



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

Newsletter – Friday 15th November 2024

Autumn term 2 is well under way.....this is a very busy but fun term with so much going on that leads us up to Christmas. KS1 have started their nativity and KS2 have made decisions about the carol concert. There has been a definite drop in the temperature - please make sure that your child/children come suitably dressed – especially on a Friday – and that they have wellies in school, they are definitely needed now as the grass is so wet with dew. All children should be in their winter uniforms, this is shirts and ties with jumpers please – thank you for your support in making sure that your child comes to school looking smart and is dressed ready to learn.

Chaplaincy Commissioning

Last week I had the pleasure of joining Mrs Barron, Miss Gardiner, Mrs Montgomery, Mrs Foran, Mrs Batten, Ms Brittain, Mrs Pinnock, Mrs Steele and our chaplaincy team at Clifton Cathedral for the commissioning of our new members. What was lovely about this year was that we were able to take the whole team. We enjoyed a lovely mass led by Bishop Bosco and got to have a photo taken at the end with him and our other MAT schools that were there (St Peter's, St Thomas More and St Gregory's).



Thank you so much Mrs Barron for leading our Chaplaincy team and for coming into work on your day off to take them to their commissioning and to all of the parents who joined us enabling us to go.

EYFS

The EYFS area continues to be developed this term and there are several items that need building. We would like to thank the PTA for agreeing to support this with their donation of £1000 – without this support, the developments could not happen. We have 6 balance

Attendance



Did you know that if your child is late, it counts as unauthorised?

We close the gates at 8.50am - but a child who walks through at that time is going to be arriving in their classroom when the teacher has started teaching – the register is closed and they are late to learning. The gates open at 8.40am – please try to ensure that your child is coming in with enough time to get organised and be sat in their place by 8.50am. Thank you for supporting your child to maximise their learning. I will be contacting any parent whose child has been late to school 3 times to see how we can support you in ensuring that they don't miss out on any more learning.

Road safety week



Next week is road safety week and ties in nicely with a recent request from the council due to the amount of concerns raised by parents and our neighbours about the speed that cars drive into the village.

I'm not sure if you have noticed some very old 20 is plenty signs as you drive into the village? This was a governor led initiative many years ago. The local council have asked if we could support them in designing some new posters. So, next week in their classes the children will be talking about the importance of road safety. Homework next week will be to design a suitable poster – this is a competition so there will be prizes to be won!

This is also a reminder to us all to take great care as we drive into the village especially at drop off and pick up time.

Governors

Gabriella Tiley visited us yesterday to say goodbye. We held a brief assembly for her to thank her for all that she has done to support the school, staff and children over the past 7 year in her role as a governor. Thank you to those of you who kindly donated towards her leaving gifts. No gift can ever acknowledge all that she has done for the school, her wealth of knowledge and support that she has generously given will be missed but we of course wish her well as she moves on to new and interesting challenges.

The Local Governing Committee are now advertising to recruit new governors - please do consider whether you are able to join the committee to shape the strategic future of this unique primary school.

Prospective parents

Parents have started to look around primary schools in order to make their choice for next September. We have already been making appointments. As a school without a natural catchment area this is a really important time for us. Our best advertising is you, our parents and your recommendations. Thank you so much to those of you who have already sent new parents up to visit us. If you do have friends with children who are starting school in Reception 2025 then please do encourage them to come and take a look. Next year there is an especially low birth rate in the local area, so this is even more important for us.

Thank you for your support with this, together we will hopefully maintain a good intake number next year.

School Council

The School Council are busy trying to sort out the playground equipment. I will be joining them next week to audit the equipment to see what is needed and then they will be looking to cost and order replacements and improvements. They will be writing to the PTA to share their findings and what they would like. This again will be funded by the PTA, without this support, this would not be possible.



Staffing update

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Hill who will be coming in on some afternoons to deliver our phonic keeping up interventions for us, this is something that Mrs Staples was doing.

