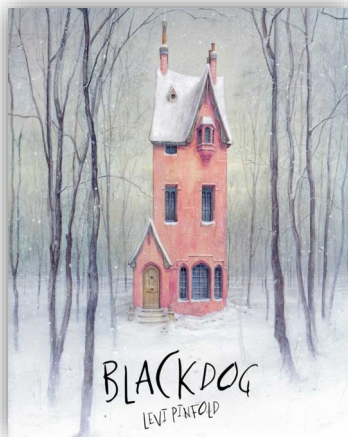


*Psalm 18:6*

*"In my sadness I called to the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears."*

## Whole School Worship:

Monday and Thursday both marked Candlemas as an event within the Christian calendar. On Monday in particular we celebrated that this is the point, 40 days after Christmas, that Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the temple for a blessing. The children heard about the faith of Simeon and Anna who had waited all their lives to see the Son of God. We discussed the significance of this as Christians in both the Monday and Thursday worship. In particular we celebrated the coming of light, lengthening days as we prepare for spring and a new season. We discussed the hope that light can bring.



## Developing our school values:

This week's story tied in with Children's Mental Health week and challenged the children to reflect on their worries and how, when we all look out for each other; when we are all aware of how others feel, we can all take action to make things better. When we do this sometimes our worries are never as big as we imagine them. The Story I used to illustrate this was Black Dog by Levi Peniford.

## PFA Big Plans:

We have a fantastically dedicated PFA who have a lot of activities in the pipeline for the remainder of the year. As with all of their activities, these are all put on to bring our school community together to better and enrich the opportunities that every child in our school is able to access. The highlights for me from our meeting this week include, next week's Valentine's Disco and the launch of their sponsored readathon. The disco is free to all children and will include a drink and snack (Thursday 13th February 17:00—18:00).

Other activities planned for the remainder of the year include a quiz night, make a difference in May, the summer fair and additional enrichment activities for children. All monies raised support your child's opportunities in school.

**This week's Wednesday Word is FOLLOW**



"To follow Jesus means to share his love for every human being." - Pope Francis.

The Wednesday Word is on our website:

[www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/](http://www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/)

**Weekly Attendance  
Monday 3rd Feb — Friday 8th Feb**

**St Teresa 82.8%**

**St Lawrence 97.9%**

**St Francis 100%**

**St Scholastica 94.6%**

**WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER**

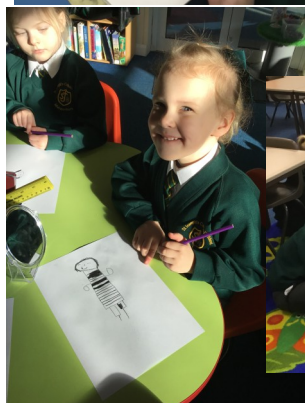
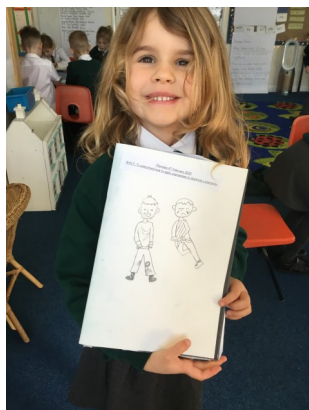
## WOW moments across the school!

"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

This week we have been enjoying lots of creative learning. We have used mirrors to explore expression in Art and created our own characters. We used the glockenspiels in Music to work with a partner to compose some music.



### St Lawrence - Mrs Cambray-Smith & Miss Weatherall

This week we researched Roman Banquets before experiencing what it would have been like. We designed our own banquet tables, created music that could be played to create a lovely ambience for dining as well as practicing some entertainment skills such as dancing and juggling. This will be informing our English writing next week where we will write a descriptive diary entry of a Banquet! In Science, we have been thinking about living things and the environments in which they live.



We have specifically thought about how animals adapt to these environments, such as polar bears having two layers of fur to keep them warm in arctic



conditions. We then used the knowledge we had to create our own animals and think about how they had adapted to the environment in which they lived.

### St Francis - Miss Thomson

Jessie – "My WOW moment was when we did the Roman entertainments in English – I really liked the juggling, because I got really close to juggling 3 balls!"



Franchesca - "My WOW moment was when we did the Roman entertainments – my favourite part was using the musical instruments."

Marvin – "My favourite wow moment was skipping at lunchtime because I achieved a new school record of 44 non-stop skips on the big rope!"



