



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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 journey through Lent, this half-term seems to have flown by! It has been a time of reflection, growth, and community, with many exciting events taking place. One of the highlights was our celebration of St. Joseph's Day, a truly special occasion where the whole school came together to honour our patron saint with joy and gratitude.

Our Year 3 and 4 pupils shared a wonderful Easter service that brought to life the events of the very first Easter. We thank all the staff who helped them to prepare and perform such a lovely service. In addition, our pupils have been shining on the sports field, taking part in various competitions and showcasing great teamwork and dedication. As we move towards the Easter break, we look forward to more enriching experiences and celebrations. Thank you for your continued support in making our school community so special.

REMINDERS

- ◆ **Supervise Younger Children** – Please keep a close eye on younger siblings after school. They should not play on the equipment or ride scooters until they are outside the school gates.
- ◆ Please remember that if your child has been unwell with a **sickness or stomach bug**, they must remain off school for **at least 48 hours** after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea. This helps prevent the spread of illness and keeps everyone in our school community healthy.
- ◆ **Injuries:** If your child sustains an injury that requires them to wear a boot, cast, or use crutches, please do not allow them to enter through the usual gate. Instead, please inform the school office and bring your child to the front entrance. This will allow Mrs. Clay to carry out a risk assessment to ensure their safety as they move around the school.

APRIL AND MAY KEY EVENTS

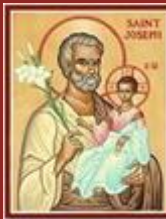
- **Tues 22nd April**– Children Return to School
- **Thurs 24th April**–Year 3 Trip to Lesnes Abbey
- **Throughout May:** Month of the Holy Rosary– more info to follow
- **Thurs 1st May @ 2:30pm**– 5C Class Assembly
- **Tues 6th May**– Year 5 Stay and Pray
- **Thurs 8th May @ 2:30pm**– 5M Class Assembly
- **Wb Mon 12th May**– Year 6 SATs Week
- **Tues 13th May**– Year 4 Stay and Pray
- **Fri 16th May**– Year 4 Trip to Thames Chase
- **Mon 19th May @ 6pm**– Year 6 Residential Meeting in School Hall
- **Tues 20th May**– Year 3 Stay and Pray
- **Tues 20th May**– EYFS Stay and Play Maths Session 1
- **Weds 21st May**– EYFS Stay and Play Maths Session 2
- **Weds 21st May @ 6pm**– Summer Concert Night 1
- **Thurs 22nd May @ 2:30pm**– 3T Class Assembly
- **Thurs 22nd May @ 6pm**– Summer Concert Night 2
- **Friday 23rd May**– INSET DAY– School closed for pupils

SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALF TERM





ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Catholic Social Teaching

This half-term, our focus for **Catholic Social Teaching** is the **Preferential Option for the Poor**—the call to put the needs of the most vulnerable first. Jesus reminds us of this in **Matthew 25:40**:

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

This ties in beautifully with our Lenten charity initiative, **Pennies for Pilgrims**, where each class is raising as much spare change as possible to purchase **World Gifts** from CAFOD. These gifts—ranging from **teaching someone to read** to **buying a goat** or even a **cow**—provide life-changing support to those living in extreme poverty.

It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm of each class as they work towards their chosen gifts. As a school, we raised:

