



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

## Newsletter – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

It feels a bit late to be saying this but just in case I have not seen you yet Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas. With the added inset days it does feel like we have been away for a long time but we are back into the full swing of things this week. On behalf of the staff and from myself, I would like to thank you all for your kind and generous gifts that you gave us for Christmas and for the lovely messages that were written in your cards.

It feels like a long time ago now, but I hope that you enjoyed the Christmas activities that you were able to join us for; the key stage 2 carol concert, Christingle, community carols. And thank you to all of the choir parents who transported the children to the nursing homes – the children did such a fabulous job and thoroughly enjoyed it! Thank you also to the parents who donated tea, coffee and Christmas treats/mince pies for the community carol concert - not where we were expecting and a little cosy, but the children sang beautifully all the same. There were lots of lovely treats that were donated and the left over ones were taken to the care homes with the children the next day.

### Thank you so much for your support yesterday



Thank you all so much for your support with school dinners yesterday.

We had a record number of KS1 meals:

EYFS and KS1 - 54 out of 62 children had a dinner yesterday

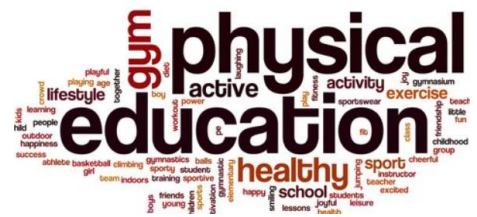
23 out of 27 FSM across the school had a dinner yesterday

School dinner uptake yesterday was amazing - 122 children - last week it was 74!

This will make a big difference to our funding – so thank you all.

### PE

Dance lessons began last week and the children had great fun with Sarah. Ali Dixon is back in next week and Year 4 will go swimming. Thank you to all of the parents who are helping with lifts and especially to Mrs Wooldridge one of our parent governors who is supporting this even though she does not have a child in Year 4! Without your support this vitally important lesson could not take place. I would also like to thank Miss Gardiner, who spends a lot of time organising and sorting transport, ensuring that we are keeping our children safe. We understand that your arrangements change but if you could let Laura know as soon as you know, this would save any unnecessary pressure on a Tuesday morning of having to alternative arrangements and update risk assessments. Thank you for your understanding and support with this.



## Tournaments 2025



There will be more tournaments this term – providing weather and staffing allows. This term we hope that there will be girls football skills, swimming gala and rugby. We will let you know nearer the time if your child will be taking part.

Tomorrow is **Cross Country Race 3!** Our teams are doing really well again this year. There has been a change in the way that the teams are scored and every runner really does count. I look forward to seeing you all again in the morning – same time, same place!

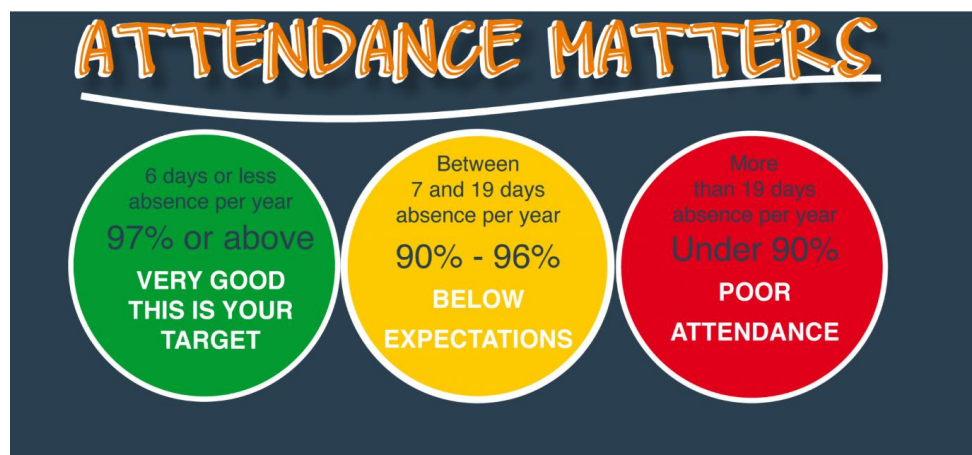
## Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you so much for all of your support for the Christmas Jumper Day – together we raised an amazing £282 for Save the Children.



## Attendance Matters, Moments Count

There was a lot of illness in the run up to Christmas, where the children were very tired. Hopefully, they are now fully recovered and we look forward to a healthy spring term.



## Clubs for Next Term



Clubs started this week...it's not too late to sign up for some of them. Please contact the Admin Team if your child would like to join in the fun ...we also have Ritchie With The Ball Club, dance with Sarah, Lego with Mrs Barron and Mrs Piper's Nature Club.

## Look who's Talking Oracy Competition 2025!

There was so much going on before Christmas, I'm not sure if you will remember about where we were with the Look Who's Talking competition. The decisions have been made for KS2. The winners were:

Year 3 - Cooper

Year 4 - Ginnie

Year 5 - Millie

Year 6 – Felix

We had not announced the Key Stage 1 winners before Christmas so congratulations goes to:

Reception – Lottie

Year 1 – Tabby

Year 2 – Luna

The in school competition took place on Friday and all of the children did so well, especially considering the Christmas break that was in between.

