



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

Newsletter – Friday 28th November 2025

We are nearly in December. The weeks are flying by and so are the preparations for Christmas. The weather seems to be ever changeable – please do make sure that your child is sent to school dressed for the weather – we seem to be moving from below freezing to warm and rainy at the moment. Thank you as always for your support with this, when children who arrive in school ready for the day, this ensures that the staff can focus on teaching and learning.

ECO - News

Concerns have been raised that some parents are leaving their car engines running while they drop their children off at school. Please think about the environment and make sure that your car is left safely, engine turned off while you drop your children off – thank you for supporting our ethos and the environment.

Bake Sale to raise money for the Convent



We are so proud of the Year 5 boys Arthur, Austin, Callum, Finley, Finn, Jake and James for their hard work and commitment in making the cake sale a success. The boys have been planning this since September. Setting the date, advertising, emailing parents to enlist support. Their enthusiasm and commitment has been really impressive. And, what a great way to end a rainy Friday and to round off Anti-Bullying Week. I would also like to thank the boy's parents for supplying cakes, all of the other parents who also sent in cakes to support this event and the parents who sent their children to school with money to buy a cake. The boys raised an amazing £151.35.

The timing could not be better for the Sisters – In June, their water pump broke down and when the Engineer from Eko Flow came to fix it, he told them that the pump being more than 30 years old has lived out its lifespan and needed to be replaced. They were given a quote for it but didn't have the fund for the replacement, so they pleaded with him to repair it. In September again, the water pump broke down. They called the company again and the engineer was able to fix one of the pumps but one has permanently gone. He told them that if the one he fixed broke down again, they wouldn't be able to fix it, they need to replace it – the quote for replacement is £13,200 – a sum of money that the Convent does not have. So, the boys' money will go to supporting the fundraising that they are doing for this. Thank you.

Families in partnership Newsletter – supporting families with SEND

Please see the link below for the November newsletter.

[Families in Partnership newsletter November 2025 | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

LOOK WHO'S TALKING! 2026

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!

WHAT IS ORACY AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

Oracy is the ability to express ourselves clearly and communicate with others effectively, through spoken language.

By teaching our children to become more effective speakers and listeners, we are all helping to give them the tools they need to better understand themselves, each other and the world around them.

HOW WILL THE COMPETITION WORK?

Your child will get the chance to talk to their class for two minutes, about any subject that they choose and then a 'Star Speaker' will be chosen. Star Speakers from every class will then get to talk in front of the whole school. Those winners will then go on to the next stage and will represent our school in the competition, with lots of other local schools! The grand final will be on 04.04.25, which you can come to, if your child is a representative for our locality.

WHAT CAN YOUR CHILD TALK ABOUT?

Children can talk about absolutely anything that they choose to, for up to two-minutes. They can use any props that they wish to, which will help with their talk, but just cannot use any technology, so no Powerpoint slide shows please.

HOW CAN YOU HELP THEM AT HOME?

- ★ First of all, please help them to think about what they would like to talk about. The more interested they are in the subject, the more passionate their talk will be! What are they interested in? What excites them? It might be a toy, their pet, a book, something they have seen on TV, their favourite sports team, something they have learned about from you at home - or anything else! It really can be anything at all!
- ★ They will need to plan and rehearse their speech, so please listen to them practice and give them lots of encouragement!
- ★ Make sure they are speaking with big voices, nice and clearly, so everyone can hear their talk and learn about their chosen topic.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

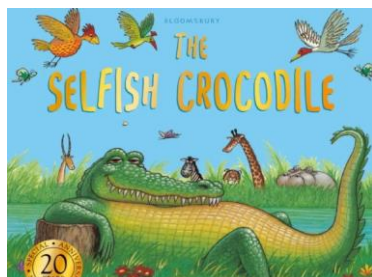


The date this year will be:

- ✓ **Friday 28th November 2025**
English homework is set for all classes
- ✓ **Following two weeks (1st–12th December 2025)**
- ✓ Class teachers hold **class rounds** in their rooms
→ Each class selects **one winner**
- ✓ **Friday 9th January 2026**

The class winners stand up and speak to the school during the celebration assembly

Story Time at the Convent



It was lovely to see so many parents, and a grandparent who were able to make it to the story time last week. The children do love it if you are able to come.

