



# NEWSLETTER

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Holloway Hill, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9BB  
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**Friday 3rd May 2024**

## Interim Co-Headteachers' message

For in one spirit we  
were all baptized into  
one body .....  
The body does not  
consist of one part but  
of many.

*1 Corinthians 12:12-30*



### **Thank you:**

Now that the IEB have been able to announce their plans for school leadership next year, I would like to thank the school community for their positivity with respect to my appointment as the substantive headteacher of St Joseph's from September.

I feel very privileged to have been given this opportunity and very much look forward to working with staff, children and our families in the next chapter of the school's history. I feel particularly fortunate to be working alongside a strong, caring and dedicated staff and in a school that has so much to give.

Over the next few weeks, Miss Bathe and I will be working with staff to establish the next steps in the school's improvement journey and once these are drafted, we will be sharing and including you in this vision.

### **Whole school worship:**

As a school we are still celebrating Easter and have a values focus of respect. This week we have been reflecting on what it means to respect oneself and to recognise that, although we are all different, we all have a part to play, strengths to share and contributions to make to our classes, school, and families at home.

The story used to support this was by Arree Chung called Mixed (see link).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hi2aQmMxrUE>

In Gospel Worship this thought was explored further through a Gospel reading from Mark 15:1-5 where the children heard how, through our kindness and care for others, we are fruits of the vine.

### **PTFA:**

Tickets are on sale via Parentpay for the PFA **Quiz night on 17th May 2024 at 7pm**. A Sri Lankan curry supper is on offer provided by Roost restaurant—tickets are £12 each to include the curry or £5 without. We are looking forward to a fun evening.

**WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER**

## Children helping children – Little Red Box Scheme

We are keeping our collection open for the Mission Together charity for another week. If your child would still like to bring in the little red box that was sent home to enable them to take part in collecting contributions, then these can still be handed into the office until the end of next week. Whatever you are able to collect will be greatly appreciated! Thank you in advance for your generosity. So far we have raised £42.65 through these collection boxes.



Mission Together is the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. For almost 200 years, [Missio](#) has been providing overseas missionaries with the support they need to build and sustain faith communities in areas of poverty and conflict. Our famous Red Box encourages Catholic families in England and Wales to give what they can to help these communities materially and spiritually.

## On-line Safety

At the start of last term we had a focus on Safer Internet Day and continue to have ongoing lessons to help children understand their choices when using the internet for entertainment, learning and communication. As a school we are also aware of the Children's Commissioner's recent report on Digital Childhoods which recognised the advantages of digital technology at the same time as highlighting issues for children's mental health and safety in a digital world. Her views around risks are certainly things we share and consequently we do all we can to inform children of risks, in an age appropriate way, along with having our own safeguarding measures. These measures include, filtering through the South West Grid for learning, monitoring of all users through our IT provider and through school policy (Online safety, Acceptable Use, Use of Mobile technology).

We also recognise that children's access and use of technology can present parents with dilemmas along with recognising that keeping up with technological advances can be both confusing and challenging. For this reason, we were very interested to hear about the group that Mrs Winram-Crump is trying to establish within and across our community (see below). This specifically focuses on children's access to technology through mobile devices and aims to help parents have sensible alternatives to Smart Phones. As children's use of mobile technology was a particular issue raised by the Children's Commissioner, and is also something we experience as impacting on children's relationships, we feel her initiative is certainly something that we can signpost to all parents. We hope that this group is something other parents might find useful as they navigate children's growing maturity and the pressures and dilemmas this can pose.

## Malmesbury Smartphone-Free-Childhood

Would you like to join a what's app group with other carers who want to create a realistic choice for NOT giving their child a smartphone? If so please text 07786 961249 to be added to the group!

This newly formed group will do this by:

1. Allowing carers to see that other families may share concerns or worries about mobile technology;
2. Reassuring carers their child won't be the 'odd one out' at secondary school and reduce peer pressure;
3. Share useful info e.g. alternative phones and communication technology, e.g. new studies /info re impact of smartphones on kids' mental health.

There might also be discussions about other initiatives people want to take to share the message. e.g. school or community group based initiatives.

Please note: This is NOT a "no-phones /no-screens thing" - it's about sensible approaches to Smart phones and other technologies to safeguard children's health and wellbeing in the digital world (web access, social media and online forums/communications).

## 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:

This week we have had a debate in class. The children have been having kind arguments with each other about whether or not animals are happy to live in zoos. The children have had fantastic ideas and both sides have valid reasons.



### St Lawrence - Mr Wilkinson:

This week our WOW moment has been watching how our plant experiment has been progressing. The children really enjoyed coming in every day and noticing the differences between all of the plants.

Florence - "I have really enjoyed watering the plants that need to be watered."

Harriet - "I have really liked watching the plants grow."

Thomas - "I like seeing how long one of the plants have grown."



