



NEWSLETTER

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Friday 28th March 2025

Head Teacher's message

Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Staff,

How exciting it is to be approaching the last week of term. It seems unbelievable to see how quickly the year is progressing. We have had a very eventful and busy week. I hope that you all found the Parent Teacher meetings helpful and that you found it valuable to know how your child is progressing and the things they need to do to take their next steps.

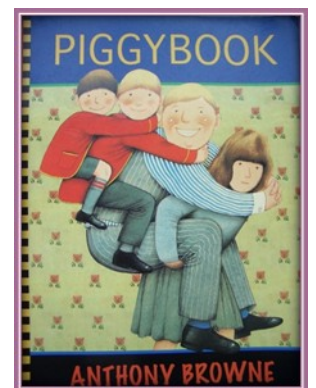


Our choir were in action again this week with schools from the whole of North Wiltshire at a massed choir event in Royal Wotton Bassett. The report on this is detailed below, but it is worth noting our school was praised for its singing ability and the fact that the children sang alongside a musician (Mrs Cambray-Smith) rather than a backing track. The children were also praised by the compere for hitting "high Gs" which is the top note a child trained to sing can hit. How privileged we are to have the expert guidance and support of Mrs Cambray-Smith.

Finally, there is more to celebrate and thank. A big "shout out" to our PFA who have enabled all children to support the celebration of Mothering Sunday with a special thank you to all our mums.

Our worship this week celebrated the unconditional love all mothers give their children, and I encouraged the children to think beyond Mothering Sunday and find ways to help at home and show how much they appreciate their "Mum" at all times. I also linked this back to last week's St Joseph's day Mass where we celebrated how important dads are.

The story I used to illustrate how important it is not to overlook what mums do was called the "Piggy Book" by Anthony Browne. The bible passage came from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." Miss Just extended this thinking in our Gospel worship on Thursday by challenging the children to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus through the Easter story and how we can be like him and give unconditionally to others so that we can bring joy to the world.



The last week of term

We have lots to look forward to in our last week of term. The following is a short summary of what we have planned.

Easter Reflection:

On the morning of Wednesday 2nd April we will be having an Easter Reflection across the morning. This will have a similar organisation to our World Book Day with a morning of reflective Easter workshops led by school staff. The morning will start and end with two whole school reflections around the Stations of the Cross.

Easter Egg Hunt:

We will hold our traditional PFA sponsored Easter Egg Hunt in the afternoon on Wednesday after our morning's reflection. This a lighter touch to the festival of Easter and we hope that this activity will remind the children that, as well as being a time of solemnity, Easter is also a period of joy. Details of this event and how to make a contribution to cover the remainder of the cost of these eggs has already been publicised.



WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER

Term 4 Awards:

We will hold our Term 4 Values Awards Ceremony on Friday 4th April at 13:15. All parents are welcome to attend this celebration. We will be making awards for each of our school values (Resilience, Service / giving, Aspiration, Respect, Curiosity and Peace). We hope as many parents as possible will be able to join us. As this is on the last day of term, please be reminded that this will end by 14:00 when the school will close for the Easter holiday.

Dance Workshops:

All the children will be taking part in a dance workshop on Thursday. Please ensure that they come in wearing their PE kit.

Preparing for Term 5 and 6

After School Sports Clubs:

Mrs Druce has been working hard over the last few weeks to secure another varied package of after school sports clubs. These have been promoted separately to the newsletter but we would like to reiterate that attendance at these activities should be because your child genuinely wants to be part of the club. They should always have appropriate PE clothing and have a willingness to fully participate. These clubs are dependant on the motivation and participation of all in attendance.

If your child needs after school care and this is primarily the reason for them joining an after school sports activity, we would encourage you to consider the alternative of our Opportunities Club which is comparably priced and includes a snack and support with home learning activities.

School Dinners:

As a school we are so lucky to have all our school dinners freshly cooked on site by our dedicated catering team (Mrs Rexworthy and Ms Hext). We take pride in sourcing fresh and, wherever possible, locally sourced produce and all our meals are prepared on a daily basis. We aim to have a varied menu that gives children a choice.