The last one this term will be on Friday 12th December. Please do come along and join us if you are able. Younger siblings are welcome too. For those of you who have not been able to join us yet – tea and coffee are available for parents from school drop off, so please go on down into the warm while you wait for us to join you.

Prospective parents

Thank you to all of you who have recommended us to your friends – we are coming to the end of parents who are looking for school places for September 2026. If there is anyone you know that is still undecided, please do let them know, we will always make time for one more.



Attendance

We have 15 children on the tracker at the moment. Just as a reminder – if your child's attendance drops below 90% they are considered to be persistently absent (PA). When that happens, you will receive a call from the school to let you know. Their attendance is then closely monitored. As their attendance improves, they become green on the tracker - indicating that their attendance is improving – moving them out of the PA category. Any further absence will lead to them being red - they are moving in the wrong direction. This will lead to further communication with parents and potentially an attendance meeting if necessary.

Bridge the Gap – Child Mental Health



A parent has recently found Bridge the Gap supportive and thought it would be good to share with others. There are lots of short clips on a wide variety of themes from: How to support your child through friendships to Why won't my child listen? Definitely worth a look if you are looking for further ways to support your child.

Sporting News



Unfortunately, the second cross country race was cancelled due to the wet weather! Fingers crossed the weather will be on our side for the next planned race on the 6th December.

Eight Year 4 children took part in a football tournament last Wednesday afternoon. The team that were selected were Teddy L, Charlie, Alfred, Ella, Teddy H, Frank, Poppy B and Henry; the team played very well, and their performance led to them being the overall winners! Well done to everyone who took part and to Mrs Daly who organised the team and Miss Gardiner and Mrs Batten who took the children and supported them throughout the afternoon. Thank you to the Shipton family for cheering on the side-lines!

We are very lucky to be in a position to take some of our children to these tournaments. Sadly, we can't take them all. There are always strict rulings about numbers and team make up (boys and girls on the teams) which means that we are unable to take all of the children who would like to go. Whilst we understand that at times this can lead to disappointment that not everyone can play, we do our best to explain this to the children so that they understand and to limit the disappointment that can be caused.

When it comes to cross country – this is fully inclusive, any child that comes to the club is expected to take part in the races. Other school are impressed by the size of our team. Everyone is welcome – the more the merrier.

PTA News



Christmas Craft Market - Saturday 22nd November

Thank you so much to the PTA, for organising this event. What a lot of work and organisation, from the setting up on Friday night to the clearing up on Saturday afternoon. Thank you to all of you who made and donated cakes – the cake stall looked amazing! Thank you also to the Year 6 children: Kian, Emilia and Millie who spent their evening after school on Friday helping to set up the stalls and to Harry, Emilia, Kian, Millie, Charlie and Teddy for helping to run the stall on the day – without their help the activities would not have been able to run! What a great thing for them to do and the life skill they are developing through their involvement. Thank you also to the staff who spent time from their weekend running stall or who came along to support the event. And of course to the parents who brought their children along to enjoy the event. Those who came had a lovely time, there were lots of fun activities for the children to do and Father Christmas was there too. The event raised and £845 which will go towards developing the next phase of the playground zones.

Thank you for your donations to the Christmas hampers – the Christmas Raffle will soon be underway. I am looking forward to seeing how amazing they look when Mrs Wand has added her magic touch to them. Thank you Mrs Wand for always creating such beautiful hampers for the PTA raffles (and for all of your help in clearing the hall on Saturday afternoon!).

I would also like to thank Paul Smee and his company (The Nook Electrical) for their generous donation of our Christmas tree this year. We are looking forward to December when the tree will be delivered and twinkly lights will be added. Thank you so much!



