

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

2024-2025 #1

25TH October 2024

St. Joseph's is a joyful community which follows the example of Jesus, helping, accepting and respecting everyone, as we learn and grow together, safe in His love.

As we reach the end of a busy and rewarding first half term, we're excited to share highlights from the wonderful activities and achievements the children have been involved in. In this newsletter, you'll find glimpses into some of the exciting things the students have been up to, along with important reminders and helpful information as we look ahead. Thank you for your continued support, and we wish everyone a safe and enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to seeing you all refreshed and ready for the next term!

We completed our half term attendance prize draw today. Each week that your child is in school every day, they have a ticket entered into the prize draw. Those children who have been in every day this half-term had 7 tickets in the draw. There were 4 prizes for the Infants and 4 for the Juniors. Each prize is a £10 voucher – Roomes (Infants) or All4One (Juniors). Well done to our winners: Keira (1C), Evie (1B), Isla (2F), Charlotte (2P), James (5C), Lorenzo (6H), Zac (6H) and Sophia (5M)

<https://aquinaseducation.com/>

Thank you to Aquinas Education for donating the vouchers. They continue to support the school in so many ways, and this year have covered all the costs of vouchers for assemblies and they have donated a new football kit. We are very grateful for their ongoing support.



Well done to the classes shown in green below with over 97% of attendance!

Group	% Attendance
4B	98.8
3R	97.9
5C	97.7
6H	97.7
2P	97.4
RW	97.3
2F	96.9
1B	96.9
4A	96.9
6B	96.2
3T	96.2
RD	96.0
5M	95.8
1C	95.4

School Uniform- Reminders

After half term, all children are expected to wear our winter uniform. For details on the specific items required, please consult our [website](#) for the full winter uniform list

Here are a few reminders:

- All items of clothing should be labelled.
- Earrings must be plain gold, silver or clear plastic studs (no decorative or novelty designs).
- Shoes should be black (not trainers).

No fashion hairstyles e.g. shaved sides, lines and designs

We appreciate your support in maintaining high standards of uniform at St. Joseph's.



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Catholic Social Teaching

This half term, our Star of the Week assemblies have focused on the theme of "**Stewardship of God's Creation**", one of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. We have been inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, which emphasises our responsibility to care for the environment and protect the world that God has entrusted to us. Through our time of prayer and reflection, we have considered practical ways to safeguard God's creation, recognising it as a precious gift that requires our attention and respect. We encourage everyone to continue reflecting on how we can live out this important calling in our daily lives.



Praying the Rosary in October

October is devoted to the Holy Rosary

Throughout October, we have been gathering in our beautiful prayer garden to pray decades of the Rosary, with a different class leading the prayer each day. Each class focused on a different mystery, helping us to reflect deeply on the life of Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was a peaceful and reflective time for our school community, and we extend a heartfelt thank you to the parents who joined us in prayer. Your presence made these moments even more special.

St. Mary, Pray for Us



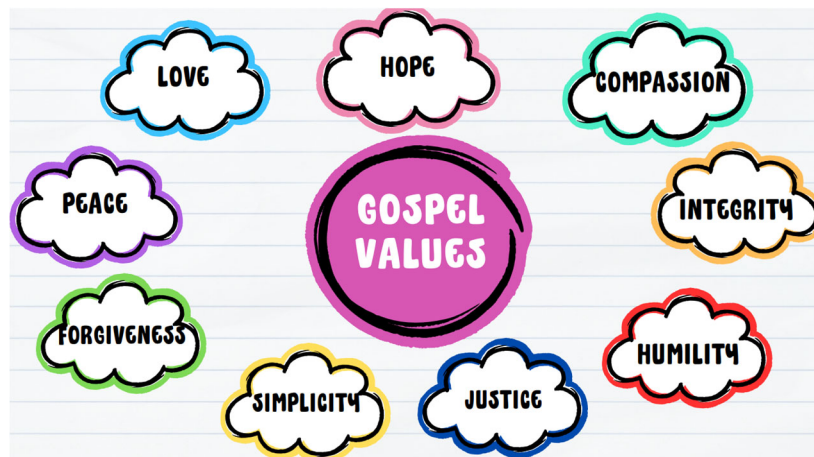
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Gospel Values

At St. Joseph's, **Gospel values** are at the heart of everything we do, shaping the way we behave and how we treat each other. We are committed to fostering a school community where everyone is encouraged to live out the teachings of Jesus, following the example He set for us. Our values are based around **St. Luke's Gospel**, which guides us to love, respect, and serve one another, just as Jesus did. St. Luke's Gospel reminds us to show kindness, compassion, forgiveness, and humility in our daily actions.



