



NEWSLETTER

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Holloway Hill, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9BB
admin@st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk Tel: 01666 822331

Friday 25th April 2025

Head Teacher's message

Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Staff,

Welcome back after the Easter holiday. It has been so good to see everyone return looking smart and rested. Our return to school was, however, dampened by the news of the passing of his holiness Pope Francis and we, along with others in the world, have had him in our thoughts and prayers this week. Please be minded that because of his passing, and the requiem Mass being held in St Aldhelm's Church on Friday night, the PFA have postponed their quiz night. Details of the new date will be shared shortly.

Worship this week:

This week we celebrated the life and message of Pope Francis. The story I used to reflect on his contribution to the church and our world was called Badger's Parting Gifts by Susan Varley. From this story we explored some of the gifts Pope Francis had given the world. In developing this, as a school we also focussed on his challenge to humanity to look after our precious planet and home. This also coincided with World Earth Day which was a "Back to School" theme on Monday.

Requiem Mass for Pope Francis:

In response to the sad news of the passing of Pope Francis, St Aldhelm's Church will celebrate a Requiem Mass for Pope Francis this Friday, 25th April at 7pm. **There will be no morning Mass.** This will be on the eve of his funeral which is scheduled for 26th April Sat 10am (Rome time), and a moment for us to gather in prayer as a parish community, giving thanks for his life, faith, and leadership. All of the school community are invited to join the parish if they are able to. If you are planning to come, it would be helpful if you could sign up using the link below, just so we have a rough idea of numbers.

<https://staldhelmsromancatholicc.flocknote.com/signup/208764?noteID=31352522>



St Aldhelm's Spring Raffle

Thank you everyone who have supported the parish Spring Raffle. Tickets were sent home to every family last term and the final date for return of stubs and money to the school is Friday 9th May. The draw will take place on Sunday 18th May after 10am Mass. Please find attached to this email more information about the raffle and prizes on offer.

Forest School and Outdoor Learning:

Over Term 5 and 6 all classes will have an opportunity to learn and reflect on the land through Forest School sessions run by Mr Owen. These sessions will, wherever possible, be linked to the children's classroom learning and aim to bring the curriculum to life in practical and meaningful ways.

The order of these session will be as follows:

St Lawrence - Thursday 24th April, Thursday 1st May and Thursday 8th May

St Francis - Thursday 15th May, Thursday 22nd May, Thursday 5th June

St Scholastica - Thursday 12th June, Thursday 19th June, Thursday 26th June

St Teresa - Thursday 3rd July, Thursday 10th July, Thursday 17th July

When children have Forest School parents are responsible for being aware of what the weather might be across the day. If it is likely to be sunny children should have a daily protection sun cream applied before school and wear a hat. If it is likely to rain they should always have a rain coat as sessions will continue regardless of weather.

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER

As a rule children should always wear sturdy outdoor shoes or wellingtons and as a minimum long trousers or joggers. Our land is frequented by muntjac deer and as such there is always a small but possible risk of ticks. I would recommend checks after any forest school session once the children get home.

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/injuries/skin-injuries/tick-bites/#:~:text=Preventing%20tick%20bites-,Do,areas%20where%20there%20are%20ticks>.

Newsletter changes:

Following a recent evaluation of our communication principles we have decided to reduce our newsletter from once a week to once a month. The reason for this is that we feel parents do not have the time to read such regular, weekly updates and that a monthly newsletter may be easier to engage with. Updates with respect to the school diary can always be accessed from the newsletter page of the website and when specific events happen these will be highlighted through posts on Class Dojo and/or emails from the office.


Early Bird Learning Clubs:

Following the success of our pre-registration learning clubs last term, we will be restarting these over the coming week. The focus of these is to provide additional pre and catch up learning opportunities. Sessions run from 08:20 until 09:00 and are by invitation only. The activities we focus on are developing phonic skills, early number and number fluency, comprehension and specific writing challenges. If your child is invited to attend these we would value your support in ensuring that they arrive on time so they can benefit from the time the teachers and our skilled HLTAs are giving up to enable these to happen. Children who consistently arrive late will have their place given to another child who would benefit from these opportunities.

School Attendance:

This week we carried out our termly review of attendance as required by the Local Authority and in conjunction with the Education Welfare Officer. If we have any concerns about your child's attendance, either because it is below 95% (90% or below is classed as persistent absence), because there is a pattern of absence or because your child regularly arrives late then we will contact you in writing early next week. At St Joseph's we are committed to promoting and modelling good attendance and behaviour which is essential for pupils to achieve their potential. Lack of attendance is directly correlated to a pupil's deteriorating success and development in their education. Every lesson is important, and maximum attendance and punctuality are valuable life skills.

Good attendance 2 - Everyone's business



Think:

- ✓ Every minute counts.
- ✓ Every year - 175 (48%) non-school days for holidays, appointments and treats.
- ✗ Lateness and absence = lost learning time

Shared responsibilities:

- ✓ Parents: Ensure your child attendance.
- ✓ School: Register twice / day, inform the local authority of problems.

Absence adds up:

95% = 180 days in school = 10 days of lost learning

Attendance close to 90% - We contact you.