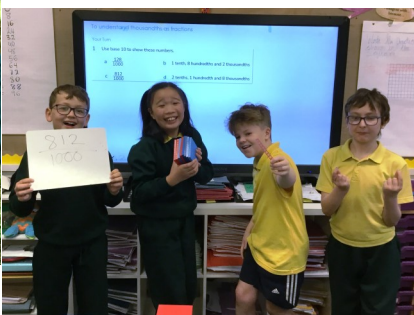
### St Francis - Miss Thomson:

Connor - "I enjoyed when everyone used the number dienes to answer questions, but my favourite part was completing the challenge questions."

Aleki - "I liked picking the flowers to make a nice bouquet."

Leandra - "It was fun building the den, me and my friends decorated the inside."

Rory - "I liked lifting and dragging all the logs - and using the loppers!!"



### St Scholastica - Mr Heavey:

Our wow moments in St. Scholastica this week are:

Eva - "My wow moment this week was when everyone sang happy birthday to Poppy in the dining hall."

Cameron - "Doing really well in my maths test."

Poppy - "Starting our art project of still life."

**"The family's strength lies in its capacity to love and to teach how to love. Let us ask the Lord for the grace to love everyone." Pope Francis**



[www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/](http://www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/)



We are now taking bookings for May Breakfast, After School and Half Term Holiday Clubs. **We have sent May booking forms home with all regular users of the club — please complete and return these urgently as May has now begun!** Also, our Easter holiday club was extremely popular and we expect May Half Term to be equally as busy so please book early to avoid disappointment.

**We accept Government tax-free childcare voucher to pay for childcare in our breakfast and afterschool Opportunities club.**

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

**It is super easy to apply for and significantly reduces the cost of wrap around childcare fees.**



## Congratulations to the April PFA 100 Club Winners:



- 1<sup>st</sup> – Claire Hickman (£11)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Hanna Webb (£6.60)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Anita Druce (£4.40)

It's not too late to join and the more members we have, the greater the winnings every month. A paper copy of the membership form has now been sent home with every child and can also be found on our website <https://www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/pfa/>

### Weekly Attendance Monday 29th April – Friday 3rd May

<b>St Teresa 95.7%</b>	<b>St Lawrence 90.9%</b>
<b>St Francis 98.9%</b>	<b>St Scholastica 98.2%</b>

### On-street parking at drop-off and pick-up

As a school we have no jurisdiction with respect to enforcing parking regulations and recognise that where parents choose to park is their own choice and responsibility. We have, however, had several complaints from other road users and those in the locality about unsafe and inconvenient parking. This is particularly on double yellow lines on and around the bend at the top of The Holloway.



We are therefore requesting that, unless there is a very specific reason that would be supported by the Highway Code, parents always use the Cross Hayes carpark or park a distance from the school and "Park and Stride" to drop-off and pick-up.

We work hard to keep positive relationship with all our neighbours, who naturally blame us for parking that is inconsiderate or dangerous. We thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

## School Uniform Order

As you are aware, we only keep a limited amount of new uniform stock in the office now and do three bulk orders each year for delivery to school. We will be organising our final bulk order of this academic year shortly, in preparation for Sept. If there are any items that you need please complete the order form on the school website and return it to the office **by Friday 10th May**. We hope that the items will then arrive just before half term.



<https://www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/school-uniform/>

## What is Lyme disease and why do we need to be tick-aware?

To help you stay safe, UK Health have compiled a guide to protecting yourself from tick-borne infections. In this blog post, you'll learn how to avoid tick bites, how to recognise the signs and symptoms of Lyme disease and TBE, and when to seek medical assistance.

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2024/03/21/what-is-lyme-disease-and-why-do-we-need-to-be-tick-aware/>

UK Health Security Agency

Tick Awareness

**Be tick aware**

- Use an insect repellent that prevents ticks
- Wear long sleeves and long trousers to prevent direct skin exposure
- Keep to clearly defined paths and avoid brushing against vegetation
- Check for ticks on young children, around their heads and necks
- When you're back indoors, check for any ticks on you, your children and pets
- If you find a tick, remove it as soon as possible with a removal device



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
 Parents and Friends Association  
 Registered Charity No: 1145152

# QUIZ NIGHT

+ Sri Lankan dinner!

Friday 17 May 2024

7pm for 7:30pm start

School Hall

Sri Lankan Curry from Roost  
 @quiz only ticket available for £5 each

Chicken or vegetarian  
 curry available

**£12**

Please book through  
 parent pay  
 Tables of up to 6 Max

Registered charity No. 1145152

**DUCKS AWAY AT 11:30 FROM BOWIS CLUB BRIDGE**  
**- MONDAY 6TH MAY -**

**2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL**

# MALMESBURY DUCK RACE 2024

Join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Duck Race, followed by our 1<sup>st</sup> May Fair in Cuckingstool Mead, an afternoon of action packed fun for all of the family.  
 £5 per Duck, take yours away to personalise.  
 Proceeds to 'Mind' + community chosen local charities.

**MALMESBURY DUCK RACE** **Jam PRINT** Printed and Designed by Jamprint