In our Wednesday Key Stage assemblies, we have been exploring a different Gospel Value. This half term, we have been focusing on the values of **humility** and **compassion**. The following certificates have been given to those who have shown humility around the school:

Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
Harry (1B)	Hudson (3R)
Hubertas (1B)	George (3T)
Honey (1C)	Cyona-Blue (3T)
Mabel (2F)	Isabella (4A)
Arthur (2F)	Palome (4A)
Heidi (2P)	Eli (4B)
Danielle (2P)	Freya (4B)
	Gabrielle (5C)
	Lilly (5C)
	Olive (6B)
	Angela (6B)



In our assemblies, we learned about **humility** through the parable of the Tax Collector and the Pharisee. In this story, the tax collector humbly admits his mistakes, seeking God's mercy, while the Pharisee boasts about his deeds. The parable teaches us that true humility means recognizing our flaws and treating others with kindness and respect. As a community, we reflected on how we can show humility by being sincere, understanding, and supportive of one another.

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Harvest Festival Food Bank Event

As part of our Harvest Festival celebrations on October 1st, we proudly conducted our annual food bank donations. We were truly bowled over by the generosity of our school community, which enabled us to collect enough food to support two local charities: Trussell Trust and S.M.I.L.E. This remarkable contribution will make a significant difference in the lives of those who need it most in our local area. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped us spread kindness and support to our community!

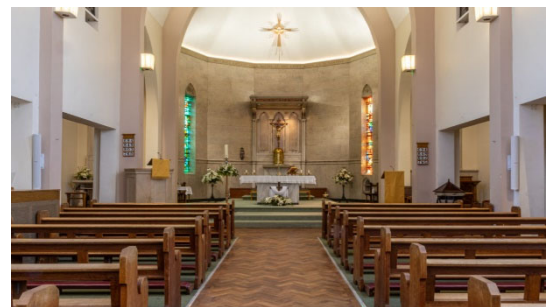


Stay and Pray

This half-term, children in Year 2 to Year 6 had the wonderful opportunity to visit our local church and participate in our "Stay and Pray" Masses. It was a joy to see the children joining the congregation for these special occasions, and we are proud of their involvement and enthusiasm during the services.

We are pleased to announce that we will continue with our "Stay and Pray" Masses next half-term. Here are the dates for the upcoming half-term (see to the right):

Parents are welcome to join. We look forward to seeing you there!



Stay and Pray- Autumn 2

05.11.2024	Year 1
19.11.2024	Year 6
26.11.2024	Year 5
03.12.2024	Year 4
10.12.2024	Year 3
17.12.2024	Year 2

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Year 2 Visit to Church

As part of our RE topic this term, Year 2 had the wonderful opportunity to visit the local church and meet Father Matthew. He kindly guided us through the key moments of a baby's Baptism, explaining its significance and the special traditions involved. To further celebrate, the children brought in their own Baptism photos to share with the class, creating a meaningful and personal connection to what they had learned. It was a memorable experience for everyone, deepening our understanding of this important religious sacrament.



Dogs' Trust Visit

We were delighted to welcome Charlotte from Dogs Trust this week, who visited Year 1, 2, and 3 to teach our students how to stay safe around dogs. During the engaging and interactive sessions, the children learned important tips on how to behave around dogs, both familiar and unfamiliar, ensuring they can interact with animals safely and confidently. Charlotte's visit was a wonderful opportunity for the students to gain valuable knowledge about dog safety, while also having lots of fun! A big thank you to Charlotte and Dogs Trust for such an informative and enjoyable experience!



Year 1 Art Day

We have also enjoyed an Art day in which we looked at art from artists such as Mondrian and Jackson Pollack. The children then experimented with different mediums and techniques, creating some beautiful work. We are all artists in Year 1.



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Black History Month

In celebration of Black History Month, we have focused on exploring the contributions of notable Black figures through art. Year 6 students have created stunning pieces that highlight the achievements and impact of these individuals. Please take a moment to enjoy the vibrant and thoughtful artwork from our talented Year 6 class, as they honour and celebrate the legacies of inspiring Black leaders and pioneers.



Year 1 Trip to Roomes

Year 1 started our history topic on toys with a trip to Roomes stores toy department to investigate modern toys. They came away with lots of ideas for our learning and for their Christmas lists (sorry parents!)

Roomes were extremely accommodating and we were proud that they complimented the children on their excellent behaviour.

