



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

Newsletter – Friday 26th September 2025

We are half way through the term already and the children have settled into their new classes well, their new class teachers are pleased with how well they are getting on. We are especially pleased with our reception children who are rapidly adapting to their new routine at school and are coming in through the main school gates already! The rain seems to be holding off for the moment, but please do make sure that you send your child dressed with a coat ready for our ever changing weather, especially so in Nympsfield.

Pupil Progress Meetings

Following on from some recent communication with parents it became clear to me that some parents hear the words pupil progress meetings and think that it is all about the academic progress of the children. Having just held our first pupil progress meetings this week it has prompted me to share with you what the meetings are about.

The meetings are held 3 times a year with the SLT and class teacher. Every individual pupil is discussed; academically, socially and emotionally, next steps and targets are considered and what support is necessary to help individual children achieve them. Actions are agreed to support your child's progress in whatever areas we feel is the most appropriate at that time. Sometimes this will also result in a conversation with you (parents) and how you can work with us to help support your child.



Reception and Year 1 Parents Phonics Evening



Thank you to all of the Reception and Year 1 parents who joined us on Tuesday for the phonics evenings – reading being the most important skill that together we teach our children. It is a life skill that can impact on their life chances.

Whilst these evenings were for Reception and Year 1 parents, please do continue to listen to your child read - even up to Year 6! You can never overdo it, the more practise your child gets, the more competent a reader they become more doors will open for them.

Why read for 20 minutes a day?

CHILD A	CHILD B	CHILD C
reads 20 minutes per day	reads 5 minutes per day	reads 1 minute per day
hears 1,800,000 words per year	hears 282,000 words per year	hears 8,000 words per year
scores in the 90th percentile on standardized tests	scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests	scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests

We know how busy life can be, if you can make time for anything, please make time to read with your child.

Reading Help!



We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the parents who have volunteered to help with reading at school. Mrs Knight is organising the rota so will be in touch soon if she has not already done so to discuss allocations to classes.

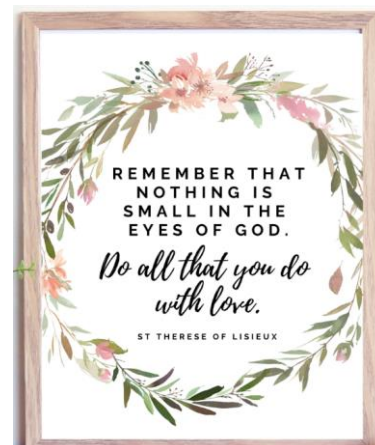
It's not too late, if you would like to sign up and have not done so yet, please let the Admin Team know and you can be added to the list.

Prayer Garden

The prayer garden is nearly there. The planting will take place on Saturday morning from 10am. If you are able to come along and help Mrs Barron, even if it's for half an hour, then please do, you will be most welcome and many hand make light work. If you are able to bring hand tools that would be great too.

Little Way Week

Next week is Little Way Week where we will be celebrating St Therese – the patron Saint of LWCET - along with the other schools in our Trust. The children will be taking part in various activities all along the theme of acts of kindness. I am sure they will share their activities with you and you can always see what they have been up to by looking at their class blog.



The Great Year 3 Macmillan Event

Our Year 3 are very excited. Their REACH Activity this term has been to plan an event and they have chosen the Macmillan Coffee Morning Idea. The event will take place next **Friday 3rd October from 1.30pm**. What can you do to help? Bake –if you are able, please support this worthwhile event by donating cakes that the children can sell and come to the event, bring friends and family – all are welcome! The children will be inviting our neighbours from the village too, the more the merrier. This event runs during the Little Way Week and reminds us all about carrying out little acts of kindness which can make a big difference to people in need.



For Families with SEND

Please follow the link for the recent newsletter from families in partnership:
[Families in Partnership newsletter September 2025 | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

School trips - Pay it Forward

Following on from one of our Parent Forum meetings last year where we discussed the cost of school trips and we agreed to add the option for parents who are able to 'pay it forwards'. Many children in the past have benefitted from kind gestures of some of our parents who are in a position to do so; paying for residential, offering to pay the full cost of a coach, supporting activities when it has looked likely that a trip cannot go ahead...please see below for an explanation....

At St Joseph's we want every child to experience the excitement and learning that comes with school trips. School trips rely on voluntary contributions from families but we have also, in the past, needed to cancel trips because not enough contributions were made to make the trip financially possible without taking too much funding from the core school budget which pays for school staff. Our Catholic schools are known for having Catholic Social Teaching principles at their heart which means we reach out to others and care for the vulnerable. The mark of a self-sustaining community is that we recognise that sometimes individuals can give help to others and sometimes they need to accept help - this is expected and helps families through the rollercoaster of life! If you're able to do so, please consider contributing to our school Pay It Forward scheme so that we can continue to offer school trips and extra-curricular experiences for all children at our school, now and in the future. If you wish to contribute, when you're asked to donate to an extra-curricular activity for your child on ParentPay, you'll also be asked whether you'd like to PAY IT FORWARD. This can be done by adding a little extra when paying for your own child's trip or donating the full cost of another child's place. Every contribution helps the school to be a sustainable community and ensure that extra-curricular activities continue to be on the menu for all children at our school. Thank you for making our school community stronger through kindness and support!

Pay it forward will be added to everyone's ParentPay account so when a trip is taking place, if you are able to contribute a little extra, the option is there for you. Thank you for your ideas and support with this.

I would also like to thank the PTA for agreeing to subsidise one trip a year per child by £5. That will make a big difference to the cost of a class trip when a coach is needed.

Attendance

Our attendance figures are looking good so far this year, thank you all for your support in ensuring that your child/children are in school unless they are ill.



