



NEWSLETTER

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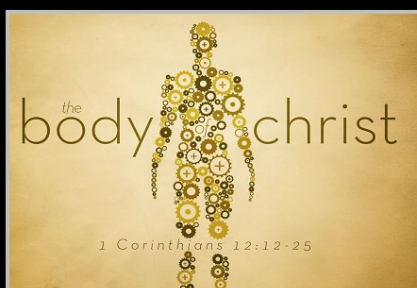
Friday 13th September 2024

Headteachers' message

Dear parents, children and families,

School is now back in full swing and most start of year assessments are now complete so teachers will now be focused on routine teaching activities. Upcoming events in the next two weeks are Year 5 and 6 residential to Kilvrough Manor, Year 3 and 4 trip to Avebury, full time table starts for the children in EYFS and our first parent forum meeting.

Worship this week:



so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.
If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.
Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

The focus of our worship this week continued the theme of "Believe" but tweaked this to look at the importance of community in supporting belief to become a reality. Our scripture came from 1 Corinthians 12: 12-25 which focussed on recognising all within a community. This theme was then used to invite children to put themselves forward to be in our School Council (Stewards of the school) or become prayer leaders (Chaplains).



WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER

Masses for the year

Masses for the current academic year have been agreed with Father Thomas. Some of these will be held in the school and some in St Aldhelms Church. Parents and families are warmly welcome to join these. It is most likely that masses held in school will be shared between our classes and those in the church will be coordinated between Father Thomas and our Prayer Leaders. Our first of the year will be Harvest Festival Mass in school on the morning of Friday 4th October - time TBC.

School Council and Year 6 responsibilities

To support the children's understanding of British Values, Class Council members are being voted in by each class. There will be two representatives from each class selected by their peers and not school adults. We have not stipulated that there needs to be a boy and a girl from each class, only that the representatives be willing to be active voices for their class in either supporting prayer life or community giving and leadership.

In addition to representatives, we also have a number of pupil leadership positions filled by Year 6. These are:

- School Ambassadors: Audrey and Donal who both impressed Mr Wilkinson and me with their articulate applications
- House Captains: St Andrew - Audrey, St David - Connor, St George - Charlie H, St Patrick - Donal
- Sports Leaders: Noah, Léandra, Daisy and Aleki
- Stewards: Wynand, Poppy, Charlie P, Leighton, Jayda

Stone Age, Bone Age – Year 3/4 trip to Avebury

I'm really excited to see the growing learning and enthusiasm that is happening in St Lawrence and St Francis class as they deepen their understanding of the huge ark of history known as the Stone and Iron Age. As part of this learning the children will be visiting the West Kennet Long Barrow and Avebury stone circle on the 26th September. I hope this visit will provide them with a deeper understanding of this amazing period in world and British history.

Promotional film

On Monday 16th September we will be making the first part of a new promotional film to give new parents an insight into how wonderful St Joseph's is. Monday's filming will focus on our outdoor learning environment and the opportunities it enables. In particular we will focus on Forest School, the land, our active and creative playtimes, outdoor PE, our outdoor reflection area and the EYFS and Key Stage 1 outdoor classroom. A second filming day is planned for a couple of weeks time when we will focus on all the opportunities our indoor environment enables.

New families

Linked to school promotion, we would welcome any positive words of affirmation you are able to give new and prospective parents. We have a strong desire to grow our school and write the next chapter in the school's history. As a staff we are working hard to do this. We thank you for your supportive comments, and welcome and encourage your continued support.

Your opinion counts

Whilst attending the Year 5 and 6 teacher briefing I intimated that in the coming week I will be putting a survey out to all parents about elements of school organisation. One element I am particularly interested in understanding your views on is home learning / home work. As a staff we are currently reviewing our policy on this and we would also welcome your thoughts on this. Once this survey has been drafted we will send you a link to this and would welcome a speedy response so this can be reflected in our policy.