Later in the term, the children brought in their teddies to compare with old teddies. It gave us lots to talk about and we all enjoyed cuddles with our special toys.



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CALLING ALL BUDDING AUTHORS!

500 Words - BBC

You might like a little writing project for the half term break.. If so, why not try 500 Words - BBC. **If you do enter, it would be great to see a copy of your entry.**

The competition is open for children aged 5-11 and the deadline for entries is 9pm on Friday 8 November. **Spelling, grammar and punctuation are not marked, it's all about the creativity.** There are age categories for 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds.

The competition is supported by Her Majesty The Queen, so if your pupil is shortlisted as a top 50 finalist, they will be invited to a star-studded final at Buckingham Palace.

The clock is ticking! Have you entered your stories into the 500 Words, [children's story writing competition?](#)



Congratulations to all of our Reception children on their first half term at school! They have visited the church, met a Officer, learnt SIXTEEN sounds in phonics and made lots of new friends! Wishing them a lovely break before all of the exciting things planned for Autumn 2.



House Points

Each week, our House Captains collect the House points. This term, we are keeping a running total, awarding the winning house each week with 4 points, 2nd place with 3 points, and so on. We end our half-term with the following totals:

St. Anne's	St. Edward's	St. Helen's	St. Paul's
12	8	12	17

The winning team will get a prize at the end of the term!

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National Poetry Day 2024

We celebrated National Poetry Day on Thursday 3rd October. This year's theme was 'counting'. During the week, the children read and wrote poetry in class. They also learned a counting poem with their year groups, and performed it at our Star of the Week assemblies. Reception counted bears and rabbits, Year 1 counted items at a picnic and Year 2 learned a Caribbean rhyme.

In KS2, Year 3 counted their blessings, Year 4 reminded us that all of our voices count, Year 5 counted the treasure God gave us, and Year 6 counted all the stars in the sky!

It was amazing to see the children performing poetry together with such enthusiasm and confidence.



Year 4 Rivers Trip

In September, Year 4 enjoyed visiting the River Ingrebourne at Hacton Lane as part of their learning in Geography. It was great fun standing in the river and they took part in activities where they measured the width and speed of the river. They also used a net to have a look at the wild-life that was living in the water. It was amazing how many fish and freshwater shrimps they found!



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NSPCC PANTS WEEK

On the week of the 14th October, we joined with schools across the Borough in NSPCC PANTS week. The children learned the PANTS rule with the help of Pantosaurus. As always, they showed a mature and sensible approach to a serious discussion and we are glad that they understand how to stay safe and what to do if they have a prob-



Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

lem.



Year 5 and 6 Football

In September, a group of Year 5 and 6 children attended a football competition at Drapers Academy. The children performed well, finishing third in their group and narrowly missing the semi-finals. Both Grey from 6B and Ryan from 6H were selected to play in a showcase game at the end of the day, chosen by a scout from Tottenham. The rest of the children showed wonderful support on the touchline. Congratulations to Amelia-Cate and Emily-Jane from 5M, who were both named joint players of the day. Well done to all



Cross Country Competition



This half-term, some of our Year 5 and 6 children took part in a Havering-wide cross-country competition at Stubbers. Competing against 32 schools across the borough, they performed excellently in both the Year 5 and Year 6 races. In the end, our Year 6 team finished 3rd overall, and our Year 5 team placed 5th. **A special congratulations to Darcy in 6B, who came first out of all the Year 6 girls in her race.** Well done to all the children who participated—the entire St. Joseph's school community is proud of you!

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Year 3 Trip to Barleylands

Year 3 had a lovely day at Barleylands, despite the weather. We explored what life was like during Stone Age times and how life styles have evolved since that time. We then took our learning outside where we looked at naturally growing available foods (gathering) as well as animals which would have been used for food (hunting). We also made our own Stone Age Bread and Stone Age soup - We weren't too impressed! We enjoyed our tractor ride around the farm, finding out about the different animals kept there and feeding some of them.

Thank you to all the adults who came with us and helped us enjoy our learning.



P.F.A. News

PFA Christmas Social at St Joseph's Club: Friday 22nd November 7:30pm

Dear parents/carers,

You are warmly welcomed to the PFA Christmas Social which is being hosted by St Joseph's Catholic Club, next door to the school. Tickets are free, but we would invite you to make a donation when booking: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stjosephscatholicclubupminster>

Both mums and dads are invited. There will be some festive music, nibbles, raffle and some other fundraising games. A great opportunity to catch up with friends and get to know other parents - all while supporting the PFA, which in turn supports the school.

