



NEWSLETTER

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Friday 7th March 2025

Head Teacher's message

Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Staff,

What an amazing day we had yesterday as we joined many other schools across the UK to celebrate World Book Day 2025 (WBD). I was so impressed with the children's enthusiasm for our interpretation of everything Harry Potter and would like to thank the children and staff for entering into the spirit of the day with enthusiasm and motivation.

To really mark the day and remain true to our theme, the children started the day in the Hogwarts Great Hall and then went to their lessons. In the morning these were with Professor Snape (Potions), Professor Sprout and Hagrid (Care of Magical Creatures), Professor Moody (Charms) and with Mr Ollivander (Wand Making). We all had lunch together in the Great Hall. In the afternoon, children who had made poor choices had a detention with Professor Snape. They also hunted for Horcruxes with Sirius Black, learnt to fly a broomstick with Bellatrix Lestrange and explored the history of Harry Potter with Mr Ollivander. The children also had a brief visit from "Voldemort" who congratulated the children on their efforts and promised to do no harm.

My thanks go to the staff for making the day so special but in particular to Bellatrix Lestrange (Miss Just) for suggesting and organising the day.

As well as the excitement of WBD, we also celebrated in our school worship and participation with our wider school community, that this week marked the start of the most important period of the Christian calendar and the children's journey to Easter. This included a whole school Mass with St Aldhelm's Church where we acknowledged the importance of Ash Wednesday alongside the parish and our wider Christian community.

Worship

Our theme this term is "Serving and Giving" and this week's worship was the first one that focussed on this value. We made a strong link from this virtue to the start of Lent and on Monday I spoke to the children about Lent being a time where we can re-set ourselves and take time to "hear" the teaching of Jesus. Through "listening" to this teaching we can take action to make ourselves better people, and our world a better place. Although Lent is a time where we are often encouraged to give things up, I switched this idea round to encourage the children to think of things they could give out to others as act of kindness.

In Monday's worship we also recognised that the Muslim community started to mark the period of Ramadan from 28th February. Through this I drew parallels to our Lenten traditions and the Islamic requirements to get closer to God through fasting, doing good deeds and strengthening community.



Lent is also a time when Christians "Give up" things.

Week:	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six
M	10 March	17 March	24 March	31 March	7 April	14 April
T	11 March	18 March	25 March	1 April	8 April	15 April
W	12 March	19 March	26 March	2 April	9 April	16 April
T	13 March	20 March	27 March	3 April	10 April	
F	7 March	21 March	28 March	4 April	11 April	

CAFOD logo and 'THE BIG LENT WALK' logo are also visible.

"Giving up" of ourselves is a more powerful way of showing we have heard and listened.

As detailed above, we also joined Father Thomas and the parish of St Aldhelm's Church to celebrate the start of Lent by joining the Ash Wednesday Mass. This was a slight change to what we normally do in that, other than contributing to the readings and leading the Bidding Prayers, we just followed the normal order of service. As is always the case, the children were a credit to the school and were respectful and sang beautifully. Thank you to Father Thomas, Deacon Steve and Mrs Cambray-Smith for your co-ordination, thoughtful Homily and musical accompaniment.

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER

School Uniform and PE Kit

Although I commend the children on their enthusiasm to dress as Hogwarts pupils, I would also like to remind the children of our school uniform and ask that parents familiarise themselves with our own school's dress code as we feel there is some slippage in what the children are wearing to school. The school's published dress code has been in place since 2023 and is attached for your information. I am aware that the PE and after school club element of this is out of date and will be reviewing this in due course as on PE days children are allowed to wear their kit to school for the entirety of the day.

This aside, the policy does state in principle that PE kit is required for PE and also after school clubs.

St Joseph's PE kit should be worn for all PE lessons and after-school sport clubs and consists of:

Yellow polo shirt

Green shorts

Green tracksuit jumper

Green tracksuit trousers

Sport (not fashion) trainers

Grey, black, dark green or white socks (tights are not permitted for PE lessons)

We have noticed that for after school sports clubs in particular, there have been children joining these in their school uniforms. We have spoken to the children about this as, for all physical activities, it is essential that they bring a change of clothes if they do not have PE on that day. We ask this so that our Sports Coaches are able to offer a quality and worthwhile experience during our extracurricular sports clubs. Clothing needs to be appropriate both from a practical and health and safety perspective, and we ask that you support this request. Thank you.

Bikeability

Our Year 6s recently enjoyed some Bikeability cycle training.

Aleki: "I enjoyed learning how to stay safe on the road. It was an incredible experience for people who can't do it in their own time and I feel a lot more confident going out on the road now."

Donal: "I really enjoyed going out of school and cycling with my friends. I know now to always check when joining a road on my bike."



Parents Evening

Our Parents Evenings are on Tuesday 25th March and Thursday 27th March from 3.40pm - 6pm. Note St Lawrence will be with Mrs Cambray-Smith on Tues only and Miss Weatherall on Wednesday 26th from 8.30am - 10am. Initially we will be contacting parents of SEN children to arrange appointments, then there will be a sign up sheet for each class outside the gate at drop off and pick up on Monday and every day until all appointments are made.

We can provide childcare at our Opportunities Club at a cost of £1.15 per 15 minutes, please let me know if you would like to book this for your child.

This week's Wednesday Word is LENT

"Lent is a 'powerful' season, a turning point that can foster change in each of us. Let us deny ourselves something every day to help others." - Pope Francis.

The Wednesday Word is on our website:

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



Weekly Attendance Monday 3rd Mar — Friday 7th Mar

St Teresa 97.2%	St Lawrence 98.4%
St Francis 97.8%	St Scholastica 98.1%

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

Our WOW moment was definitely our Harry Potter World Book Day.

Edie: "I liked detention with Professor Snape, because we weren't allowed to talk and he was strict. We got to write with quills."

Sophia: "My favourite part of the day was finding the Horcruxes because Voldemort let us use a map to go and find the seven things it spelt Horcrux."

Jaden: "My favourite part of the day was the cake for Harry's birthday because it had jam."

Chloe: "My favourite part of the day was doing the green board because you could look like you were flying a broomstick."



St Scholastica - Mr Wilkinson

This week our WOW moment has been our science lesson, where we have started our new topic which is light. We have been looking at how light only travels in straight lines. We completed a small investigation and the children enjoyed using their torches to test and prove this theory.

Austin - "I enjoyed using the torches."

Josh - "I didn't realise that light didn't bend round corners."

Rory - "I liked learning about how light travels and how we can show how we did our experiment in a diagram."



St Lawrence - Mrs Cambray-Smith & Miss Weatherall

St Lawrence are exploring sculpture this term. We created these using a cereal box, and experimented with joining pieces together using techniques that didn't involve glue or tape.

Oléssia - "I liked it because it was very free, we didn't have to make something to look like a particular thing."

Rosalie - "It was fun, we learnt what 'abstract' means."

Jack - "It was good. We learnt to balance and join shapes using slots."



St Francis - Miss Thomson

Wiktorija: "I really enjoyed World Book Days because we got to do Harry Potter themed lessons. My favourite activity was using the quills. We had to dip feathers in ink and write out ingredients to make a potion."

Thomas: "I loved World Book Day because the hall was decorated to look like the Hogwarts Grand Hall. We all got to have lunch in our houses, I was in Gryffindor!"

Arlo: "I enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day and seeing everybody's outfit. Mr Bacon looked amazing, although a bit scary!"

Saoirse: "I enjoyed finding the Horcruxes with Mr Bacon, we had to use a map to find them on the land."