We are also very excited that Mrs Chloe Ponting will be joining the team next week. Mrs Ponting is a highly experienced teacher, who has worked in special schools and will be joining us to take over as SENDCo from Mrs Guoite when she goes on maternity leave. We have several weeks where Mrs Pointing and Mrs Guoite will be working together which will ensure a smooth transition for her into the role. She is also a PE specialist so will be supporting the development of PE during the coming weeks.

Remembrance Service

It was so lovely that so many parents and grandparents could join us for the remembrance service on Monday. I am sure that we can all agree, that the children delivered a lovely reflective service.

We are delighted with how well our Year 6 are supporting their buddies this year and together Year 6 and Reception are demonstrating what our school is all about. Thank you once again to the staff involved, for providing so many rich and varied learning opportunities for our children.



PTA News

I would like to thank the PTA for all of their hard work in delivering once again an excellent and really successful fire work night on the 2nd November. Whilst the event was not without last minute hiccups, the ladies remained solution focussed which led to another great event. It was well supported by the school and wider community. I would also like to say a huge thank you to Becky Maltby, who although no longer is a parent at our school, gave up a lot of time that weekend along with her dad Rob and her uncle Mike Lee (who have always done the fireworks for us in the past) to set up and set off the fireworks, then to clear the grounds and surrounding area of litter the following morning. The event made a profit of £1200 an amazing amount – well done and thank you all.



Friday the 22nd November is the PTA Autumn Disco, a popular event with the children. Tickets are on sale now!

I would like to thank all of the parents who have volunteered to stay and help at this event – without your support events like this could not take place. Not only do the events raise much needed funds to support the experience and resources that your children have at school but they lead to so much fun for your children.

We would like to thank the PTA for agreeing to donate £1000 to the further development of the EYFS learning environment. We are so excited about the work that is underway and will send you pictures when the areas are completed, hopefully by the end of the month.

Stroud Book Festival

The children had fun last week when they spent time on line with this year's authors Eloise Smith, Sufiya Ahmed, Louie Stowell and Sarah Coyle. 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.

Reading Rewards

There has been much discussion around the reading rewards both amongst parents and with school staff too. We thought it would be helpful for all to clarify how the points work.

I think that we can all agree that the most important skill that our children learn is to read. This was set up to encourage and support reading at home and reward the efforts of children. The hope from us is that all children will read at home 5 times a week – this is not just in term time but over the holidays too. Points are awarded for as follows:



- ✓ 5 reads in 1 week
- ✓ If a child reads daily (ie 7 times in a calendar week) - the points will continued to be counted and rolled on
- ✓ 1 'read' will be awarded per day of reading (If a child reads 3 times in 1 day this counts as 1 read)
- ✓ Reading points over school breaks will be counted – except for the summer holidays when the diaries are collected in
- ✓ Children from R to Year 4 are expected to read school books
- ✓ In Year 5/6, children's teachers will discuss with them, when appropriate, whether they are able to read books from home instead of school books.

I hope that this clarifies reading rewards. You may see some changes to the way that the points are awarded in some classes. I am sure that you can imagine tracking of this nature is time consuming and this adds additional work load for our staff, but they are willing to do this because the children love these rewards and see anything that encourages reading as a good thing. By numbering your child's reads (ideally 1-5) supports the class teacher in tracking the points. Thank you all for supporting your children with this vital life-long skill.

LET US PRAY



Mass Schedule

Mass begins at 10am

Thursday 28th November – Year 4
Thursday 21st November – Year 5
Thursday 28th 1.30pm – Advent Retreat-
all welcome
Thursday 5th December – Year 3
Thursday 12th December – Year 2

Tuesday 10th December 11am – KS1
Nativity dress rehearsal
Wednesday 11th December – 9.30am
KS1 Nativity
Thursday 12th December – 2pm KS1
Nativity
Tuesday 17th December 6.30pm KS2
Carol Concert
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 Kian, Sol and Oliver in Y5:

Lord, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us. This is how we know what love is. Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. God is near, come near to God and he will come near you.



Dates for your



November

Friday 22nd – PTA disco

Wednesday 27th – Writing moderation with LWCET

Thursday 28th – Advent Retreat at 1.30pm – all welcome

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

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