All parents/carers are welcome to become members of the Club with options for mailing list or full membership here: <https://membermojo.co.uk/stjosephscc/> - You do not need to be a member to attend the PFA Christmas Social.

Many thanks,



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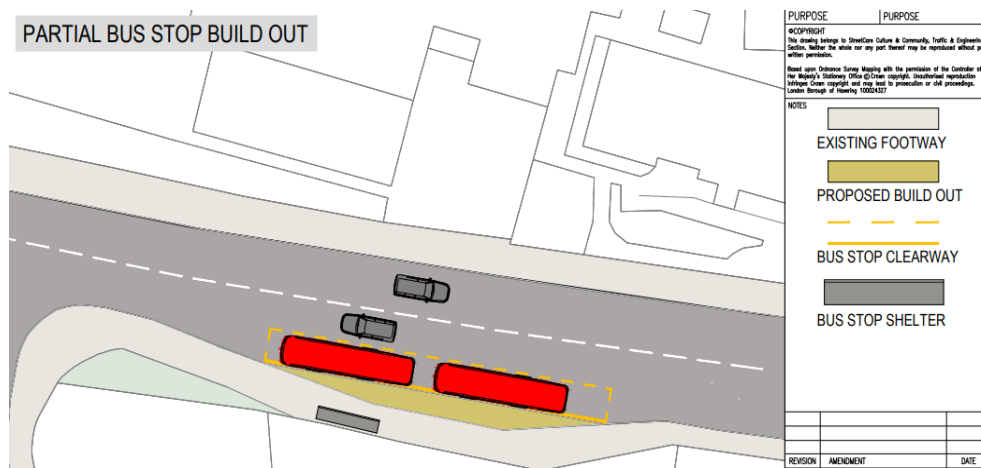
Reminder for Secondary Admissions

The deadline to apply for a secondary school place is fast approaching! It's Thursday 31st October 2024. You can apply for a school place online at this website: www.eadmissions.org.uk This applies to everyone living in Havering and other London boroughs.

Need help with the application process? You can reach the Havering School Admissions Team by email: schooladmissions@havering.gov.uk or call them on 01708 434600 (available Monday to Friday, 12-5pm).

Change to Road Layout- St. Mary's Lane

We would like to inform parents about upcoming construction work taking place at the bus stop across the road from the main entrance. The work is scheduled to begin over the half-term break, but please be aware it may extend beyond this period. The project will involve widening the pavement, which is likely to cause some congestion.



Havering's Happy Healthy Lives Plan

Happy Healthy Lives is an initiative led by Havering as part of their Integrated Starting Well Plan, which outlines their vision for the children and young people of Havering. Their vision is simple: *Enabling our children and families to lead happy, healthy lives.*

The plan focuses on supporting all of Havering's children and families in achieving this goal. To ensure the plan meets the needs of local children and families, Havering has launched a consultation and is asking parents to complete a survey. If you would like to take part, please visit: <https://consultation.havering.gov.uk/childrens/starting-well-plan/>

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Our P.F.A organised a wonderful coffee morning, raising money for Macmillan. They raised a fantastic £207.62! Thank you to everyone who organised baked and attended.



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We would like to thank the Parish Centre Committee for their generous donation to the school. The money donated will be spent on activities and resources for the children.

Dear God,

As we come to the end of this half term, we thank You for the time we've spent learning, growing, and sharing together. Grant us rest and renewal during this break, and keep us and our families safe and healthy. Help us to return refreshed, ready to face new challenges and opportunities with open hearts and minds. May we continue to walk in Your guidance and kindness in all we do. Amen.



Autumn 2 Dates

November 2024	
Date	Event
Mon 4 th	Book of Remembrance opens
Thurs 7 th	2:30pm 4B Class Assembly
w/b Mon 11 th	Anti-Bullying Week
Mon 11 th	Remembrance Day
Thurs 14 th	2:30pm 6B Class Assembly
Thurs 21 st	2:30pm 6H Class Assembly
December 2024	
Date	Event
Sunday 1 st	First Sunday of Advent
Wed 4 th	9:30am REC Nativity for parents
Thurs 5 th	Year 6 Fun Day
Sat 7 th	12-4pm PFA Christmas Bazaar
Tues 10 th	2pm Yr1/2 Nativity for parents
Wed 11 th	2pm Yr1/2 Nativity for parents
Wed 18 th	2pm Yr5/6 Carol Service in Church
Thurs 19 th	Christmas Lunch
Fri 20 th	Last day of Autumn Term