



NEWSLETTER

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Friday 30th January 2026

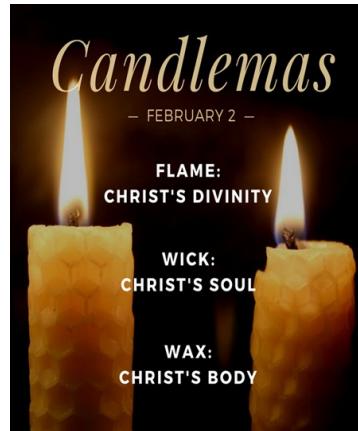
Head Teacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our January Newsletter. It has been a busy start to 2026!

Our first week back saw the introduction of a new value, that of Aspiration. In collective Worship over the last four weeks we have thought about new year aspirations, how we can be the best we can be and how to overcome the challenges that appear in our pathway. We have written aspirations and responded to stories such as The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Oh, the Places You'll Go! and Giraffes Can't Dance.

Our liturgical calendar started with The Epiphany on 6th January when we thought about The Three Wise Men and their visit to Jesus, the new light of the world. Next week, with Mr Bacon on Monday, we will be observing Candlemas, the commemoration of Mary's purification and Jesus' presentation at the Temple, marking the end of the Christmas season and symbolizing Jesus as the "Light of the World" through lighting candles. Candlemas will begin at 2.45pm and we would be delighted if you could join us.



Last week the whole school very much enjoyed an end of the day online Wicked Sing-a-Long broadcast live from the O2 courtesy of Young Voices – this was a lot of fun and everyone sang heartily!

In Forest School this term our children in St Aldhelm's have been working with Miss Thomson, Mr Bacon and Ms Baker to tidy up our school site, plants flowers and crops and make a compost heap. This is helping children to live our value of Stewardship, in line with the Catholic Social Teaching theme of Caring for God's Creation. It is also teaching them about the interdependence of all living things and this is being followed through other foundation subject curriculum themes.

Finally, we would like to thank all who have responded positively to our messages regarding parking and the safe drop off and pick up of children. We appreciate your support in ensuring that our children are kept safe in their local community and that due consideration is given to our neighbours on Holloway. We are grateful to our PCSO team for their support and will be working with them to ensure continued safe parking around school.

This week's Wednesday Word is HAPPINESS

"Whoever possesses God is happy!" St Augustine
The Wednesday Word is available on our website:
<https://www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/prayer-life/>



Attendance January 26

St Teresa 96.6%

St Aldhelm 94.2%

St Carlo 97.5%

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

This term St Teresa have been looking at how to take care of the planet. Over the last few weeks we have been looking at creepy crawlies, the children have loved learning about worms, dung beetles and spiders. They have made dung balls, started a compost and learnt all the fun facts about all of our creepy crawlly friends.



St Aldhelm — Miss Thomson

We have been doing a variety of interesting things so far this term! We have finished off our Design and Technology bridge project, where the children worked in small groups to produce a stable Truss Bridge made from SPAGHETTI!!!! This certainly was a challenge, but also a great deal of fun. Our new topic 'Green Revolution' has begun, this



term we are focusing on energy and electricity. The class has really enjoyed making series circuits and creating their own DIY switches. Also, I have been very impressed with the creative writing being produced this term, particularly their suspenseful stories about a necklace found frozen in the Arctic, amazingly it turned up in our classroom!!! And we have been relishing our time on the land and have been experiencing some fabulous outdoor learning with Mr Owen and Mr Bacon!



St Carlo — Mr Wilkinson

This month we have been learning about the life of Sir David Attenborough with a view to writing a biography of his life as part of our writing unit. During one of our experience days for this unit, the children watched clips of his documentaries and were asked to have a go at narrating the clip as if they were the man himself. There were many great attempts and some children even had a go at doing an impression of Sir David. In science we have been looking closely at electricity and

particularly circuits. The children have had the opportunity to build their own circuits and draw accurate scientific diagrams of what they have made.

Jack - "I really enjoyed making my circuit and exploring how the different components worked."
Jessie - "I liked adding a switch to my circuit so I could turn the buzzer on and off."
Josh - "I liked having a go at being like David Attenborough."



Nursery — Miss Carvey

We have been focusing on the colour green this week - we have made green Play-Doh, baked and decorated green cupcakes, turned the water tray green and been on a green walk on the land looking at things in nature



that are green. We are really enjoying our weekly trip to Malmesbury Library, and returned and borrowed more books today. The children did a great job preparing their own morning snacks this week and making independent choices about their toppings.



Dodgeball Festival

Earlier this month our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in a dodgeball festival with our local sports cluster, competing against teams from seven different schools. The children performed brilliantly, winning four matches, drawing one and losing one, which meant they finished in an excellent third place overall and proudly received bronze medals. Throughout the festival, the pupils showed fantastic teamwork, sportsmanship, determination and energy. We are extremely proud of their efforts and attitudes.

A big thank you to Mrs Cockram for her support and for driving the minibus.

Mrs Bennett



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/>



Any Government funding can be used towards the cost of wraparound care in our Opportunities Club.

Rags2Riches Collection

A reminder that our next Rags2Riches collection is on Thursday 26th February at 9am. We can turn your unwanted clothes and shoes into cash for the school. Here's what you can donate:

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



Headlice

Please see link below to the NHS guidance on the treatment of headlice. To ensure that your child's hair is completely lice free, please note that if you are using a medicated lotion or spray, the treatment must be repeated again a week after the first treatment, and if you are using the wet combing method, this must be done on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 and checked again on day 17. Thank you for your support.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>