Felix spoke about AI, Millie – pandas, Ginnie - Portugal, Cooper - chameleons, Luna - plants, Tabby - ballet and Lottie - sheep. All of the children spoke clearly and with such confidence – they should be proud of themselves. But the staff have chosen the winners and this year's school winners are:

Upper Key Stage 2 – Millie

Lower Key Stage 2 – Cooper

Key Stage 1- Luna

Although reception don't take part in the partnership rounds, we were all so impressed with Lottie, the confidence with which she delivered her talk was so impressive for our youngest member of our school family. Well done Lottie and well done to everyone for getting to the school finals!

## PTA



I would like to thank the PTA for all that they did to support the fun that the children had in the lead up to Christmas. It is a busy time for everyone but they still found the time to make sure that our school family did not miss out – not only do they pay for the added extras, in many cases they do the shopping and providing too.

They provided crackers for the Christmas lunch, bought the sweets for the Christingles and planned and organised the Christmas breakfast on the last day – which, the children thoroughly enjoyed. It was lovely to see other parents there supporting the event too. Not only that – they organised the Christmas raffle- what incredible prizes there were this year (and so many!) and of course the hampers looked amazing. Thank you once again to Mrs Wand (and her mum!) for turning a collection of donations from each class into such beautiful hampers. They raised approximately £1000 with the raffle.

**LOOK WHO'S  
TALKING! 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!

Thank you all so much – what you do makes such a difference to all of our children, we are so lucky to have you.

### **A message from the PTA**

#### **Exciting News!**

**We now have a PTA noticeboard up on the playground! We'll be updating it monthly with key information—meeting dates, upcoming events, and other important PTA happenings.**

**Keep an eye out for fun extras, like quotes, jokes, and riddles for the whole family to enjoy. The board will be your go-to spot for staying in the loop—don't miss out!**

**A big thank you to Mr Montgomery for putting up the board for us—we truly appreciate your help!**

**Thank you all for your continued support!**

The board looks great - thank you all so much for your hard work. If you have not already seen it – do take a look.

### **Fun Start to the Year for Year 6**

This week Year 6 have once again enjoyed taking part in the Renishaw K'nex Challenge. This year's brief was to



build a pulley system that lifted a box that was 13cm high using pulleys and gears. This is a great competition – it is all about teamwork. Children have to work with a partner to negotiate and come up with a design to make a brief. There were some fantastic ideas, great teamwork and well thought through designs. It was really impressive, at the end of the session all of the children had a product that met the brief – the children were proud of what they had achieved. But, as with many things in life, there can only be one winning partnership. Congratulations to Tansy and Alice who will be going to the finals, which will take place in the summer term, when they will be representing St Joseph's and competing against children from other school who also won their in school competition.

### **Governor News**

We welcomed Annabel Hitchen to the LGC this week who has taken the second parent governor seat. We would like to warmly welcome her to the board, and say a huge thank you for her interest and support in leading our school.

There are still foundation governor spaces – to be a foundation governor you need to be catholic. If we have any catholic parents who have a little spare time and would like to be involved in shaping the future of our school, then please do let us know.



# LET US PRAY



## Mass Schedule

Mass begins at 10am

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January – Year 6  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Year 5  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Year 4  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Year 3  
Half Term  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February – Year 2  
1.30pm – Lent Retreat - all welcome  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March - Ash  
Wednesday Mass

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Year 1  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March- St Joseph's  
Feast Day – whole school Mass  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Year 6 and  
Reception  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Year 5  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Year 4  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April – Stations of the Cross  
– All welcome



<https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/8vmQWjL6A5sFJ/>

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;  
Luna

The Annunciation to Mary prayer

Dear Mary,  
Thank you for believing Angel Gabriel.  
You did a great favour to God. You were different to Zechariah because after a while, you believed in Angel Gabriel's words that you would give birth to a holy baby. Thank you for being a great friend to God. Today we pray to thank you Mary and to believe in God always.

Amen



# Dates for your



## Spring Term 1

### February

W/B 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb - Children's Mental Health Week

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> - Last Cross Country race and prize giving

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> - Safer Internet Day

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb - Half Term

### Spring Term 2

WB 24<sup>th</sup> - Week of Awe and Wonder

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> - Topic letters and Welcome letters to parents

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> - Y4 In the Net internet safety event at Nailsworth Primary School at 1.30pm

### March

Scholastic Book Fayre this week

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> - Lent retreat

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> - World Book Day

W/B 10<sup>th</sup> - Science Week

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> - Parents Evening 3.30pm-6.30pm

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> - EYFS and Y6 heights, weights and vision screening

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> - Parents Evening 3.30pm-6.30pm

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> - St Joseph's Day - whole school Mass 9.30am

### April

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April - Y6 PCSO online relationships talk

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> - House singing Competition

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> - Stations of the Cross (Chaplaincy Team)

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> - End of Term 1.30pm