

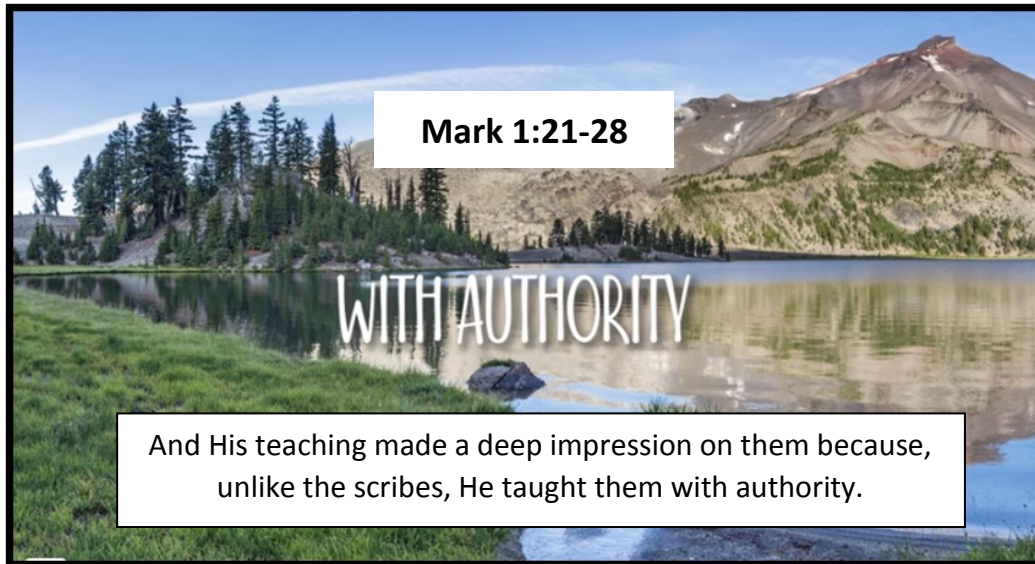


NEWSLETTER

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

Friday 26th January 2024

Intermin Co-Headteachers' message



Mark 1:21-28

WITH AUTHORITY

And His teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, He taught them with authority.

The Gospel this week starts with the image of Jesus teaching in the synagogue where He 'made a deep impression on them' because 'He taught them with authority.' The children have been thinking about what impression they make on others and who makes an impression on them. The challenge this week is to ask ourselves - "How can I make a good impression?"

Parent/School Communication

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the education and wellbeing of your child then there are different ways to communicate with the school depending on the nature of the concern/request. Staff will discuss any concerns with you either directly face to face, via email or a phone call – not through Dojo.

Dojo directly with the class teacher – only to be used for daily organisational information e.g. XXX has forgotten their wellies for forest school because....

Email the office on office@st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk – for any absence updates, medical updates and requesting meetings with class teacher etc.

Email the Co-Headteachers with any concerns that have not been resolved or you feel need our attention.

Monday-Wednesday – pbacon@st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk

Thursday and Friday – kbathe@st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk

Communication through public social media does not enable the school to respond. We can only ensure our school thrives and resolve any problems if we work together and you contact us directly.

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER

NUT FREE SCHOOL

Children are not allowed nuts or food where nuts are a specified ingredient. However, food that has the label, 'may contain traces of nuts' is allowed.



2024-25 School Term and Holiday Calendar

The governors have agreed holidays for 2024-25 which follow the Wiltshire recommended dates. These are available on our website

<https://www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/school-term-holiday-dates/>

Two out of the 5 TD days have been arranged, there are 3 left to be agreed. The outstanding 3 days will not be added to the October half term, this is to fall in line with the other primary and secondary in Malmesbury and to enable quality school improvement time across the year.

End of Term 4

The Governors have agreed that the end of Term 4 will finish on **Thursday 28th March at 1:30pm** for all children and staff. This is because it is Maundy Thursday, a Holy day of obligation and part of Holy Week. After school club will be made available for families to book from 1:30pm – 4pm on that day.

Children's mental health week 5th-11th February

Children's Mental Health week is taking place across the country from Monday 5th February – Sunday 11th February.



This year, the theme is **'My Voice Matters'**

My Voice Matters is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. When we feel empowered, there's a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self-esteem. This year, we want children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to be empowered to work together to create a positive change for their mental health and wellbeing.