Christmas breakfast

Once again our PTA are organising a Christmas Breakfast for the children on the last day of term. Santa will be coming with new gifts for the children. For your child to take part, you will need to book them in. There will be a strict deadline for signing up in order to give the PTA enough time to buy the correct amount of food. Your child's menu will be selected in their class with the class teacher. A letter with full details will be coming out next week.

Read With Me



- We are so lucky to have Read with Me Volunteers who come into school to support our children to practice their reading. As you know, they are a charity and they are trying to make sure every school in Gloucestershire can benefit from their reading volunteers by the end of 2026. However, achieving this goal comes with significant costs. To help raise vital funds for Read With Me, Linda, one of their founders

and director, will be participating in the Ragusa Half Marathon in January. Every donation counts - just £1 can make a difference and help them to reach their goal. If you are able to spare £1, your support would be greatly appreciated. Please see the link below.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/linda-thomas-5?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=CL

Advent Retreat

It was lovely that so many parents were able to join us for our retreat yesterday. Thank you for joining us and we hope that you enjoyed the afternoon.

I would like to firstly thank Mrs Barron, who despite not being in school that afternoon, planned and prepared the stations for the classes and to the children who, as usual, did a super job. Thank you also to the staff who supported the event enabling the afternoon to run smoothly.

I would also like to thank Mrs Wand, who once again, made us a beautiful advent wreath that is now sitting on our prayer table in the hall and will be used throughout December as we count down to Christmas – the birth of Jesus.



Where do you buy your Christmas tree?

If you are getting a real tree this Christmas, it is definitely worth going to Upthorpe Christmas Trees. Their trees are beautiful and last really well for the Christmas period – that is speaking from experience! Here's more info:

Upthorpe Christmas Trees, located on Upthorpe in Cam, has supported St Joseph's for many years with trees and hay bales for the nativity performance. They sell high quality, non-drop Nordmann firs, some of which are grown on the farm. They are open from Friday 28th November and at weekends they serve free hot chocolate, mulled wine, cookies and mince pies. They also give away a sapling Christmas tree to grow at home with each purchase. Please visit <https://upthorpechristmastrees.co.uk> for more details.



Mass Schedule

Mass begins at 10am

Parents are warmly welcome to join their child's class when it is their turn to go to Mass. Please let the admin team know if you are able to come.

Thursday 4th December – Year 3 Mass
Tuesday 9th December 11am – KS1 Nativity
Wednesday 10th December – 9.30am
Thursday 11th December – 2pm
Thursday 11th December – Year 2 Mass

Tuesday 16th December 6.30pm KS2 Carol Concert
Thursday 18th December – Christingle Service
– all welcome:
9.00 – KS1 10am – KS2



November 2025

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



Generous God, we give thanks for all those people who have visited us, or whom we have visited. Help us always to welcome the people we meet in life, no matter who they are or where they come from. Amen.

Dates for your



Term 2 - December 2025

WB 1st - Last week for teacher led clubs

Tuesday 2nd - Y6 and Reception Heights and Weights

Saturday 6th - Cross country race

Tuesday 9th - KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal

Wednesday 10th - KS1 Nativity 9.30am

Thursday 11th - KS1 Nativity 2.00pm

Friday 12th - Story time EYFS/Y1 at Convent (parents invited too) 9.00am

Tuesday 16th - KS2 Carol Concert 6.30pm

Wednesday 17th - Music concert 9.00am

Wednesday 17th - Choir singing carols at local care homes - 10.30am-11.30am

Wednesday 17th - Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 17th - Pantomime - 2.00pm

Thursday 18th - Christingle KS1 - 9.00am KS2 - 10.00am

Friday 19th - Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children charity

Friday 19th - PTA Christmas and Breakfast with Santa

Friday 19th - Assembly 9.30am with PTA Hamper Raffle draw

Friday 19th - Key Stage parties in the morning

Friday 19th End of term 1.30pm