Parent forum – school vision and virtues

During our recent school closure day we revisited the school values. I would like to use our first Parent Forum of the year on **Tuesday 1st October at 2.50pm** to share these with you and talk about how we hope to develop this over the coming year. In addition to this I also want to share a recent contact I have made with the St Joseph's of Annecy order in France who were the nuns who started our school in the late 1800's. In my meeting with them it was interesting to hear how closely what we agreed should be our school virtues mirrored theirs.

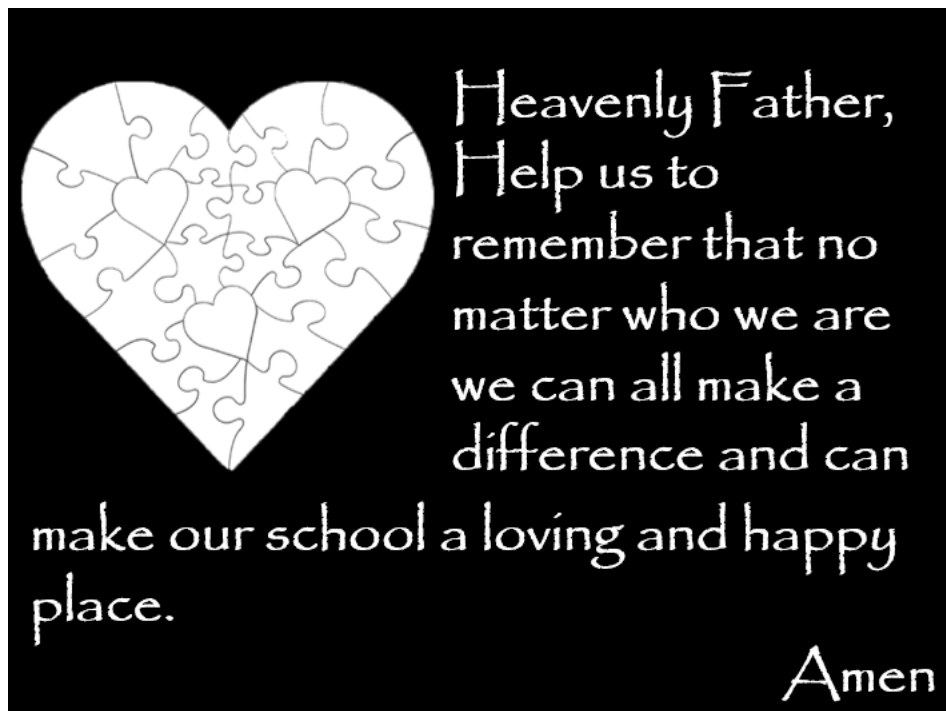
Organisation for St Lawrence

Last week I shared an unexpected staffing situation for the children in St Lawrence class. I am now in a better position to update you with respect to this. From the onset, the school's priority was to secure continuity, not only for the children but also for the staff in the school. This is why I was pleased Mrs Cambray-Smith was willing to give additional time and extend her working week to include Thursday. Unfortunately she was unable to also do Friday. I am however very pleased to announce that we have been able to secure long term supply (Mr Parish) for the remainder of this term should this be needed.

We hope this, along with a robust handover from Mrs Cambray-Smith, will mitigate potential issues around consistency, pupil relationships and ongoing provision, particularly for SEND pupils. Mrs Raines is also a consistent TA support so class teachers, regardless of who they are, only have to liaise with one person. Mrs Raines also knows the children well, and again, this provides security for SEND pupils with respect to longer term plans and potential continuity issues.

What happens in St Lawrence remains a priority for me and I will be keeping this under ongoing review.

Prayer for this week



Playground Fun

This week the children have enjoyed getting creative with the building bricks and participated in some energetic sporting activities with the sports coach including football and tag rugby.



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:

Our new reception children have had a fantastic start to school, they have all settled in so well and are great members of our class. Today we have our Teddy Bear picnic and we are all very excited.



St Scholastica - Mr Wilkinson:

This week in St Scholastica our WOW moment has taken place during our art lesson, where we were looking at creating a landscape painting of Mount Everest which ties in with our Topic this term. The children really enjoyed developing their brush strokes in order to create a really detailed painting. Austin - "I enjoyed painting because it was fun" Jayda - "I enjoyed blending the paint and painting the mountains."