What is happening in school?

From the 5th February to the 9th February the children will take part in a range of fun and thought provoking activities will take place across each class to promote positive mental health.

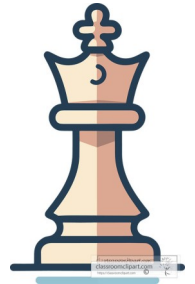
Whole school Assembly on Monday 5th February – launching 'My Voice Matters'

Pyjama day – Friday 9th February - £1

On Friday 9th February, children will be able to come to school in their snuggly warm pyjamas, they will be allowed to bring a teddy and a small pillow and then settle down in the afternoon for a film with all their friends. The PFA will be providing popcorn for the children to have during the film. A small donation of £1 will go towards the PFA fund raising for the school that always helps to provide wider opportunities, play equipment etc. that supports the mental health and wellbeing of our children.

KS2 Chess club opportunity - <https://www.chessinschools.co.uk/>

Would your child like to learn how to play chess with a qualified tutor? Chess In Schools and Communities (CSC) are a non-profit making organisation (Charity status) partnering with Schools.



This is a potential opportunity for an after school club (Tuesday or Wednesday TBC) to start at St Joseph's. The commitment is 19 weeks (maximum) and the cost is £5 a session running from 3:30-4:30pm – the cost of £95 would need to be paid in full at the start. A minimum of 10 children is required to run the club and there will be a maximum of 20 spaces. Please inform the office by Friday 2nd February if your child would like to take part. A decision will be made before half term if the club is viable to run. The aim is to start after half term.

Candlemas Service

We would like to invite you to our new Candlemas service next **Friday 2nd February at 2.30pm**. We see this as a special celebration as it is the day the infant Jesus was first presented in the temple and, equally as important, it is 40 days since Christmas. In many churches, 40 days since Christmas marks the day where "light" returns to the world and, through this, renews hope for the year ahead. We will celebrate our uniqueness and explore how we can be light in the world. **Please can you send in a candle with your child next week ready for the service.**

As with our normal Friday Celebration Worship, all parents are invited and we very much look forward to seeing you. Please bring your own candle to represent your part in our community. The children have been working very hard to learn some new songs which they are looking forward to sharing with you. Thank you for your support.



Art Exhibition

The Turner art exhibition went very well on Friday. It was lovely to see so many people enjoying our school's fabulous art. It was a difficult decision for Janet Casseldon from the Athelstan Museum but we would like to congratulate Nelly, Jack, Zoe and Chloe from St Teresa, Sidney, Wiktoria, Shania and Felicity from St Lawrence, Audrey, Noah, Otilie and James from St Francis, and Poppy S, Agathe, Yikai and Alex from St Scholastica whose paintings were chosen to be exhibited in the Athelstan Museum. We will let you know when the exhibition is available to view. Well done to everybody who painted a picture. They were all so individual and interesting!



"Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love, it is like giving life."
Pope Francis

The Wednesday Word is available on our website. Follow the link below:
<https://www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/>



Weekly Attendance Monday 22nd Jan — Friday 26th Jan	
St Teresa 96.1%	St Lawrence 98.2%
St Francis 99.2%	St Scholastica 100%

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.

St Teresa

Miss Just: At forest school this week we had a very exciting time. We created our own fire of London scene. Using our Tudor houses that we built a few weeks ago we started a small fire in the bakery and watched how quickly the other houses caught fire, until they had all burnt down.



St Lawrence

Mr Wilkinson: This week our WOW moment in St Lawrence has been our cushion making, with Mrs. Cambray-Smith. We have been learning about how to make a cushion which involves stuffing the cushion and sewing on our designs.



Sean - "I really enjoyed using the sewing machine."

Jupiter - "I enjoyed sewing my design on to the cushion."

Thomas - "I liked learning about how to cross-stitch."

St Francis

Miss Thomson:

Rory - "I liked swimming because we got to swim lengths and practice breast stroke."

Leighton - "My wow moment was when we were able to use our creativity in English Writing - I really enjoyed describing the Antarctic weather because it really excited me and filled me with action."

Ellie - "I enjoyed the gymnastic competition because I had never done one before and it was really exciting to have a go!"