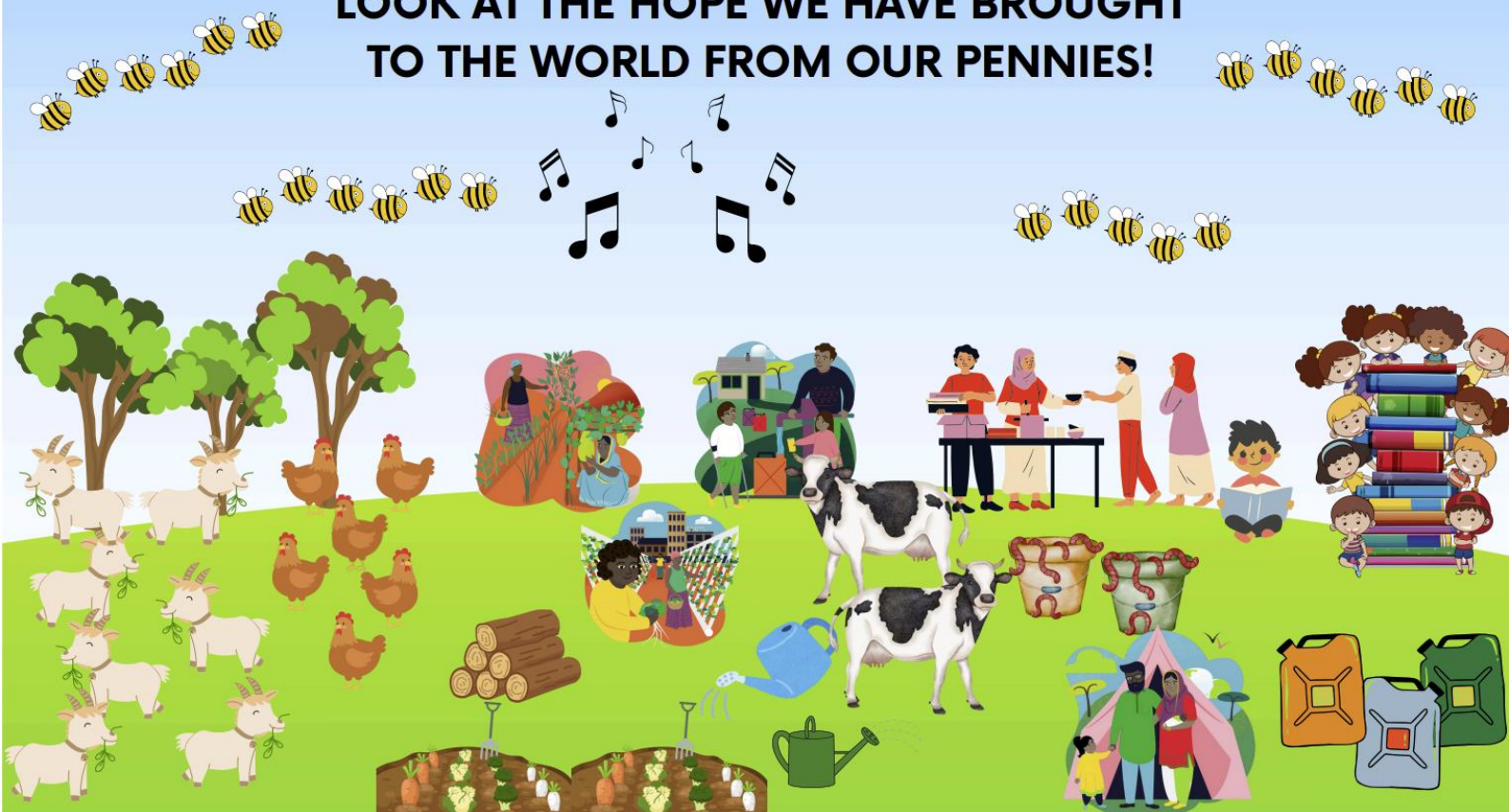


£1137.53!

Here is how the money was spent:

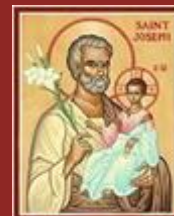


LOOK AT THE HOPE WE HAVE BROUGHT TO THE WORLD FROM OUR PENNIES!



7 Goats	5 Chickens	3 x Emergency Water	1 Soup Kitchen
2 Cows	2 Vegetable Gardens And 1 self watering garden	19 Queen Bees	Weatherproof Crops
11 Children to be taught to read	Firewood	2 Watering Cans	2 x Worms for Compositing
Emergency Shelter	3 Trees for Life	Water supply for 1 family	Radio access

#6 March/April 2024–2025



NEWSLETTER

Catholic Social Teaching Hall Signs

We are delighted to share that our school hall now features new, eye-catching signs illustrating all of our Catholic Social Teaching principles. These vibrant displays serve as a daily reminder of the values we strive to live by, from human dignity and solidarity to care for creation and the preferential option for the poor. They beautifully reflect our commitment to putting our faith into action and will help both children and staff to keep these core principles at the heart of school life!

