



NEWSLETTER

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Holloway Hill, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9BB
admin@st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk Tel: 01666 8223331

Friday 15th December 2023

Intermin Co-Headteachers' message

"I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord."

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT US

John 1: 6-8,19-28

The 3rd Sunday of Advent shares John the Baptist's message again with us. This time John the Baptist helped people recognise Jesus, the light, and believe in him. I set the challenge to the children to be 'lights' to others through their words and actions – they have definitely risen to that challenge!



Our children have shone their light so brightly this week in all that they have done. The choir visited 2 residential homes and sang carols that brought happiness to all who were there. The KS2 carol service in the church was amazing and uplifting. The whole school Christmas dinner enabled us all to share a meal and have fun together and finally St Teresa's nativity filled us all with pride as they shared the story of Jesus' birth with confidence and joy. St. Joseph's truly is a special place with amazing staff and wonderful children.



On Thursday the Golden Ticket Award Winners for this term enjoyed a special Hot Chocolate and Marshmallow meeting with Miss Bathe. Congratulations to all our winners who were rewarded for being super role models during the lunchtime break.



Mr Bacon and Miss Bathe wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year and we cannot wait to see you all in January!

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER

IEB Update

The IEB met again on Wednesday and considered a number of reports ranging from how the money is spent for pupil premium children to a consideration of admissions and school numbers. Policies on behaviour and attendance were approved. The chair has spent a considerable time meeting with people in the town and we're delighted to report we've received a grant from Malmesbury Town Council to help with marketing the school. Minutes of earlier meetings will shortly be posted on the website. In the meantime, our governor monitoring of the school has begun. We'd like to share with you the observations of one IEB member who looked at English:

- The school prioritises reading and pupils begin learning phonics as soon as they start school. This gives children a very strong foundation on which they successfully build as they move through the school;
- Children are proud of the writing they produce and it is valued and celebrated by the school.
- The English Subject Leader is successfully developing links with the local community. For example, the local independent book shop has helped to provide books for the new library and visits from local authors are also planned.

We wish you a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Choir Carol Singing in Malmesbury Care Homes

On Tuesday the school choir visited Townsend Court and Athelstan House to sing Christmas carols. Both the events brought the residents and the children a huge amount of joy. Here's what they had to say:

Angela (receptionist at Athelstan House) –
'Thank you so much for coming, it's meant a lot to the residents. Some of them never come out of their rooms but they all came for this!'

June at Athelstan House said 'It's lovely to see the children and hear them sing. They sing so beautifully. It was lovely to join in with singing with them, especially 'Away in a Manger' and to shake hands and chat with them after.

Townsend Court – one couple were quite emotional to see the children. 'We never see children any more' they told me.

Adeline, Yr6 - "It was really enjoyable going out and representing St Joseph's whilst singing for the old people. It was really fun singing as a group and it was a great

Eva, Yr6 "I enjoyed it because we has lots of fun spreading joy and Christmas spirit. I also enjoyed talking and shaking hands with them and, most of all, seeing them smile.

George, Yr4 - "I enjoyed going out with the choir because we make people happy."



WOW moments across the school!

"Pupils enjoy coming to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. They find lessons interesting. Pupils are eager to talk about their learning. They feel safe to make mistakes and to learn from them" OFSTED March 2023

Here is just a snap shot of the exciting, wonderful work and activities going on across the school this week.

There have been so many amazing whole school events this week that all the children have enjoyed together, so our WOW moments are reflections of the week as a school.

KS1 Nativity Performance

KS1 have been incredible during the nativity! Miss Just was very proud of all the children and loved the performance.

Evie - "I like how the people perform"

Dexter - "I think it was 10/10"

Henry - "I like my costume"



Watching the Nativity was Eva's (Yr6) WOW moment: "They were soooo good!"
Joshua (Yr4) said "My WOW moment was watching the KS1 Nativity because my sister was an amazing superstar camel and I was very proud."

KS2 Carol Concert

The whole school gathered to sing carols in St Aldhelm's Church on Tuesday. Children from St Lawrence Class were characters in the nativity tableau and Mr Wilkinson was really impressed with their performance.

Finn - "I really liked the acting."

Marcos - "I liked singing with the whole school."

Shania - "I enjoyed being in the church for the carol service."

We also heard some confident readings from children in St Francis and St Scholastica.



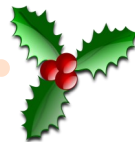
Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

There was such a lovely atmosphere in the school hall for our delicious turkey dinner and everyone looked very festive.

Isabella: "My WOW moment was our school Christmas day because we got to sit next to our friends and pull Christmas crackers together."

Jenson: "Christmas dinner on Wednesday was my WOW moment because of the Christmas music and everyone being in the hall together."

Adeline 'I liked that we were able to wear our Christmas jumpers, everyone looked so colourful.'



Christmas Tree

The beautiful Christmas tree we have in the school hall from Charlton Park will be looking for a new home after the end of term. If anyone would like it and has the means to collect it on Thursday 21st December (it's circa 9-10ft tall) then please contact the school office.



“Dear young people, if we are close to Jesus, we will have joy in our hearts and a smile on our face.” Pope Francis



The Wednesday Word

Christmas holiday special is available on our website.

Follow the link below: <https://www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/>

Weekly Attendance Monday 11th Dec — Friday 15th Dec

St Teresa 95.4%	St Lawrence 95.5%
St Francis 97%	St Scholastica 93.6%

*Help with Anxiety Coffee Morning
Thursday 11th January 8:50 – 9:30am*

Hanna Webb (ELSA) and Terry Jones will be hosting a coffee morning in the library with the focus on anxiety.



Help with Anxiety

Join us at the coffee morning for an introduction to recognising the positive aspects of anxiety, looking at a few techniques to help your child manage challenging situations, and develop a few strategies to help all feel less anxious and frustrated.

There are still places available in our Christmas Holiday Club on Thursday 21st December, 8am until 6pm, and Friday 22nd December, 8am until 4pm. Contact the office if you would like to book. We will be sending January booking forms home to-day with regular users of the Opportunities Club. Please complete and return those to the school office before Christmas.



We need sleep to function but sleeping doesn't come with a manual. It can be confusing finding the right information and advice about sleep that you can trust. The Sleep Charity produces a wide range of evidence-based information on all aspects of sleep from triggers to treatments.

Sleep Tight Workshop

4 weeks, 90 minutes per week

January 12th, 19th, 26th,
February 2nd.

1:15pm – 2:45pm

Malmesbury Primary School Pod

Must be able to attend all sessions.

Places are limited to 10

No children, please.

Free Parking is available off site.

To register please contact

Terry Jones PSA

07876201021

terryjones@malmesbury-pri.wilts.sch.uk

Don't forget your teddy. 🧸

Flu Vaccination

For any child that missed their vaccination in school and would like one, the vaccination can still be accessed in community clinics. Please make an appointments using the choose and book link as soon as possible - <https://schoolimms.hrcaregroup.com/flu/2023/book>