



NEWSLETTER

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Friday 5th September 2025

Head Teacher's message



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to what we hope will be a fantastic academic year. We all hope you had a restful and healthy summer. It was so good to see the children arriving back enthusiastically on Wednesday. Our initial impression is that they are positive about their learning and being in school and as a result the atmosphere feels happy, content and full of determination.

As you know from our end of year newsletter there are going to be some changes this year and I hope that this newsletter will give you a feel for what is coming up from your child's perspective and also for the school as whole.

Classes:

As you will be aware we have changed our class structure from four classes to three. Doing this naturally lent itself to thinking about our class names and giving these a "fresh coat of paint". From the start of this year we have slightly revamped these and have looked at them with fresh eyes.

So that you are aware of what this means, Miss Just's class will remain at St Teresa but we have modernised the children's saint name to St Teresa of Calcutta. Mother Teresa is known to many of the children and is a person that many will be able to picture and relate to as an important influence on compassion and kindness in the 20th and 21st century.

Miss Thomson's class is called St Aldhelm after our church's patron and also to reflect the importance of this historical figure to the town of Malmesbury.

Mr Wilkinson's class is a bigger change and will adopt the name of one of the newest and most recent saints, St Carlos Acutis whose stained glass window is only one of two in Britain and is held in St Aldhelm's parish church.

Over the next week the children will be finding out about their new patron's and will be sharing these with the school in one of our worships.

With respect to classes, another exciting development to the school's structure is that over the summer our

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER

new nursery classroom was completed. If everything goes to plan, this will open on Monday 15th September. This new addition to the school is the result of hard work by Miss Bathe, Mrs Druce and the governors to secure £150, 000 of government funding to convert the old St Aldhelm classroom into a purpose built nursery room. We are now looking to welcome new children and ask any parents who know of families looking to secure a nursery place to contact the school office. To support this, we will also be having an open morning next Thursday 11th between 9.30-11.30am where current families or prospective nursery parents can see what we have on offer. Our nursery will be led by Molly Carvey who will be supported by Mrs Raines and Mrs Biss, who we are delighted to welcome to the St Joseph's team.

Welcome:

As we start a new academic year, we would like to welcome the following children to our school family:

St Teresa: Tillie, Jose, Barney and Ava

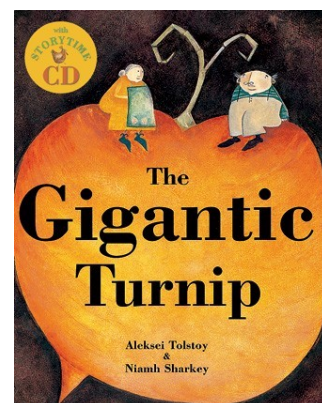
St Aldhelm: Henry, Amelia and Charlie

St Carlo: Struan, Alfie and Evan

We are all really pleased you have joined our school and look forward to getting to know you.

School Worship and pupil leadership:

Our values theme for this term is Serving and Giving and our Catholic Social Teaching focus is Option for the Poor. We launched this in whole school worship on Wednesday by thinking about how we are all important in a community and how we can all play a part in making our school a better place. I particularly highlighted the contributions we can all make in getting a job done. The story I used was The Gigantic Turnip retold and illustrated by Aleksei Tolstoy and Niamh Sharkey. As part of this worship we also invited the children to volunteer to take on school leadership roles.



To reflect our Christian foundation, we will again have our school leaders sitting under the umbrella of School Chaplains and, as with last year, have children who are responsible for supporting the organisation of school activities and a representing pupil voice as School Stewards. The children who are responsible for the school's prayer life will be called Prayer Leaders. As with last year they will help with masses and class worship. We will also be having two school ambassadors who will be selected from our Year 6 group. Unlike previous years, these children do not have to be a boy and a girl. We could have two boys, two girls or, as has been traditional, a boy and a girl. What is important is the children chosen represent what it means to be a pupil of St Joseph's and are good role models and representatives of the school. As is tradition, the children in Year 6 will also have other responsibilities that include library, hall and sports leadership. These children will all be applying for roles and we are very much looking forward to working with them.

One of the first things our school Chaplains will be doing is a small piece of research that we hope everyone will be able to help and support. For Harvest this year we want to do something slightly different and work with St Aldhelm's church to support the needy and elderly within our community with special food boxes. To help us identify what to include for harvest donations, School Chaplains will be researching and canvassing family members for ideas.

Message from the governors and headteacher:

As you will be aware from the newsletter at the end of last term, Mrs Carpenter and I are working as Co-Heads as part of my phased retirement from teaching. As part of this process, the governors are now starting to look for a new headteacher for St Joseph's with a view to a January start date. The governors want to assure parents they will act in the best interests of the school community in appointing a new headteacher.

From my perspective, I wanted to assure parents that I remain committed to St Joseph's and the school community and will remain so until I leave the teaching profession. There remains much to achieve as a school and I am looking forward to the challenges this year holds and most importantly to working alongside Mrs Carpenter, the staff, children and parents to make St Joseph's a successful and thriving school.

Class letters:

Over the next week and alongside next week's newsletter we will be including details of our theme and focus for this term's learning. Class letters will also detail the general organisation, time tables and planned events for the coming year. These will compliment or supplement any initial start of the year class Dojos sent to support the start of term.

St Teresa - Miss Just

We have had a great start back to school this week, the children have stepped up into their new year groups and embraced their learning. We have started our On The Move topic and have learnt



about Lightning McQueen, making him tricky race tracks to drive around. Over this year we are looking forward to learning about new topics, lots of outdoor learning and going on more trips. Next week we are welcoming our new reception children and can't wait for them to join us.

"Good luck for school" - Otilie

"I hope you have fun with us in our class" - Isla



St Aldhelm - Miss Thomson

I hope you have all had an enjoyable, happy and restful summer. This term is set to be an exciting one, our topic will be "On the Move", a transport theme. We will be investigating how transport has developed and changed over time, and in turn how this has effected our local area. Gymnastics and Rugby will pepper our days with fun! In RE we look at the life of Abraham and discover what everyday-life was like in his ancient times and Pop Art will be turning heads in Art as the children experiment with self-portraits. Splendid days to come – looking forward to the Harvest festival! All the best for the year ahead.

St Carlo - Mr Wilkinson

Welcome back! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable break. We're very excited for the term ahead, which is full of new learning, experiences, and opportunities for our children to grow and explore.

This term in St Carlos Acutis class we will be swimming on a Tuesday afternoon so please remember swim kits! This is a fantastic chance for the children to develop their water confidence and swimming skills in a safe and supportive environment. In RE, we'll be exploring the story of Moses, learning about his life, the challenges he faced, and the important lessons his story teaches. We'll use storytelling, discussion, and creative activities to help children reflect on these stories.

We will be having a shared History and Geography topic called "On the Move". Through this exciting theme, we'll be exploring how the ways we travel and move have changed over time. We'll be looking at how different forms of transport have evolved, how they've shaped the world around us, and the impact they continue to have on our daily lives.

I would also like to invite all year 6 parents to a meeting after school on Thursday 11th September where we will discuss expectations for the year ahead and answer any questions that you may have. See more information to follow on Dojo.

This week's Wednesday Word is LOYALTY

"We understand that loyalty to God is a matter of loyalty to a person to whom we are bound to walk together on the same road. And this person is Jesus." - Pope Francis
The Wednesday Word is available on our website: <https://www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/>