Attendance for March

Class	Attendance
6B	98.5%
5C	97.5%
2F	97.5%
2P	97.2%
6H	97.0%
3R	96.9%
1C	96.3%
4B	96.2%
3T	95.8%
5M	95.7%
1B	95.1%
4A	94.6%
RW	94.2%
RD	93.6%

Great news! Our school's attendance for this month is 96.2%—the closest we've been to our 97% target since the start of the school year! Regular attendance is key to success, helping students stay on track with learning, build strong habits, and make the most of their time in school. Let's keep up the momentum—every day in school counts!

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.

Congratulations to the following children who were nominated for being a shining example of a Pilgrim of HOPE in our Key Stage assemblies:

HOPE
BELIEVING IN GOOD THINGS

KS1	KS2
Asher (RD)	Emma (3R)
Raef (RW)	James O (3R)
Ava (RW)	Beatrice (3T)
Jesse (1B)	Francesco (3T)
Lizzie (1B)	Conor (4A)
Jed (1C)	Samuel (4A)
Chloe (1C)	Lucy (4B)
Charlotte (2F)	Sammy (4B)
Oscar (2F)	Joshua F (5C)
Pearl E (2P)	Libby (5C)
Henry (2P)	Eliza (5M)
	Henry (5M)
	Veia (6B)
	Riley (6B)
	Elizabeth (6H)
	Zac (6H)

Attendance Raffle

Congratulations to the following children who won the attendance raffle for this half term:

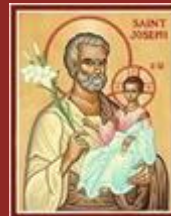
KS1: Parker (RW), Arabella (RW), Finlay (RD), Darcey (2P)
KS2: Charlie C (5C), Olive (6B), Greyson (6B), Jessica (3T)

A big thank you to Aquinas Education, powered by Zen Educate, for providing the attendance raffle prizes – £15 Vue vouchers.





ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



CAFOD'S Jubilee Icon

We were incredibly fortunate to have the Jubilee Icon visit our school as part of its tour around England and Wales. Commissioned by CAFOD for the Jubilee Year, this beautiful icon was created by Ethiopian artist Mulugeta Araya. The painting is rich in symbolism, reflecting themes of mercy, hope, and justice. The icon interprets Jesus' teaching of healing and liberation in the synagogue, as described in **Luke 4:16-21**, which refers to **Isaiah 61:1-2**. This passage is particularly relevant to the Jubilee, given its emphasis on bringing good news to those who are poor and liberty to those who are captive or oppressed. In this passage, Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah:

**"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."
(Luke 4:18-19)**

Following an assembly, led by Mr. Ross, who explained the meaning behind various elements of the icon, each year group had the opportunity to spend time in quiet reflection and prayer with the artwork. This was a truly special experience, allowing our students to engage with the icon in a meaningful and spiritual way.

After leaving us, the Jubilee Icon continued its journey, culminating in a visit to the **FLAME Conference at Wembley Stadium**. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Mr. O'Driscoll and CAFOD for providing us with this fantastic opportunity.



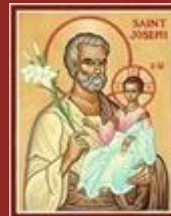
House Points- Running Total

Congratulations to St. Anne's House who achieved the most House Points for the Spring Term! They will be enjoying a non-uniform day on the final day of school this week.

St. Anne's	St. Edward's	St. Helen's	St. Paul's
35	17	18	30



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



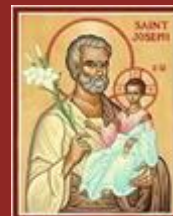
Year 3 and 4 Easter Performance

This week, our Year 3 and 4 pupils led a truly beautiful and heartfelt Easter service that powerfully brought the Easter story to life. Through a thoughtful mix of scripture, moving songs, and creatively adapted pop classics, the children and staff captured the joy, sorrow, and ultimate hope of Christ's resurrection. It was a wonderful celebration of the most important event in our liturgical year, and we are so proud of the reverence, enthusiasm, and talent shown by everyone involved.





ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



St. Joseph's Feast Day

On Wednesday, 19th March, our school community came together to celebrate the feast of St. Joseph, our beloved patron saint. St. Joseph is a model of faith, humility, and hard work, reminding us to serve others with kindness and devotion. We began the day with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Fr. Matthew, where we were joined by some of our governors and Mrs. Tan, who kindly played the organ for us. Fr. Matthew even shared that St. Joseph's feast day is one special day in Lent when we are allowed to break our Lenten promises! In the afternoon, each year group enjoyed a range of fun activities. It was a wonderful day of faith, fellowship, and celebration in honour of our school's patron saint!

Reception wrote invitations and welcomed children from St. Joseph's Preschool to play in our outdoor learning environment.

Year 1 and Year 2 had a lively picnic and party in the playground, dancing to music.

Year 3 and Year 4 spent time playing board games brought from home, while Year 5 and Year 6 took on an art challenge, sketching beautiful lilies—a symbol of St. Joseph.



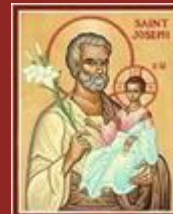
It was a wonderful day of faith, community and celebration in honour of our school's patron saint!

#6 March/April 2024–2025



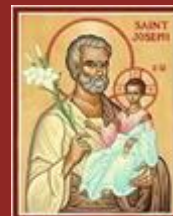
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER





ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Although St. Joseph is not recorded in the Bible as saying any words, his life speaks volumes through his faith, humility, hard work, and obedience. He listened to God's word and devoted his life to supporting Mary and Jesus, demonstrating unwavering trust and selflessness. St. Joseph is a perfect example of how 'actions speak louder than words,' reminding us that our deeds often reflect our values more than anything we say. His quiet strength and dedication make him a powerful role model for us all.

*Actions
speak
Louder
than
Words*

SAINT JOSEPH
Pray For Us



JTA School Travel Conference

On Friday 7th March, our school Junior Travel Ambassadors presented their to other local schools and members of the Local Authority.

Darcy, Elsa, Sophia and Lily all spoke confidently and I am very proud of them. Members of staff from other schools were so impressed by what they have achieved. They have successfully promoted the message of safer travel to help to look after our environment. People commented on their exemplary behaviour and fantastic presenting skills. These girls have been excellent JTA's and took on their role over this past year with pride. Well done! :)

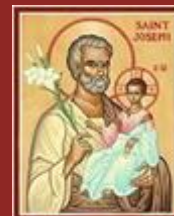
Mrs Brooks





ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Commando Joe Workshops

This term, our students took part in exciting **Commando Joe workshops**, where each class was set a challenge that required teamwork, problem-solving, and resilience. The children tackled these tasks with enthusiasm, showing great determination and cooperation. Their ability to think critically and support each other truly impressed their teachers. It was fantastic to see them embrace the challenges with such energy—well done to all who took part!



COMMANDO JOE'S



We were learning about self-awareness. It felt like it was a hard challenge but a fun one too!— Chigozie, 2P



We all worked as a group which made it funny and helped us develop our determination skills
—Suzy, 6B



A fun and exciting experience for children to work together
— Charlie, 5C

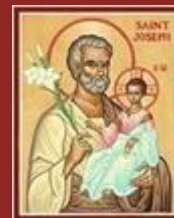


Commando Ryan was funny! I liked the activity that we did—it was really fun!
— Florrie, 3R





ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Reception Trip to an Allotment

The Reception children had a wonderful, sunny morning visiting the Stewart Avenue allotments as part of their learning on 'Growing'. We spotted lots of young plants beginning to grow and a number of different creatures! As the children behaved so respectfully, we were invited to see inside of the polytunnel where lots of the most important parts of the growing process happen. Andy, the Steward at the allotments was amazingly helpful and welcoming and we hope that this is the start of a lovely link within our local community. Andy would like to ask everyone to keep an eye out on social media for future open days at the allotment, which raise money for different charities.



