



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

Newsletter – Friday 29th November 2024

Prospective Parents

Thank you to all of the parents who have recommended our school to your friends, we have shown some lovely prospective parents, and their little ones, around recently. Hopefully, by now you will all have seen the promotional video that we have made to share on social media, with the aim of encouraging prospective parents to come and take a look at our school. Thanks to all of the parents who have liked and shared it. If you have not seen it yet, you can view it here;

<https://www.facebook.com/StJoescatholicprimaryschoolnymphsfield> ... you may see some familiar faces. Please do continue to share around the locality if you are able to. I would like to thank all of the St Joseph's Team, who help and support the making of this, the children for being their usual brilliant selves (it was so hard deciding which bits to select!) but especially Miss Drury, who I am sure you will agree has done a fabulous job.

Chaplaincy News



Yesterday this Year's Chaplaincy Team led us through our Advent Retreat yesterday. They prepared their stations and practised their parts that led to a thoughtful and reflective afternoon. It was lovely to see some parents and grandparents that were able to join us. We were also joined by Mrs Knighton, the Headteacher from the Rosary who brought along some of their Chaplaincy Team too. The children, as usual, did us proud, their attitudes and behaviour was outstanding. It was the perfect start to the advent.

I would like to thank Mrs Barron for all of her hard work in organising this retreat for us and the time that she spent to ensure that our Chaplaincy Team were ready to deliver such a high standard, Mrs Knighton was impressed with the confidence that the children delivered their stations with. I would like to say thank you also to Fr Philip who also joined us for the afternoon and closed the retreat with a blessing and to Mrs Wand who made the most incredible advent wreath for us. We are so lucky to have such talented and supportive parents.



Teaching and Learning Review

Charlotte Blanche, our CEO, joined us last week for a review of our reading, writing and maths. Obviously an integral part of that is our SEND children. We had a lovely morning, visiting all of the classes across the school. She left saying how much she had enjoyed her morning, what a great learning atmosphere there is across the school. The reason for the review was to ensure consistency in delivery, books and standards. Our children as always did us proud, articulating their learning so well, demonstrating their understanding of the way that they learn at St Joseph's - always working to 'Be the Best that they can Be'. We are looking forward to receiving her report.

EYFS

The balance bikes have been made! Thank you so much to Mr Scimeca who popped into school on Friday afternoon to build them for the reception children. Also, to all of the other kind offers from several parents/grandparents who were also willing to help out with this. We just need the helmets to arrive and the area will be ready for the children to use.



Another request....if anyone has any hand puppets at home that they are not using, Mrs Daly would be very grateful if you would be willing to donate them to reception.

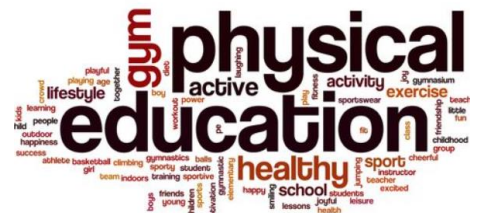
I would like to thank you for all of your support and kind donations in developing the reception environment – it really is becoming the most incredible place for learning to begin for our youngest children. Thank you also goes to Mrs Daly for leading and driving the change with the support of the EYFS team.

PE

There was some great running from our teams in the 2nd race. The runners are looking more confident and relaxed in their races. There were some fantastic individual results again – Ella Wand and Edward Artz both came 2nd in their races, the teams are doing so well again this year – after the second race the team positions are:

- Junior boys – 4th
- Junior girls – 2nd
- Senior boys – 3rd
- Senior girls – 1st

Well done to all of our runners - you are doing so well – each and everyone of the children count in the team scoring. Thank you to Mr Amigoni, who has taken over leading the sessions – Mrs Knight is delighted!



Tournaments 2024-25.



More cancellations due to the weather! However, the Year 6 re-arranged girls tournament took place on Wednesday this week. Well done girls for representing the school so well and thank you Miss Gardiner and Mrs Wright for taking the girls to this tournament.



Please Support the Rose and Crown

Nympsfield is expecting Father Christmas to come and visit their Christmas Fair which starts at 3pm on Saturday 30th November at the village hall. There will be all sorts of fun and stalls to join in with. Children will be able to visit Father Christmas in his Winter Wonderland grotto between 4-5pm. At 6.15pm Father Christmas will leave the village hall on his sleigh and travel to the Rose and Crown to turn the Christmas tree lights on at 6.30pm, where you will be able to toast a marshmallow if the weather is dry.

Please do come and support this event that is taking place tomorrow if you can, it would be great to have the village pub open again – a great place to stop off in the morning after drop off for a coffee and a chat.

Look who's Talking Oracy Competition 2025!



An Oracy Competition for Gloucestershire's Infant, Junior and Primary Schools

Our school is very excited to be taking part in the 'Look Who's Talking!' competition, along with lots of other schools in Gloucestershire!