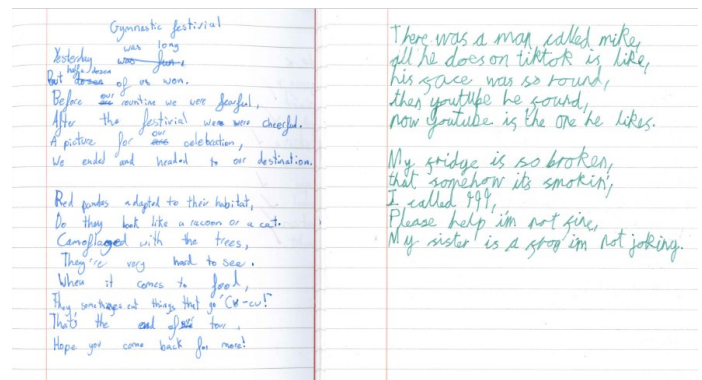
St Scholastica

Mr Heavey: In recognition of Burns Night we wrote some short poems to celebrate Scotland's most famous poet Robert Burns.

Benjy: "I like the freedom to rhyme whatever I wanted. It sounded quite cool in the end."

Jack: "It was fun thinking of rhyming words."

Christina: "Rhyming challenges your brain because some words are really difficult to rhyme."



KS2 PRIMARY SCHOOL GYMNASTICS COMPETITION



Wow! What a fantastic afternoon! Our gymnasts have been working really hard over the last few weeks learning and practicing a vault and a floor routine. A choice of intermediate or advanced level allowed all abilities to participate. Our team did brilliantly, obtaining podium places in all individual competitions and both overall competitions. They also got to try out some gym equipment at the Secondary School; including ropes, beam, balances and climbing bars.



It was a pleasure to accompany the children to this event, all of whom behaved impeccably and supported each other throughout. They were a credit to themselves, our school and their families. A huge well done to all involved! A big thank you to Mrs Cockram and Mrs Beswick for all their help, escorting to / from TAZ and assisting in the supervision of our students.



We strive to continue inspiring children to be active and have a positive attitude towards physical activity. Congratulations again to all our amazing gymnasts! Mrs Bennett



Key messages on MMR vaccine

Nationally there is an increase in [measles](#) cases. To help reduce the risk of further measles cases UKHSA is advising everyone to be alert to signs and symptoms and urge people to check their families are fully vaccinated against measles. Vaccines are our best line of defence against diseases like measles and help stop outbreaks occurring in the community.

We are encouraging people to check that they and their children have had two doses of the [MMR vaccine](#). You can check your child's personal child health record (PCHR), known as the red book, or contact your GP practice. It is never too late to catch up, it is better to have vaccines on time, but you can still catch up on most vaccines if you miss them. The [MMR vaccine](#) is free on the NHS, whatever your age. If anyone has missed one or both doses of the MMR vaccine, contact your GP practice to book an appointment.

Measles spreads very easily among those who are unvaccinated, especially in nurseries and schools. It can be a very unpleasant illness and in some children can be very serious and lead to hospitalisation – and in rare cases tragically can cause death. Measles symptoms to be aware of include high fever, sore, red, watery eyes, coughing, aching and feeling generally unwell, a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms.

St Aldhelm's RC Parish, First Holy Communion preparation, final call for 2024 with amended dates!

We now warmly welcome enquiries from Catholic parents of baptised children in **Year 3 or beyond**, who would like to commence sacramental preparation, for their child to receive **First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion** by June 2024, or June 2025.

Please email the parish malmesbury.staldhelm@cliftondiocese.com stating your child's name, age and year group, school, and preferred year for FHC; **by 16th February 2024**, further information will follow.

A **parents' only meeting** will be held **Thursday 22nd February 2024, 7.30 – 8.30pm** at St Aldhelm's church.

Please also **save the date Sat 24th February, afternoon** for initial children's session.

For any relevant enquiries, email catechist Mary Lillis

mary.lillis@outlook.com, before 16th February 2024. Thank you.



February Half Term Holiday Club

Places are filling up for our February half term holiday club. We will be open from 8am through to 6pm on Monday to Thursday (12th - 15th) and 8am to 4pm on Friday (16th). Breakfast, lunch and tea can be provided depending on your requirements.

If you would like to book a place please return your forms to the school office next week. A paper copy was sent home this week with all children who regularly attend Opportunities Club. An electronic copy is available on the school website:

<https://www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/breakfast-after-school-holiday-clubs/>

