



# NEWSLETTER

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**Friday 24th July 2025**

## Head Teacher's message

Dear Parents, Carers, Children,

It seems hard to believe that this is the last newsletter of the academic year and a whole school year is now behind us. We have had a fantastic year with so much to celebrate and be proud of. Across the year we have reached out and engaged with the wider community through music, song, drama and sport. In all of this we have been recognised for these contributions and achievements. All of our children are fantastic "ambassadors" of St Joseph's and are positive reflections of you at home and all that we are striving to achieve with your children through their attitudes, outlooks, aptitudes and personalities.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to thank staff and children for their hard work across the year. I would also like to thank you all for the support and loyalty you have given the school. In particular, I would like to thank all our volunteers and our amazing PFA who work tirelessly to raise funds and support the work of the school. We have a lovely, community school that is made what it is by each and everyone who has an association with the school.

I hope that you all have a happy, restful and healthy holiday and, although this is the last week of one academic year, we are all looking forward to welcoming you back in September 2025.

## Worship and school ethos

### Ethos and values:

Over the year we have developed each of our school virtues through worship and ongoing classroom focus. We have seen this work as a "gift" that we give the children and hope that they will take these values beyond our school in the way they view the world. Our virtues all link to the school's mission "To walk in the footsteps of Jesus, loving and serving together". Through our interpretation of this we have tried to help the children recognise and live the following values in all that they do:

Love &  
Kindness

Peace

Resilience

Aspiration

Curiosity

Respect

Serving &  
Giving

One of the very strong outcomes we experience from this is that the children in St Joseph's are kind, considerate and almost always well regulated. This means that we have very few behaviour incidents. This makes the working and learning in our school positive and fruitful. From my experience in other schools, this is not always the case and as a result we have something that needs to be recognised and celebrated.

As you know, every term we hold an awards ceremony. This recognises the children who have demonstrated, across the term or year, our school virtues and values. This term we made the following awards to these children. Congratulations to all!

- Léandra – Niamh Marshall Award
- Charlie H – Footstep Award
- Florence – Love & Joy Award
- Poppy - Aspiration
- Marvin - Resilience
- Freddie - Respect
- Rory – Serving & Giving
- Shania - Peace
- Jessie - Curiosity

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

### School Worship this term:

Over the last term we focussed on the virtue of “Resilience” and, through this, have challenged the children to think about the importance of foundation and roots in their faith and the way they approach problems. In particular we asked children to consider the importance of keeping going to lay the foundations of their faith in God and themselves through determination to keep going at times of challenge and change. We hope that by doing this children will see themselves as part of a community that supports each other as well as seeing that they have agency in how they meet challenges.

### **Physical Activity and School Sport**

As we approach the end of the year, one of the things we need to report on is how we have used the PE and Sport Premium. We use this funding in a number of creative ways that includes organised and informal physical activity and play at lunch times, participation in sports festivals and enabling wider curriculum opportunities like forest school. As part of our evaluation, I spoke to all children about what they thought of these activities and there was an overwhelmingly positive response to what we do. Children love their sports festival and PE, they value their active playtimes and really enjoy forest school. Over the holiday we will be updating the school website and you will be able to read our full report from there.

### **Looking towards the start of the next academic year**

#### Curriculum and classes:

As a staff we are excited about the next academic year. As we have already detailed in the reports letters, there are some changes to the school’s class structure. This has necessitated changes to the school’s curriculum as the way classes are composed in future years may mean year group combinations may change. To adapt to this we have started to redraft the school’s curriculum offer and have decided to use whole school themes that mean all classes can work on similar areas of the curriculum but, through lesson design, have challenges that are matched and married to the specific age groups in each class.

Having shared themes also means that we are able to have class trips, visits and visitors as a school. The benefit of this is that we can significantly reduce the cost, transport costs and make the staffing of visits much easier. We are still planning these enrichment activities at the moment but hope to have all of these confirmed at the start of the year so that you can better plan your finances around these where we ask for contributions.

#### Nursery:

We are very excited by the progress that the school nursery is making and are pleased to announce that work on converting the old St Aldhelms class is well under way. This conversion includes two new toilets, a kitchenette and a classroom space. The conversion element is due to be completed by the end of August 2025 and we hope to open to our first new pupils (aged 2 years to 4 years) from the third week of September. Miss Carvey will be the Nursery Room Leader and will be working alongside Mrs Raines and a newly appointed nursery assistant. Although the nursery is separate to Miss Just’s class it is our anticipation that the two classes will work side by side for some activities.

#### Staffing:

As outlined much earlier in the year, Mrs Cambray-Smith has reduced down her contact time for teaching. This, coupled with our need to reduce our class structure, means that at the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Miss Weatherall. We are really sorry that this will be the case, but wish her every success in her new teaching role. Mrs Cambray-Smith will continue working in the school and supporting music teaching and whole school singing.

