



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through
Faith, Hope, and Love

Newsletter – Friday 17th November 2023

Half Term

Half term seems a long way away now. The children have come back to school ready to go with lots of stories about the fun that they had with family and friends. The temperature has dropped this week, please keep an eye on the weather and make sure that your child comes to school suitably dressed.



New Parents

Over the past few weeks we have had the pleasure of showing around prospective parents, who are looking at schools for a September place. As you know, St Joseph's does not have a natural catchment, which makes us a school of parental choice. When asked how they have heard of St Joseph's every visitor has linked it back to an existing parent who has recommended us to them. Thank you so much for that, recommendation is the strongest advertising that we can get. If there are any other parents that you know who are looking for a reception place in September, please do encourage them to contact the Admin Team to make an appointment to come and have a look round – once through the door – our amazing children do the rest.

K'nex Challenge



Year 6 came back to school to the K'nex Challenge and enjoyed it. The design brief was to create an eco friendly recycling vehicle. They worked in pairs, using K'nex. It was a competition. Congratulations to Rosie and Roxie whose design won. They will be going to Renishaw along with the winners from other local school to compete in April.

Stroud Book Festival

The children had a great time last Thursday and Friday when they joined authors, who were sharing their book and writing hints and tips – Year 6 were inspired to write poetry following the visit. The authors that they joined were:

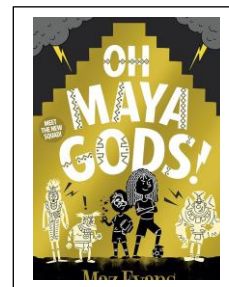
Year 6 - Joe Coelho (the Children's Laureate)

Year 5 - Maz Evans

Year 4 - Natasha Farrant

Year 1 and 2 - Tom Percival

Year 3 - Ken Wilson-Max



Parents were also given a last minute opportunity to buy a copy of the book that was used in the session.

This is a great extra-curricular opportunity to inspire and encourage children with their love for reading. Sadly, despite much reminding from the Admin Team, 1/3 of parents have not

been able to support this experience with the donation of £2.50. Mrs Knight introduced this visit when she joined St Joseph's and over that time children have had the opportunity to join a session with a variety of authors, it has added great enrichment to our reading curriculum. However, sadly this doesn't seem to be well supported leaving us in the position of considering whether or not we provide this extra opportunity next year. If you have a view on this, please do let us know.

Remembrance



Thank you to all of the parents who joined us on Monday for the remembrance service and for your lovely feedback, the children always enjoy it when their parents come in. Thank you to all of you who were able to support this charity by allowing your child/children to buy a poppy and thank you especially to the staff; Mrs Knight, Mrs Hamlin, Mrs Barron, Mrs Hill and Miss Berry who worked really hard with very little time to deliver such a thoughtful service for us all to enjoy.

Staffing News



This term we have celebrated Mrs Barron, she has been at St Joseph's for 20 years! In the time that she has supported approximately 650 children. She is absolutely at the heart of the Catholic Life and Mission of our school, leading the Chaplaincy Team and all of the great work that they do. She always put the children first and we cannot thank her enough for all that she does for us.

Diocese News

Looking For a job?

The Finance department based in Alexander House, Bristol, are looking to recruit a team administrator to strengthen its central Finance Office function.

The role is part-time, 12 hours across 3 days. Attention to detail, flexible can-do attitude, and the ability to be well organised are important. Experience in a similar role and knowledge of Microsoft Outlook, Word and Excel would be highly beneficial. For further details please go to www.cliftdiocese.com/Diocese/Working For US where you will find the job description and application form. All applications to be sent to Simon Hussey, Head of Finance by 24th November 2023, simon.hussey@cliftdiocese.com

OOSC are also looking for staff

Current Vacancies

St Joseph's Nympsfield Out of School Club is currently looking to recruit:

Job title: Play Assistant
Hours of work: 3-6pm Monday to Friday (ie 15 hours/week), term time only
Hourly rate: £11.40

We are looking to recruit a permanent Play Assistant to join our team, providing a vital service to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Ideally the person will be qualified to Level 3 but this is not essential. Training will be available to the right person and they will be supported through their learning.

Come and make a difference and join our professional, friendly team. For an application pack please email adoosc.st.josephs@gmail.com. **Closing date is 3.30pm on Thursday 23rd November 2023.**

If you know anyone who might be interested in this role, please pass on this information to them.