I am sure that you all remember the county oracy competition from last year when the children were asked to prepare a 2 minute speech for homework about anything that they are passionate about. We have the deadlines for the 2025 competition. Due to the date that we come back to school after Christmas and the timings, we will be setting this for homework and holding our first rounds (in classes) at the end of this term. The winners from the class rounds will go on to perform in front of the school to be selected to go onto the district rounds.

The dates for the competition are as follows:

Homework set on Friday 6th December
In class competition Friday 13th December
Whole school selection Friday 10th January

For more information please see the attached family poster. There were some great speeches last year, we are very much looking forward to them again this year.

Attendance

As we continue to track attendance fortnightly, we are pleased to see that for many of our children, they are now well and their attendance is improving.

We are still in the process of contacting parents and speaking to them about the amount of late marks that have, as I am sure you will know, if your child arrives after 9am, a late counts as an unauthorised absence.



Road safety week

Well done to all for their road safety posters - I have seen some brilliant ones. I will be sending them to the local councillors so that they can judge them and decide which ones will be used around the village to encourage drivers to reduce their speed and keep our village community safe.



Governors

Congratulations and a great big thank you to Annabel Hitchen, who has been elected as a new parent governor. We look forward to welcoming you to at the next LGC.

School Council

I had a productive time with the School Council last week, when we spent some time going through the playground equipment, tidying up and throwing away anything that was damaged or broken. Next, we will need to take a look at what the children would ideally like to have available to play with at break and lunch time and considering how well we look after the equipment ...



PTA News



For those of you who came and for those of you who didn't, I am sure that you will all have heard about how much fun the children had at the disco last Friday night. It was great to see so many parent volunteers there supporting the event from doing tattoos, selling crisps and cakes, serving drinks, manning the quiet room, together you all made it the great success that it was. I would especially like to thank the staff, Miss White, Miss Keightley, Miss Drury and Mrs Carr who also stayed in school to support the event. We will let you

know how much this event raised in the next newsletter, which will be spent on enhancing your children's learning. Thank you all so much.

Thank you also for supporting the non-uniform day on Monday in exchange for a coloured gift for the Christmas hamper – and to Mrs Wand who yet again will be turning a pile of items into an incredible looking hamper- thank you so much! The PTA were on it this year with the prizes, making requests as early as September. I believe there are 60 plus prizes as well as the hampers - look out for the advertising on their Facebook page soon.

A community Issue

There have been a few rumblings about children in the church yard who are running around including over the graves. Please remember that this is not a public footpath and that we are lucky to be able to use the path for some families to access the school site.

Stroud Book Festival.

I would like to thank Mrs Knight for organising this event again and to you all for supporting this event for your children and to those of you who bought them the focus book and have been sharing it at home. These really are high quality enriching curriculum experiences.....

These were my words in the last newsletter...however in a recent finance meeting it was pointed out to me that 43 parents had not supported this event meaning that this enriching experience has cost the school £107.50. Despite the Admin Team sending out many reminders requesting support for this event. If for any reason you have forgotten about this, we are all really busy, please do support this event my paying the £2.50 via Parentpay. If the cost to the school is similar at the end of this term I am afraid that we will have to make the sad decision not to join the event next year.



Mass Schedule

Mass begins at 10am

Thursday 5th December 10am – Year 3 (Mass)
Wednesday 11th December 9.30am – KS1 Nativity
Thursday 12th December 10am – Year 2 (Mass)
Thursday 12th December 2pm – KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 17th December 6.30pm KS2 Carol Concert in St Joseph's Church
Thursday 19th December – Christingle Service – all welcome
9.00 – KS1 9.45 – KS2



<https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/79cfKMRbaVhFI/>

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 was written by Harry H:

Dear Lord,
The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed.
May the Lord of Hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in him.
Amen



Dates for your



December

Thursday 5th – Y6 PCSO Internet Safety talk
Tuesday 10th – 11am KS1 dress rehearsal
Wednesday 11th – 9.30am KS1 Nativity
Thursday 12th – 2.00pm KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 17th - Pantomime day
6.30pm - KS2 Carol Concert
Wednesday 18th – School Christmas Dinner
Thursday 19th – 9am KS1 9.45am KS2
Christingle riday 20th – Christmas Jumper day for Save the Children charity
Friday 20th – Christmas Breakfast

Friday 20th - Assembly 9.30am Hamper raffle
Friday 20th – Key Stage parties in the morning

Friday 20th – 1.30pm end of term

Spring Term 1

January 2025

Monday 6th – INSET day

Tuesday 7th - INSET day

Friday 10th – Topic letters and Welcome letters to parents

Tuesday 14th January – 1.00pm-3.00pm Year 6 K'nex Challenge

Tuesday 14th January – Y4 start swimming