



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

## Newsletter – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

I can't believe that I have just written the last newsletter of 2024, the autumn term has flown by, the team here have once again done a fantastic job despite the challenging start to the year. I would like to thank every member of the team, from Kerry our Cleaner to Miss Gardiner in the office for always giving everything that they have to make sure that the job they do is the best that it can be. They all make St Joseph's the great school that it is. I hope that they all have a magical Christmas, spending time with their friends and family and get a well-earned break.

I would like to thank our new reception parents for their support – what a great start to their life at school your children have made - and all other parents too. We all know that you are your children's primary educators, we only have them for 6 hours a day. Without your support our children would not benefit from the variety of rich experiences that St Joseph's is able to offer. It is not just about your children's learning but the variety of extra-curricular opportunities, clubs, PTA events, supporting with transport to matches, reading, helping to make things, to name a few – thank you all.

I would also like to thank the PTA – who do an amazing job of organising events, not only to raise money to support the learning of all the children at school but to offer fun and exciting opportunities for our children and their families. We are so grateful to them for supporting the development of the EYFS outside area, what an incredible learning environment for our children to begin their learning journey – without your support this transformation would not have taken place.

With only one week to go there is a lot of things going on please make sure that you know what your children are doing and when and provide them with the things that are necessary to make the planned activities during our final week successful for them – see Christmas count down further on in the newsletter.

### Chaplaincy and School Council News



Exciting news for the Chaplaincy Team and School Council... some of you will be aware that there has been an ongoing project of a school prayer garden that the teams have been working on together. The School Council, over time with a variety of Fundraising ideas have managed to raise just over £700.

### School Council



The Central Team of the MAT recently put in a bid to a charity to get funding for some new resources to support the life and mission of our school. Part of that bid was some money toward the making of our prayer garden. The bid was successful and they have donated an amazing £1450. That along with the money that the School Council have raised makes the idea and planning more of a reality. How exciting for the children involved and thank you so much to Mrs Jenkins and Mrs Barron who run the two teams.



## Clubs for Next Term



The clubs letter went out earlier in the week. If you missed it, please do have a look at what is on offer with your child and see if there is anything that they would like to sign up to.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Y3-Y6 Cross country Children that attend cross country club are expected to race on a Saturday. Race dates are: Saturday 18th January 2025 Saturday 8th February 2025	Y3-Y6 Rugby	Year 6 Invitation only maths club	Y3-Y6 Science Club There will be a charge of £2.00 in cash to the office by Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January please.
Y1-Y2 Cookery Club We are expecting this to be a popular club. The numbers will be capped and will run for 5 weeks. There will be a charge of £5 payable in cash to the office by Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January please.	Y3-Y6 Creative Writing	Nature Club (PAID) Y2-Y6 15.01.25-12.02.25 – 5 weeks at £3.00 per week payable via Parentpay before the first session The club will be focusing on seasoning crafts, games and mindfulness.	Y1-Y2 Digital Art
Drama Club (Y3-Y5) This club is capped at 15 children. It is vital that children attend every session as they will be working towards a performance.		Ritchie Ball – With the Ball Indoor athletics (PAID) (Y1-Y6) 3.20pm-4.20pm 6 sessions starting 08.01.25 Please see the attached letter to book <a href="https://with-the-ball-sports-coaching.classforkids.io/info/174">https://with-the-ball-sports-coaching.classforkids.io/info/174</a>	Dazzle Dance Club (PAID) (Y1-Y6) 15 places available 3.20pm-4.20pm Please see the attached letter to book
Kids with bricks (PAID) (Y1-Y5) <a href="http://www.kidswithbricks.com">www.kidswithbricks.com</a> – see attached letter 13.01.25-10.02.25 – 5 weeks			

## Prickly Hay



We hope that you all enjoyed this year's Nativity - Prickly Hay. We are so proud of the children – and to think that our reception children only started full time 12 weeks ago! Their rate at which independence and confidence are growing is a joy

to watch. I would like to thank our Key Stage 1 team, Mrs Daly, Miss White, Miss Read, Mrs Piper, Mrs Frankcom and Mrs Blick, and all of the other staff who have joined in here and there to have produced such a fantastic performance this year. As I am sure you can

imagine, there is a lot of work that goes into something like this and it has been a real team effort.

I would also like to thank Mr and Mrs Brown once again for providing our Christmas Tree and the bale of hay for the stage once again.