It is also appropriate to add in this section that from September, I will be starting a phased retirement from teaching and reducing my working week to three days. To enable this, I am looking forward to working alongside Mrs Carpenter, our SENDCo, as part of a head teacher job-share. This will be very similar to the successful partnership I had with Miss Bathe last year. What will however be different is that we will be trialling an alternate weekly working pattern so that every other week Mrs Carpenter or myself either start on a Wednesday or a Monday. This will mean that we both have an input in school leadership at different ends of the week, and the arrangement will diversify and further strengthen the depth of our school leadership.



## 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 from each class this month.

### St Teresa - Miss Just

This month we have been on the hunt for a Fluffy Squishy Itty Bitty... we went for a long walk around town to find it. "It was fun to walk around on a sunny day, but the people were confused." (Fitz)

"It was scary in the Butchers because it was stinky, he said they are too precious to sell." (Ottilie)

"We went into the Bakery, there was yummy stuff in there but the baker said sorry we haven't got any of those but I hope you find one, the baker was super nice." (Sophia)



### St Francis - Miss Thomson

Marvin – "My wow moment this month has been PE because we got to go down on the land and play hockey."

Struan – "I have really enjoyed maths this month and I now feel very confident about working with coordinates."

Finn – "My WOW moment has been our science lessons. I really enjoyed working on the playground, where we saw how much energy the sun was producing using renewable energy models."



### St Lawrence—Mrs Cambray-Smith and Miss Weatherall



St Lawrence have enjoyed completing their art topic on botanical drawing and have used watercolour and pastels to create observational drawings of flowers, and also more abstract artwork inspired by looking closely at the shapes found in flowers. We have had a happy year!

"I would like to thank parents and carers for their support and look forward to working with the children in September to deepen their musical experiences within the school. Wishing everyone a very happy and peaceful summer break." Mrs Cambray-Smith



"Thank you to all the parents and children for making me so welcome at St Joseph's—I've thoroughly enjoyed working with you all." Miss Weatherall

### St Scholastica—Mr Wilkinson

July has been a busy month and a special one for our Year 6 pupils who are coming to the end of their time at St Joseph's. To celebrate, the Year 6s went on a trip to Lake 32 where they took part in lots of fun outdoor activities such as kayaking, paddle boarding, raft building and archery. All the children participated and thoroughly enjoyed the activities on offer. The only downside of the trip was Mr. Wilkinson being capsized by a

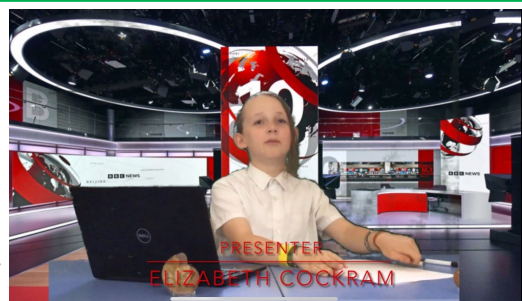


swarm of pupils and Mrs. Bennett!

Whilst the Year 6s have been getting ready for their transition to secondary school, the Year 5 pupils have been creating and filming their own news report. All children had their own individual role within the team and were able to create a full news piece surrounding climate change with the use of a green screen and iMovies.

Audrey - "I enjoyed capsizing Mr. Wilkinson"  
Divine - "I liked kayaking."  
Gabriella - "I liked that we all had good roles and were involved in making the news report."

Freddie - "I liked making the report based on what we had learnt so far on Global warming."







### Praise for the Choir

Members of the school choir sang at the 150th celebration service of St Aldhelm's Church on Friday evening. See below an excerpt from the Parish Newsletter:

"During the Jubilee celebrations last weekend, children from St Joseph's took part in the Churches Together Prayer Service on Friday evening. Accompanied by the wonderful Hope Church Music Ministry, the children sang beautifully and took part in the prayers with dedication. All present were inspired by the children's spiritual participation."

A huge thank you to the children for giving up your time after the fete and representing the school so beautifully.

### This week's Wednesday Word is THE LORD'S PRAYER



"God our Father is patient, he loves us, he gives us Jesus to guide us. Praying the "Our Father" together, around the table, is not something extraordinary: it's easy." - Pope Francis. The holiday edition of the Wednesday Word is available on our website: <https://www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/>

### First Holy Communion June 2026

Enquiries from parents are now welcome, for children who will be in Yr 3 or above from Sept 25, regarding First Holy Communion preparation, starting November 2025, **for June 2026.**

Please contact St Aldhelm's RC parish, before the end of summer term by email:

[malmesbury.staldhelm@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:malmesbury.staldhelm@cliftondiocese.com) to express interest, giving your child's name and age from Sept 25.



### July Attendance

St Teresa 95.7%	St Lawrence 95.3%
St Francis 93.6%	St Scholastica 93.9%