



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Diocese of Clifton

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



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Headteacher: Mrs Clare Howells

17th March 2025

Dear parents/carers

Desperate Journeys

Year 6 have been invited to take part in an exciting project in Stroud called "Desperate Journeys". It is an immersive drama where the children are led through a maze like set with a group of actors playing the part of a family who are forced to flee their homes and become refugees. It has been specially devised for Year 5 and 6 pupils. It will take place in St Laurence Church, Stroud, and we will be participating in the afternoon on 2nd April.

It has been brought to Stroud by the small humanitarian charity "Empathy Action" who have been delivering this project to schools around the country for nearly a decade now. Their aim is to raise awareness about those who are forced to flee and inspire people to take action and speak out for those in need.

The drama section lasts an hour after which the children will take part in a Q&A discussion. This project will be followed by activities in school and a small group of representatives from each school will be able to share what they did with other schools at St Laurence Church in Refugee Week in June at the Empathy Action Forum.

This dramatic event has been written on the basis of real-life stories which have been told to Empathy Action, and which truly illustrate how hard these journeys are with all the problems the families might encounter. The set, music and lighting are powerful and impressive, and children apparently find the story moving and memorable. The discussion which follows the drama piece is reputedly immensely valuable to the children's experience.

Please email the Admin Team to consent to your child attending. There is no charge for this event and a coach is being provided. The class will be back for the end of the school day. Please ensure your child wears a warm coat as the church can be cold.

If you have any questions about this additional opportunity for your child, please speak to Mrs Knight.

Yours faithfully

Clare Howells

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