Quick link: [Attendance Policy](#)

How you can help improve attendance:

- ✓ Arrive on time.
- ✓ Be firm. Only allow absence when ill.
- ✓ Establish sleep and morning routines.
- ✓ Make appointments after school.
- ✓ No term time holidays or long weekends.
- ✓ Talk to us. Phone in absence every day.

What we do to improve attendance

- ✓ Check registers every day. Follow up if we don't hear from you.
- ✓ Identify punctuality and attendance problems.
- ✓ Talk to you and work with the local authority and children's services.

Authorised absence?

Yes to:

- ✓ Death or terminal illness of a close relative.
- ✓ A significant religious event.
- ✓ Forces personnel or employer restricted time off.

When attendance is a problem

- ✗ Late after register closes = 1 unauthorised absence.
- ✗ 1 day unauthorised = 2 unauthorised absences
- ✗ 8 unauthorised = Warn and inform letter.
- ✗ 10 unauthorised = Attendance meeting / Possible penalty notice (fine).

Sex and Relationships Education:

As part of our PSHE programme this term the children will be learning about relationships, sex and health education at an appropriate level for their age and stage. To support you in understanding what your child will be covering, the following link will take you to the school's [Life to the Full scheme Parent Page](#).

https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/unauthorised-access/?mepr-unauth-page=38090&redirect_to=%2Fparent-portal%2F

Your child's class teacher will be sending you the login details for this portal and you will be able to navigate to, and preview an overview of the content your child will be covering. In upper Key Stage 2 in particular, some aspects of this programme will be covered separately in gender groupings so that children are able to ask questions and explore themes in a more sensitive environment. The details of the school's policy with respect to Sex and Relationships Education are detailed in our RSHE Policy. As detailed in this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their child from any elements of sex and relationships education not included in the KS2 Science Curriculum. If you require further clarity, please talk to your child's class teacher.

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 begun our new topic all about the UK and how it has changed. We are starting off by looking at the Monarchy and the class have had a



fabulous time dressing up as kings and queens. They have also created rules and laws that they would put in place if they were in charge - some of these are not too kind,

so we had better watch out if one of the children in this class were ever in line for the throne!



St Lawrence - Mrs Cambray-Smith & Miss Weatherall and St Francis - Miss Thomson

Year 3 and 4 enjoyed World Earth Day and were engaged thoughtfully in making pledges of small things they can do to make a difference.

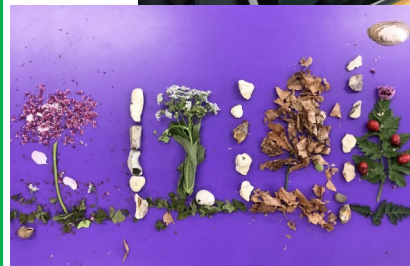
Marcos - "I'm going to try and eat everything on my plate to reduce waste."

Harriet - "I'm going to have a shorter shower."

Oléssia - "I'm going to have the shower at a cooler temperature."

In the afternoon we created collages from natural materials to highlight the need to protect our planet. We were very impressed with the imaginative uses of the materials!

Sanugi - "I liked when we made colleges with natural materials on Earth Day. I really loved making a picture of the seasons with my friend."



Flick - "I enjoyed singing assembly this week - we were learning new Joseph and his Technicoloured Dream Coat songs!

Aryan - My wow moment this week was in computing, we had to correct and edit a news paper article about a meteor.

St Scholastica - Mr Wilkinson

This week our WOW moment in St Scholastica has been our trip to go and view a cemetery. As part of our new writing unit based on the novel The Graveyard Book, we visited a cemetery to help give the children an experience of being in a cemetery. During our visit, we noted down lots of information from the gravestones, including names, dates and epitaphs. The children found this trip really insightful and feel as this will help inspire their writing.

Josh - "I liked visiting the graveyard and investigating what information was on the gravestones."

Beau - "I liked finding some hidden gravestones where plants and grass had overgrown."

Ottillie - "I liked being respectful and paying respect to those who have passed."

Divine - "I liked reading the gravestones."



TCS Mini London Marathon – Fundraising for CAFOD



A reminder that all children should wear PE kit and trainers on Tuesday 29th April for the **TCS Mini London Marathon**. This year's event is a two mile run / jog /walk and this will be completed throughout the school day. It is a fantastic opportunity for our children to be active, have fun and raise money for charity.

A variable payment item has been added to Parentpay for a donation of between £1 and £10, or cash donations can be made on the day. By taking part, we will be raising funds for CAFOD, helping communities around the world overcome poverty.

School Uniform Orders

If you placed an order for school uniform at the end of last term, the stock arrived today. Please pay for the items you ordered on Parentpay, if you have not done so already. Items will be sent home with your child on Monday.

Author Visit next week cancelled

Regrettably, due to unforeseen circumstances, the author Amy Jeffs - who was due to present her book Storyland to the KS2 children next week - is no longer able to attend. We apologise for any disappointment this might cause. If you have purchased a copy of the book on Parentpay we will refund the cost on Monday. The book is still available to buy direct from Barn Owl Books.

Weekly Attendance

Tuesday 22nd Apr — Friday 25th Apr

St Teresa 95.4%

St Lawrence 97.2%

St Francis 92.7%

St Scholastica 99.5%

St Joseph's Easter Mass
Monday 28th April at 10am in
St Aldhelm's Church.
Please join us—all welcome.