St Lawrence - Mrs Cambray-Smith

St Lawrence have been exploring life in the Stone Age. We have looked at cave paintings and had a go ourselves.

Oléssia - "I enjoyed using chalk to make Stone Age drawings."

Marcos - "I enjoyed decorating my puzzle piece."

Harriet - "I liked painting pictures of animals using the outline."

Gino - "I liked practising passing the ball in football."

Victoria- "I liked learning about the cave paintings and finding out which animals were around in the Stone Age."



St Francis - Miss Thomson:

This week the children got to experience the magic of discovering Cave Paintings at St Joseph's Primary School! Following our 'Stone Age' topic, the children had to produce a creative piece of writing about finding Cave Paintings, and what better way to spur their imagination than experiencing it for themselves! Following the discovery, the children in St Francis were able to create brilliant, descriptive pieces of writing, which were a pleasure to read!



Free school meals—apply today for all the extra's you and your child could receive.

Who is entitled to free school meals?

All infant school children, those in reception, year 1 and year 2 have been entitled to free school meals since September 2014. Just tell your school that you want your child or children to have free school meals. If your infant child would have been entitled to free school meals under the old system, because you are receiving qualifying benefits (listed below) the government will give your school a Pupil Premium of £1,480 for primary-aged pupils (2024-2025).

For the school and your child to benefit from this money we need to know that you are receiving a qualifying benefit. Please complete the claim form which is available from your school or you can download it from our downloads section.

For children in years 3 and above, free school meals are not provided automatically. They can be awarded only if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Job Seeker's Allowance (income-based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (income-related)
- support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Apply online through Wiltshire Council. It is a simple process by following this link

<https://parentportal.wiltshire.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/parents/free-school-meals>

If you do apply online, please can you also let the school office know, so we can assist with the application process.

This week's Wednesday Word is JESUS.

"Jesus loves us without limits. Each encounter with Jesus fills us with joy, with that deep joy that only God can give." Pope Francis.

The Wednesday Word is available on our website: www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/



Weekly Attendance Monday 9th — Friday 13th Sept

St Teresa 98.5%

St Lawrence 99.4%

St Francis 97.9%

St Scholastica 97.7%



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Are you looking for a nursery place for your 2, 3 or 4 year old?

We are exploring the possibility of opening a nursery
for

2 - 4 year old in January 2025

Interested?

Please complete our feasibility questionnaire.

<https://forms.office.com/e/XVt53wfrMd?origin=lpLink>

Questionnaire
link

Provisional times are:

Breakfast club – 7:30am - 9am

Session 1: 9am – 12pm

Lunch session: 12 – 12:30pm

Session 2: 12:30pm – 3:30pm

After school club – 3:30pm – 6pm

This provision will be :

- For children between the ages of two and four.
- Facilitated and overseen by experienced early years practitioners and teachers.
- Within a secure school building and site.
- Cater for a hot lunch at a small additional cost.

In addition, your child will access:

- Separate toilet and intimate care facilities.
- An existing, excellent, early years (EYFS) outdoor environment.
- St Joseph's extensive land and outdoor facilities.
- St Joseph's wrap-around care before and after school (3 and 4year olds and for an additional cost).



WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER

For the attention of all parents

Will your child be four years old before September 2025?

You must apply for a primary school place

Apply online at **wiltshire.gov.uk** or complete an application form, available at all Wiltshire Council offices.

The deadline for applications is

12 midnight, 15 January 2025

All forms must be returned to the school admissions team at County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Contact customer services on **01225 713010**

For the attention of all parents

Will your child be transferring to a secondary school in September 2025?

You must apply for a secondary school place

Apply online at **wiltshire.gov.uk** or complete an application form, available at all Wiltshire Council offices.

The deadline for applications is

12 midnight, 31 October 2024

All forms must be returned to the school admissions team at County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Contact customer services on **01225 713010**

For more information or to request our guide to finding a secondary school place in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council