As you consider the new menu for Term 5 and 6, please do take time to select meal options alongside your child so that what you order is something they would like to eat. The reason we ask this is that there have been several occasions across this term where our food waste has not been what we would have wished. We always do all we can to encourage the children to eat what has been ordered for them, but there does come a point where we do need to move on and accept a refusal to eat all of a meal. Having orders they want would help us to reduce unnecessary waste.

Mother's Day Celebration

Thank you to all the mums who joined St Teresa Class for a special Mother's Day celebration and enjoyed making soft toys with the children. We hope all our mums, both parents and carers, enjoy the beautiful flowers from the PFA Mother's Day Market.



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

On Wednesday we had a visit from a vet who taught us so many things.

"We had the best time." - Sophia

"A vet-tastic time." - Fitz

"We learnt that dogs are allergic to lots of things" - Edie

"We learnt about what dogs shouldn't swallow, we looked at X-rays." - Ottilie

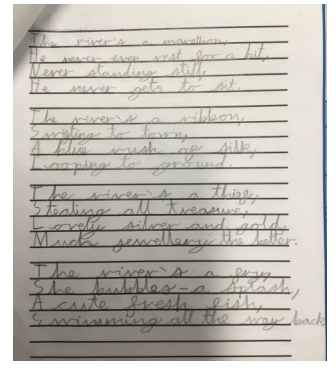


"We did a check up on a rabbit, we had to inject it! It needed surgery." - Albert

St Lawrence - Mrs Cambray-Smith & Miss Weatherall

In Science, we have been thinking about melting points, freezing points and boiling points and how the state of matter changes between each e.g. ice to water.

Geography draws to a close with our final Rivers lesson. We focused on causes of flooding and the impact that it has on the land, villages and towns along the river bank. With Malmesbury suffering from flooding, we talked about what we can do to help alleviate flooding in our town. In English, the children have enjoyed publishing their poems.



St Scholastica - Mr Wilkinson

This week our WOW moment was our independent write. The children have been using the laptops to help them write a newspaper report on the crazed criminal Goldilocks. The children really enjoyed using the laptops in order to help them set out and structure their writing like an actual newspaper report.

Belle - "I enjoyed including urgent questions in my newspaper report."



George - "I liked writing in a different style."

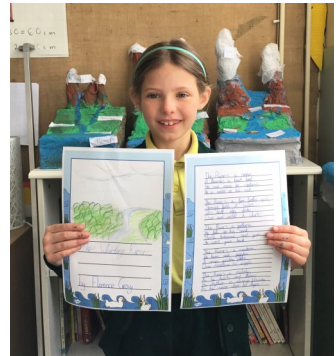
Audrey - "I enjoyed writing our independent write on a laptop."

St Francis - Miss Thomson

Florence: "Our poetry unit has been very fun this term! This week I enjoyed putting all the verses together to complete my poem and I was really proud of myself because it was quite tricky at first."

Saoirse and Sanugi: "We enjoyed the choir concert in Wootton Bassett because we got to listen to other schools sing and it was really enjoyable singing altogether."

Thomas: "I liked Forest School this week because I got to be a fire lighter and had to use a flint and steel to make a spark. We also got to eat marshmallows!"



Weekly Attendance

Monday 24th Mar — Friday 28th Mar

St Teresa 97.5%

St Lawrence 90%

St Francis 90.6%

St Scholastica 93.9%

This week's Wednesday Word is FORGIVENESS

"May each family rediscover family prayer, which helps to bring about forgiveness." - Pope Francis.

The Wednesday Word is available on our website:

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



TCS Mini London Marathon – Fundraising for CAFOD



We are excited to announce that our school will be taking part in the **TCS Mini London Marathon** on the 29th April! This is a fantastic opportunity for our children to be active, have fun and raise money for charity.

This year's event is a two mile run / jog /walk and this will be completed throughout the school day. To help the children prepare for the event we suggest they lace up their trainers and start training now. Simple activities like running, jogging or even brisk walking for a few minutes a day can make a big difference!

A range of donation options will be added to parent-pay or cash donations can be made on the day. By taking part, we will be raising funds for CAFOD, helping communities around the world overcome poverty.