### Look who's Talking Oracy Competition 2025!

In class competition Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
The class competitions have taken place. The children did a fantastic job. Having seen several of them across the school, I am really glad that I did not have to make the decision of the class winners. But, the decisions have been made for KS2. Congratulations to:

Year 3 Cooper  
Year 4 Ginny  
Year 5 Millie  
Year 6 Felix

You have all been put forward for the next round, which will take place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January where you will compete in front of the whole school to see who will be selected for the Stroud area competition. Also a huge well done to all of the children, you showed great confidence and resilience as they performed in their classrooms.

Because we have so many poorly children in KS1 - the children who have prepared for their talk will do them as planned today, the children who are absent will be given the opportunity to do their talk next **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December** at some point.

As I am sure you are all aware, this competition is set by the county who are also setting the deadlines. Because of the term dates, in order to take part in this worthwhile competition the first school rounds need to be completed before Christmas. I understand this has caused much discussion with Key Stage 1 parents around timings so we would like to reiterate that these are not within our control. Thank you for your support and understanding.

### Road safety week

Two local councillors, Anne Robertson and Nicola Crabb came into school on Friday and had the difficult decision of judging the road safety posters that the children have made. Well done to all for their road safety posters - I have seen some brilliant ones – the councillors did not have an easy task. Because they found it so tricky, although there are winners, there are other posters that will be produced and used around the village too.

The winners are:

Years 5&6: Megan (Year 6)  
Years 3&4: Frank (Year 3)  
Years 1&2: Thomas (Year 1)



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



There were lots of excellent posters that were not really suitable as traffic warning signs, so they also picked out a winner for the most informative poster:

Blake - Year 3

The posters that will also be made into posters for the village are:

Year 6: Megan

Year 5: Marianne

Year 4: Ella W and Austin

Year 3: Frank and Poppy B

Year 2: Julian

Year 1: Thomas

### **Families in Partnership Newsletter**

Please see the links below for all sorts of help and advice

[Families in partnership newsletter December 2024 | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

### **Christmas Crafts**

Year 5 and 6 had a great time this morning making Christmas decorations with Mrs Faulkner. What a lovely idea – I would like to thank her so much for this and for the time that was spent preparing for this lovely activity. The children really enjoyed it and what a lovely thing for them to take home. The staff made a reel while the children were working away which will be posted later today.



## **Countdown to Christmas**



There is an awful lot going on over the next few weeks so to help you make sure that you know what is going on and what you child/ren will be doing/need we thought that this might help.

### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

am- Pantomime

Christingles will be made in classes –children need to bring in **an orange** (about the size of a tennisball) – not a satsuma/easy peeler/clementine.

6.30pm – Key Stage 2 Carol Concert in St Joseph's Church

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

9am – piano Christmas concert – Parents of children who will be performing have been invited.

Christmas Lunch – children are welcome to wear a Christmas hat, thank you to the PTA once again for providing crackers for all of the children.

Children making Christingles in classes

Ali Dixon will be in to teach Gym in the afternoon for Year 5 and 6

Community Carols in the convent at 2.30pm – everyone welcome

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December

9am KS1 Christingle 9.45am KS2 Christingle in St Joseph's Church – all parents/grandparents welcome to join us

1.30pm – the choir performing at The Steppes/Moreton Hill care homes

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Jumper day – donations on line to Save the Children

Use this link to make a donation or bring £1.00 in [St Joseph's Catholic Primary School - Christmas Jumper Day is raising money for Save The Children!](#)

Breakfast with Santa in the Hall – 8.15am for children who have signed up

8.40am start for the children who have not

PTA Christmas raffle

Christmas parties in classrooms- children bring a plate of snacks for themselves

## 1.30pm - End of the Autumn Term ☺

Thank you for your support in making sure that your child has what they need in school at the right time for all of these fun activities.

I know that we still have a week to go but as this is our last newsletter of the year I would like to thank you all for your support. I hope that you all have a lovely Christmas and wishing you health and happiness for 2025.



# LET US PRAY



## Mass Schedule

Mass begins at 10am

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm KS2 Carol Concert  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Christingle Services – all welcome  
9.00 – KS1 9.45 – KS2



[December 2024](#)

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;

*Holy Spirit, we want to make our mind like that of Christ Jesus who demonstrated humility throughout his life; from the humble stable to the humility of the cross. Today we come to worship him. Amen.*



# Dates for your



## Spring Term 1

### January 2025

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - INSET day - only staff to attend

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> - INSET day - only staff to attend

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> - Topic letters and Welcome letters to parents

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January - Y4 start swimming PM

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January - 1.00pm-3.00pm  
Year 6 Knex Challenge

### February

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

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> March - Y4 In the Net internet safety event 1.30pm

### March

TBC Scholastic Book Fayre

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