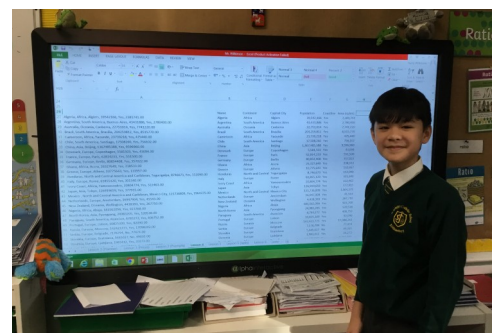
### St Scholastica - Mr Wilkinson

Our WOW moment has been our computing lesson. We have been learning about and using spreadsheets, we have organised parties on spreadsheets, and we have organised different sets of data. The children have been looking forward to our computing lessons and have enjoyed working on an excel spreadsheet.

Freddie - "I liked using a specific method our processes more efficient."

Ellie - "I enjoyed organising my own party."

Connor - "I liked learning about the cells and tables and how we could find out information."



# Opportunities Club



## Half Term Holiday Club

## Terms and Conditions Reminder

Our February Half Term Holiday Club is filling up fast and places are limited. If you need childcare over the holiday please complete the booking form (available on our website or from the school office) and return it to the school on Monday 10th. The club is open from 8am until 5pm on Monday 17th through to Thursday 20th and from 8am to 4pm on Friday 21st.

**Booking and payment in advance is essential.** When it is not possible to book in advance, and a Potluck space is required, payment is required on the day of booking. Office staff will upload a payment item to your account on the date of the Potluck booking and this needs to be paid on the same day as the childcare is provided. If you would like to see a copy of the Opportunities Club terms and conditions, please visit our website <https://www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Terms-and-Conditions-Breakfast-Opportunities-and-Holiday-clubs-2024-2025.pdf>

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding which helps us plan and staff accordingly.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS



### Attendance Matters

This week we reviewed our school Attendance Policy. Very little of this has changed since last year with the exception of penalty notices which have now increased to £160 per child, per parent. This figure is a statutory fine and is not controlled by the school. It applies to each child in a family.

Absences are marked and followed up on a daily basis so if your child is absent and you have not contacted the school, please expect a phone call from us. We will do this for each day of absence. Absences with no provided reason and late arrivals after 09:05 are always marked as Unauthorised (U). U codes for late arrivals will trigger an attendance meeting and a possible penalty notice if there are 10 U codes absences. Unauthorised holidays are also coded U.

The full policy can be accessed from the school website but two infographics are included with this newsletter as a reference to the key points from the policy.

## Playground Fun

The newest craze in the playground is group skipping, which has been so popular that the children have been queuing up to join in! It has held huge appeal across all age groups as you can see from the delight on the childrens' faces. Congratulations to Marvin who achieved a new school record of 44 non-stop skips on the big rope!



The weather is bitterly cold - please make sure that your child has a named coat, hat and gloves in school.



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

**WBD  
2025**



We are all getting very excited in the lead up to World Book Day which will be happening on Thursday 6th March. We hope the children are starting to plan their characters. The staff at St Joseph's are all building themselves up to the big day.

The whole school will eat together in the hall on the day. Please make sure that you order your meal on Parentpay by Friday 14th February at the latest.



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
**HOGWARTS SCHOOL OF WITCHCRAFT  
AND WIZARDRY**

**THURSDAY 6th MARCH  
LUNCH IN THE GREAT HALL**

**Hagrid's Favourite Sandwiches**  
Charming Cheese, Hogwarts Ham, Dragon Egg Mayo

**Snape's Savouries**  
Slytherin Sausage Rolls, Gryffindor Cheese & Onion  
Rolls, Cheesy Hufflepuffs

**Professor Sprout's Veggie Garden**  
Carrot Sticks, Cucumber, Tomatoes, Pepper

**Dumbledore's Desserts**  
Trembling Troll Snot (Jelly and Ice Cream)

Polyjuice Potion (Apple & Blackcurrant Squash)

**Please book and pay £2.75 via Parentpay in the usual way  
by Friday 14th February or contact the school office**

Allergens

Cheese Sandwich A2 A7, Ham Sandwich A2, Egg Mayo Sandwich A2 A5 A9, Sausage Rolls and Cheese & Onion Rolls  
A2 A7, Cheesy Puffs A7, Ice Cream A7, Apple & Blackcurrant Squash A14

St Joseph's

# Valentine's DISCO

Thursday, 13th February  
**5:00 - 6:00pm**

@ St Joseph's Catholic School Hall

A drink and snack will be  
provided

Join us for an hour of mayhem &  
music, dancing & laughing!

Wear something **RED** or **PINK** and  
get ready to groove!

## Piano Concert - Friday 14th February at 2.30pm



Our piano teacher, Elena Stevens, will be leading our pianists in a piano concert on the last day of term. We would be delighted if the parents of Elena's piano students could join us in the school hall for this performance. This will be followed by our usual Celebration Assembly to which all are welcome.

**WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER**