



NEWSLETTER

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

Friday 13th February 2026

Head Teacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I often begin the last newsletter of the term saying that I can't believe we are at the end of another term and how quickly the term has flown by. This is again true, but I also find it hard to believe that this will be my last contribution to the St Joseph's newsletter. How quickly time has passed, not just for me in St Joseph's but also as a teacher for the last 36 years.

As you will probably know, I will be retiring from teaching at the end of this term and I can't express enough how pleased, proud and happy I am that it has been in your school.

When I spoke to the children in celebration today I told them about the biggest changes across my career, these include how technology is used, how we approach teaching and learning and the massive improvements in the number of adults available to help teachers do their jobs and children learn. I also talked to the children about three of the most important things to me as a teacher. These have been constants in my career and I hope that you have seen these evident in the school, and from me, in the short time I have been in St Joseph's.

My top priority is to never forget why schools are here. First and foremost, I have always believed that schools should "open doors" in children's lives and be the places where they develop a love of life and learning. One of the most powerful ways we can do this is by making learning interesting, relevant, hands on and fun. Reading through the Wow Moments in past newsletters, it is easy to see that this is something that is achieved at St Joseph's.

These Wow Moments would not exist if it wasn't for the second most important thing, teachers and school staff. We are blessed with a dedicated team at St Joseph's and I would like to thank each of them for all that they do in the school. I am also very aware of the legacy and strong foundations established by past staff, including Mrs Woods. The school's Good Ofsted grading in March 2023 is testament to their, and current staff's, hard work.

The last thing I see as important is a clear and embedded understanding of guiding virtues and values. We have been working to understand the ones we chose as important across the last two years and I hope you see these reflected in your child's behaviour and attitudes. Of all our virtues, the two I see as most important are Love and Kindness. These are a Golden Thread that I hope runs through our school and I hope this will influence your child's outlook now and into their adult lives.

I have never seen teaching as a job, but more as something I just do because I love it. It has allowed me to see the world, meet amazing people and work in a wide range of communities. With respect to colleagues and parents, past and present, I would like to thank everyone who has made contributions to one of my Just Giving pages. I have been very touched by your generosity and kind words. Together we have raised over £400 which I know will support the causes and bring a positive change to those in need.

Finally, thank you for welcoming both Miss Bathe and myself to St Joseph's when we joined the school in September 2023. Thank you for your faith in us and your loyalty to the school in the time I have been headteacher. My thoughts and prayers will be with you as St Joseph's starts a new chapter. The school has an enthusiastic and capable new head teacher and a dedicated staff team who want the very best for your children. You also have amazingly talented governors who have gone above and beyond to support and grow the school from our new nursery up.

Thank you and God Bless.

Paul Bacon

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER

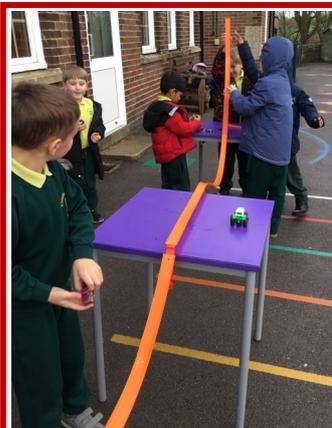
Teaching and Learning in Term 4

Over the last term the children have been working within a theme called the Green Revolution. This theme is very much tied into our role in looking after God's creation.

In Term 3 the children have read and heard about environmentalists like Greta Thunberg and David Attenbrough, in St Teresa Class they have learnt about composting, recycling and the materials we use in our lives and in St Aldhelm and St Carlo they have explored electricity and renewable energy in science. This included understanding how our schools heat pump and solar panels are helping us reduce our carbon footprint.

This work will continue into Term 4 but we have a slight shift in focus and will be looking at the role plants have in sustaining us and the environment. To support the children's "hands on learning" we will be growing and caring for plants. To help us with this, if you notice any potatoes, onion or garlic bulbs that go to root at the bottom of your veg basket, please could you put them aside. We may be inviting the children to bring these in. In the same way, if you want to sow some seeds with your children over the half term break or have any house plants that put out runners, please also keep these. They may add to what we are doing, and we may be inviting the children to bring these in.

Thank you in advance for your support of what we hope will be another learning adventure.



Getting Creative in the Playground

The new winter play equipment - a big tub of Lego bricks and the Hot Wheels track and cars - has brought children across the year groups together at lunchtime, working collaboratively and imaginatively to create colourful structures and lightening fast race times!



Are you missing out on Government Funded Breakfast and After School Childcare??

As part of the Government's Best Start in Life programme, millions of pounds have been set aside to support working parents with the cost of their wraparound childcare. It takes just a few minutes to check your eligibility. Click the link below and enter your details to see how much money you could save.



<https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/eligibility-checker/>

This week's Wednesday Word is TEACHER

"The true teacher is within; Christ is the inner teacher of every soul." St. Augustine of Hippo
The Wednesday Word is available on our website: <https://www.st-josephs-malmsbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/>



Attendance February 26

St Teresa 96.4%

St Aldhelm 91.7%

St Carlo 96.8%

Save the Children
Christmas Jumper Day
Congratulations
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School + Nursery
Thank you for pulling on your most Christmassy jumper and making it the best. Day. EVER!
£ 81.64
Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATORY

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, LOVING AND SERVING TOGETHER

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

We have had such a good term learning about how to take care of our planet, thinking about the oceans and the important role that insects play in our lives. At the end of our term we even looked after each other and celebrated Valentine's Day, making cards and biscuits for each other. We have started preparations for next term by planting some



herbs ready for our new topic all about plants and growth. A WOW moment for us was when Edie brought in a wasps nest she found and the class were very interested in how it was constructed.

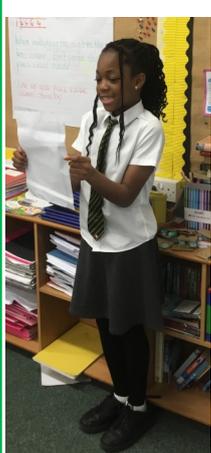


St Aldhelm — Miss Thomson

St Aldhelm Class have had a happy, fun and thriving start to 2026 with a truly interesting first term. In Science, we experimented with building circuits, exploring how components work together and even making our own switches. In our outdoor learning we planted seeds, created raised beds using drills, and even built a compost bin by weaving willow. In RE, we learnt about Jesus and how he showed kindness to everyone — especially those on the margins of society — and reflected on how we can live this out in our own lives, simple missions like ask someone on their own in the playground to join in with you. In PSHE, we discussed how to build others up while also keeping ourselves safe. A high light this term has been PE we they been developing their football skills and strengthening teamwork. It has been a fantastic and flourishing start to the year for St Aldhelm Class.



St Carlo — Mr Wilkinson

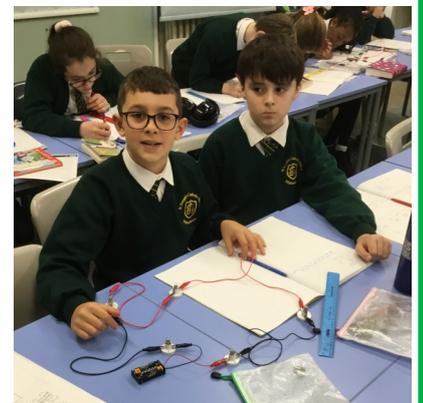


In St Carlo we have continued our amazing work in our Science and D&T topic. The children have been making their own switches with what they have learnt about insulators and conductors to help them. At the end of this lesson the children were able to make a variety of switches including a flip switch and a pressure switch. Additionally, the children also partook in an investigation to try and understand what changes would happen to our circuit if we kept adding lightbulbs. The children came away with some excellent findings!

We have also started our new writing topic which focuses on writing speeches based on Greta Thunberg. In one of our experience days after watching one of Greta's speeches, the children were asked to have a go at reading and saying one of her speeches with the same pace and tone of voice. We look forward to continuing with this unit after half term.

Rory - "I liked building a massive circuit with lots of bulbs to see the changes that adding bulbs made."

Felicity - "I have enjoyed researching Greta Thunberg and being able to read one of her speeches."



Nursery — Miss Carvey

We have had such a fun and busy few weeks in the Nursery exploring outside in all weathers, painting and colour mixing. Apologies for all the extra washing! The children have especially enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year celebrations this week. We have read stories about 'The Great Race', prepared and tasted a vegetable and noodle dish (which we ate with chopsticks), gifted our friends around school traditional red envelopes with a Chinese coin inside, made lanterns and used the instruments to make music to chase away the bad luck. We are finishing the week with some Valentines cards and messages of love for our families. Kung Hei Fat Choi!



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School needs your unwanted clothes and shoes to turn into cash! Our next collection is booked for:

Thursday 26th February
Before 9am

Items must be of a good standard and brought to the school gate before 9am on the day. The collection van leaves the school on the dot of 9am! Please use your own bags and ensure they are tied up.

Items Accepted

Clean Men's / Ladies/ Children's Clothing Inc.
Lingerie / Socks
Pairs of Shoes (tied together)
Hats/ Scarves/ Ties
Handbags / Bags / Jewellery
Soft Toys
Household Linen/ Curtains / Towels /Bed
Sheets / Pillowcases / Duvet Covers

Items NOT Accepted

Duvets / Blankets
Pillows / Cushions
Carpet s/ Rugs / Mats (inc. Bath, Shower, Toilet Mats)
Soiled/ Painted/ Ripped/ Wet Clothing
School Uniforms (with or without logo)
Corporate Clothing/ Workwear
Textile Off Cuts
Yarns/ Threaded Material

Rags2Riches is a UK leading textile recycler and fundraiser and helps us raise much needed funds for the school. Money raised will fund new equipment and resources for the children to enjoy. It also helps divert unwanted textiles away from landfill and raise awareness of recycling and reuse to our children.

It's a great opportunity to declutter and sort through your cupboards and wardrobes for all those things you no longer wear or use. Don't forget to ask family, friends and neighbours too!

WORLD BOOK DAY

NARNIA

Thursday 5th March

Step through the wardrobe and into a world of winter, ice, drama, and adventure.

Children will take part in a range of World Book Day activities inspired by The Chronicles of Narnia.

Dress Up (Optional)

Come as a Narnia character or take inspiration from the theme: kings and queens · woodland creatures · mythical beings · snowy explorers

World Book Day is always a highlight of the year — and this one promises a little magic.