Little Way Catholic Schools Trust

We are still on track to create to form the LWPT on 1st January, which has been supported financially by the Diocese. The head teachers from all of the schools are working closely together to make sure that we all get it right for our schools. I met our CFO this week, Richard Lord, he is an excellent appointment for the trust and with his background I am excited to see the great work that he will be able to achieve for us all. When I have any further updates, I will share them with you.

Anti-Bullying Week

This week has been anti-bullying week. We have used the book *The Boy, the mole, the fox and the horse* by Charlie Mackesy. Every class has used this as an inspiration to take part in some activities. You may well have heard your child talking about being a peacemaker – we have been developing the children's understanding of how to resolve conflict.



Parent Governor Vacancies

The elections are open, the papers have been sent out. Please do consider applying if you feel that you have the time to spare and would like to be part of the strategic vision for our great school. The closing date is next **Wednesday 22nd November**.

Sporting News



Year 5 are swimming weekly this term. Thank you to all of the parents who are supporting with transport to keep the cost of this to a minimum and for those parents who have paid for this. Sadly, there is no funding available to support this part of the curriculum and we are not able to use our sports premium to cover the cost either. Thank you all for supporting swimming by paying for the lessons.

It is the next cross country race tomorrow morning - there is a change of course due to the boggy ground! I'm looking forward to seeing you all at Dursley Rugby Club at 9.30am tomorrow morning.

The scaffolding has come down and the work men have gone. The hall is now properly insulated. The team that did the work were great, we didn't know they were here and they had no impact on the general running of our school, for that we thank them and the Diocese too who funded this important work to make us more energy efficient.

PTA News



Thank you all who attended the firework event, it was lovely to see you all there. It was as successful as ever, we received great feedback and it was the last event that Becky Maltby will organise for the school. Over the years this event has raised several thousand pounds for the school which has been spent on a variety of things to enhance the children's learning. I would like to thank Becky and her family, for all of the time and effort that they have put into this special school event;
Bob Maltby, who bought, donated the fireworks and set them up
Mike Lee, who also set up the fireworks and set them off
Jon Lee, who helped with setting off fireworks and ran the BBQ and Rachel Lee who served the BBQ.

The next PTA event will be the Christmas raffle. Colours have been decided for each class this year so look out for the letter all about it which will be coming out soon.

Attendance

When a child's attendance drops below 90%, we have a duty of care to track the attendance to ensure the % is improving not getting worse. Before half term we were tracking 17 children – there were a few holidays at the beginning of the term but mostly illness.

Since we have returned from half term, we are now tracking 29 children, 17 of who have fallen below 90% due to a holiday before or after half term.

The Governors, County and DfE closely monitor school attendance. Please bear in mind the impact that this can have on your child's learning when planning your holiday.



<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/programmes/collective-worship/>

Just a reminder that you are able to access and see the focus for our Liturgies through the Ten Ten monthly Parent Newsletter.



This week's prayer is written by Orla in Year 6

Dear Lord,
I want to take a moment to thank you for today, the love you give, the smiles you spread.
You bless us with life and kindness, give us strength when we are sad, give us hope when we are down and you give us faith to make a change.

Amen

Class Mass

Class Mass will take place on a Thursday at 10am, we would be delighted if you are able to join your child and their class when it is their turn.

Thursday 23rd November – Reception
Thursday 30th November – Year 1

Thursday 7th December – Year 5
Thursday 14th December - Year 4



Dates for your



Saturday 18th November cross country
race

WB 20th - Structured conversations
face to face

Thursday 30th - Advent Retreat

December

Saturday 9th December cross country
race

Tuesday 12th - KS1 dress rehearsal
(11am)

Wednesday 13th - 9.30am KS1 Nativity

Thursday 14th - 2.00pm KS1 Nativity

Tuesday 19th - School Christmas dinner

6.30pm - KS2 Carol Concert

Wednesday 20th Pantomime AM

Thursday 21st - Christingle AM

Friday 22nd - Christmas Breakfast

Assembly 9.30am Hamper raffle

Friday 22nd - Key Stage parties in the
morning

Friday 22nd - 1.30pm end of term

Friday 22nd - Christmas jumper day

Friday 22nd End of term 1.30pm

Spring Term 1

January 2024

Monday 8th - INSET day

Wednesday 10th - Y6 PC Schoolsbeat
visit - Internet safety 9.30am

Saturday 13th January cross country
race

Tuesday 16th - Y4 swimming starts