Last year we started looking at punctuality. This year class teachers have already spoken to several parents about the importance of children arriving at school on time and the impact that it is having on their learning when they are late. Not only does it impact on the child that is late but it also impacts on the rest of their class, who are settled into their learning and a late arrival disturbs this.

As a polite reminder:

School gates open at 8.40am

School starts at 8.50am

In order for your child to be in their classroom, ready to learn they need to be **walking through the school gates by 8.45am.**

Thank you for your support in making sure that your child gets the most out of their learning and equally importantly that they are not disturbing their peers learning by arriving at school on time.

Communication and conduct



Over the last few weeks there have been a couple of occasions where members of staff have been made to feel uncomfortable when speaking to a parent at the end of the day. This was because of the way that they were spoken to and the language that was used. Attached with this newsletter is the Parent Code of Conduct as a reminder. When speaking to a member of staff at the end of the day please ensure that you do so without swearing.

Secondary Transitions

I hope that anyone who made it to the LWCET Secondary Transition Meeting found it helpful. Any feedback from those who went would be appreciated. Please do catch me on the playground at the end of the day.

Residential Meeting for Year 6 Parents

Mrs Knight will be holding a residential meeting on Friday 3rd October at 3.30pm to share further information. We look forward to seeing our Year 6 parents then.

We need your help!

We are very excited to be developing a project to improve the provision available for all of our children at break and lunch time. Although this is a long term project that will develop over time, we have made a good start. We made a significant investment in new equipment last term; the reading shed and stage are currently being developed and improved and we

are onto what is next! To get this started as soon as possible we need a few resources. If you have any of the items listed below they would be very greatly received:

- Barbies
- Dolls House
- Car/Tractor Tyres
- Dressing up
- Toy cars
- Clip boards
- Scooters
- Toy animals/ dinosaurs
- Toy prams
- Pots and Pans
- Cooking utensils (wood spoons, whisks etc)
- Musical instruments (recorders, xylophones, keyboards etc)
- Crayons/ pencils
- Pebbles/ bark



Please bring anything you might have on Tuesday 30th September, to the playground where Mrs Ponting will be keenly waiting, at drop off and pick up.

Thank you in advance for your support in developing the outdoor play opportunities for our children!



PTA News

There are still tables available for the quiz at the Fox, Coaley on Monday 20th October. If you can get a team together, do come along and join in the fun. To book a table please either speak to Jo Smee (PTA Chair) or call the Fox, who will be happy to book you in.

New Year's Mass

We celebrated the start of the new school year yesterday with Fr Philp at our New Year's Mass. The children were respectful as always; read and sang beautifully. Our Reception children's were amazing – they have only been in school for a few weeks! What a lovely way to start the year.

LET US PRAY



Mass Schedule

Mass begins at 10am

Thursday 2nd October – Year 4
Thursday 9th October – Year 3
Thursday 16th October - Year 2
Wednesday 22nd October KS1 Harvest
celebration – all welcome
Thursday 23rd October – Year 1
October Half Term
Thursday 6th November – Reception
Tuesday 11th November - Remembrance
Service 10.30am – all welcome
Thursday 13th November – Year 6
Thursday 20th November – Year 5

Thursday 27st November – Year 4
Thursday 27th 1.30pm – Advent Retreat- all
welcome
Thursday 4th December – Year 3
Tuesday 11th December 11am – KS1 Nativity
Wednesday 10th December – 9.30am
Thursday 11th December – 2pm
Thursday 11th December – Year 2
Tuesday 16th December 6.30pm KS2 Carol
Concert
Thursday 18th December – Christingle Service
– all welcome
9.00 – KS1 10am – KS2



[September 2025](#)

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 for love was written
by Natalia in Year 1:

Dear God
Thank you for us and the people we
love. Thank you for our pets and
family. We love God and Jesus, the
bugs and animals and for the plants
and the earth. Thank you God and
Jesus. Amen.



Dates for your



WB 29th Sept - Little Way Week

October 2025 - Month of the Rosary (Month of Mary)

Wednesday 1st - School photos

Friday 3rd - Macmillan coffee morning (PM)

Friday 3rd - Y6 Residential meeting for
parents 3.30pm

Tuesday 14th - Y5 STEM day (more details
to follow)

Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th - Parents
Evening

Thursday 16th - KS2 Soup kitchen 1-2pm
(early lunches)

Friday 17th - Story time EYFS/Y1 at
Convent (parents invited too) 9.00am

Saturday 18th - Cross Country race in
Dursley RFC

WB 20th - Y6 Residential Week

WB 20th - Week of Awe and Wonder

Tuesday 21st - SEND Information Meeting
9am

Wednesday 22nd - KS1 Harvest celebration
am

Friday 24th October - Half Term ☺

Autumn Term 2 - November 2025

Monday 3rd - INSET day

Tuesday 4th - Sian Hughes visiting school
(author)

Tuesday 4th - PTA AGM at 7pm - all
parents/carers welcome

Wednesday 5th - Stroud Literacy Festival

Wednesday 5th - Parent Forum 9am - all
welcome

WB 10th - Anti Bullying week

Tuesday 11th - Remembrance assembly
10.30am

Thursday 13th - whole school flu
immunisation

Saturday 15th - Cross country race (2)

Tuesday 18th - Chaplaincy Retreat

Thursday 20th - Chaplaincy commissioning

Friday 21st - Story time EYFS/Y1 at
Convent (parents invited too) 9.00am

Saturday 22nd - PTA Christmas Craft
Market 12pm-3pm

Monday 24th - Non-Uniform day Christmas
hamper

Thursday 27th - Advent Retreat