Primary Maths Challenge – Bonus Round Success

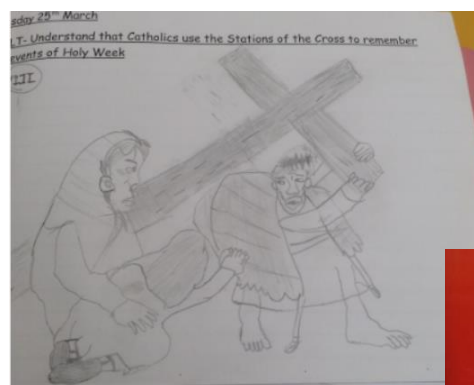
We received certificates for the **Primary Maths Challenge Bonus Round**, and were delighted to celebrate our pupils' achievements! **Maria (6B)** earned a **Silver Award**, placing her in the top 33% of participants.

Artjoms (5M) and **Somto (6B)** also performed admirably, each receiving a **Participant Certificate**.

Well done to all three pupils for their hard work and dedication!

Year 2 Explore the Stations of the Cross

Our Year 2 students had a visit to the church, where they explored the Stations of the Cross. As they walked through each station, they reflected on Jesus' journey and expressed their understanding through art. The children carefully sketched their own versions, capturing the emotion and story behind each scene. Here is a fantastic example from Daria, one of our budding artists in Year 2, showcasing her creativity and thoughtfulness. Well done to all our students for their beautiful work!

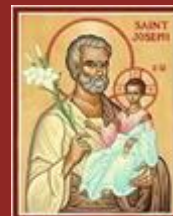


Year 4 Author Event

Year 4 took part in an online *Author's Aloud UK* session with Jennifer Bell. It was interesting to learn that Jennifer didn't enjoy reading when she was younger but became hooked after discovering the right book—eventually becoming an author herself. She discussed some of the characters from her *Magicalia* books, and the children enjoyed learning about their superpowers to see if they could defeat the Grudgernaut!

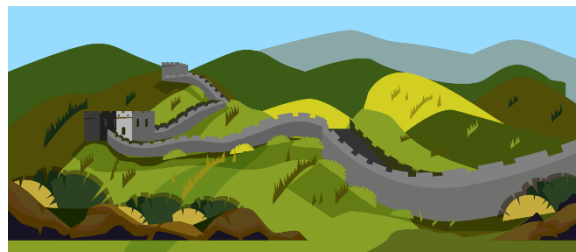


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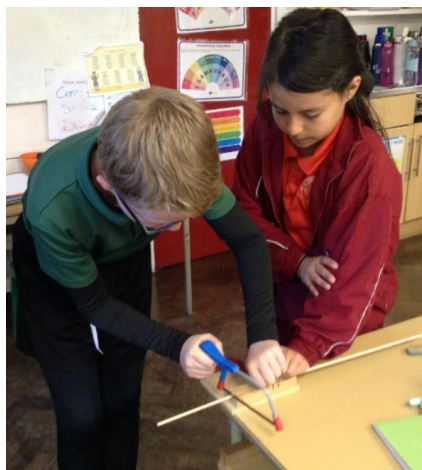
Year 3 Online Visit with Archaeologist!

As part of our Romans History topic, Year 3 had a zoom call with an archaeologist, Chloe, who works on Hadrian's Wall. She shared with us some of the artefacts that she has uncovered and told us some facts about Hadrian's wall, such as 'the 2,000-year-old wall took 70 years in total to build, starting in around 38AD and finishing in around 122AD.' We asked many questions and some of us have been inspired to become archaeologists of the future!



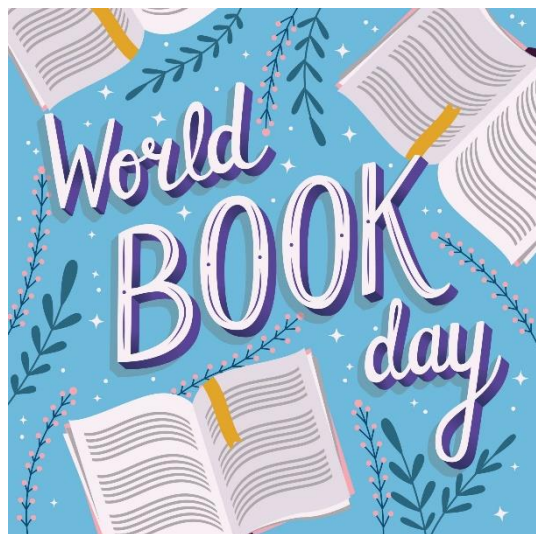
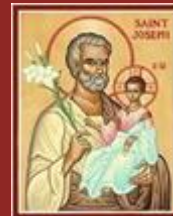
Toy Makers in Year 6

In Year 6, we have been busy designing and making moving toys using cam mechanisms. We are very proud of our finished products!





ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



World Book Day Celebration!

What a fantastic World Book Day we had! Children (and staff!) loved spending the day in their comfy clothes, cosying up with a hot chocolate and biscuit, kindly provided by the PFA. Throughout the week, we embraced our love of reading with special activities, including parent reading sessions where children enjoyed sharing stories with their families. Year 6 had an especially magical time diving into the world of *Harry Potter*, taking part in themed activities. It has been wonderful to see the joy and excitement for reading across the school—what a brilliant way to celebrate the power of books!

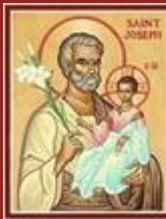


Thank you also to those who attended and supported the book fair in school. A special mention to the Reading Ambassadors who created beautiful posters to promote the event around school.



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Year 1 Visit to Roomes – A Love for Books!

Year 1 were thrilled to return to Roomes Department Store for another special visit—this time with a focus on books for World Book Day! The wonderful staff at Roomes gave us the warmest welcome and even created a lovely reading area where we could enjoy a story together. To top it off, each class were gifted a beautiful book to bring back and enjoy in our classroom book corners. A huge thank you to the Roomes team for their kindness and generosity.

After our visit, we were delighted to receive a letter from Roomes (see below):

It makes us so proud to hear how members of the public can see what a kind, polite, and joyful group of children we have in Year 1!

Good afternoon Mrs. Calver
Just wanted to wish all at St Joseph's
a very happy World Book Day. I hope
everyone has a wonderful time.
Thank you again for coming to visit
us on Tuesday. We really enjoyed
seeing you all and I certainly enjoyed
hearing This Zoo Is Not For You and
Paddington.

The children were so polite and well
behaved, a true credit to the school.
I look forward to more collaborations
with yourself and St Joseph's in the
future.

Best wishes
Lisa at Roomes



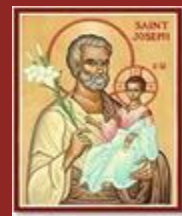
Easter Egg Raffle – A Special St Joseph's Tradition

Our much-loved Easter Egg Raffle is a joyful tradition at St Joseph's, eagerly anticipated by pupils each year. This special event is made possible thanks to the incredible generosity of a past family, who have kindly donated Easter eggs for many, many years in memory of their beloved son, a former pupil of our school. We are so grateful for their continued support and thoughtfulness, which allows us to keep this meaningful tradition alive.





ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Sports' News

We have been inundated with sporting events this half term with children from year groups across the school representing St. Joseph's in a range of events. Here's what some of the children have to say about the events!



Harold Wood Primary School Football Competitions

Years 3, 4 and 5 all took teams to a tournaments at Harold Wood Primary School.

Finley and Grace, 3T said:

"We had really good fun even though we lost some of the games. We worked well as a team. Roesti got a great goal from outside the box. We worked well as a team."

Isabella, 4A:

"We kept our heads held high in some tricky games, including getting a goal disallowed. It was a fun day with a friendly atmosphere and the sun was shining! A good experience.

Amelia-Cate, 5M

"We worked really well as a team to draw a few matches, we had a great goal, bringing us to 1-1 in a game. We came 4th in our group. It was a great day with a friendly atmosphere.

Year 5/6 Rugby

Darcy, 6B

It was a fun day at Romford Rugby Club, where we drew 2 and won one match. We were up against some local teams including Branfil, Towers and Hylands. We all had a lot of fun.



Year 5/6 Match Against Parklands

Ethan, 5C:

"Hayden scored a cracking goal- great placement!

Amelia Cate made some great saves and the defence did well too. There was some great passing. It was a friendly game and lots of fun!"

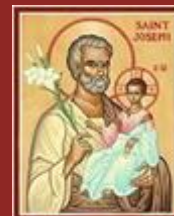
RESCHEDULED YEAR 2 SPORTSHALL

Due to a situation out of our control, the Year 2 Sports Hall Competition had to be postponed. The new date is Thursday 1st May in the afternoon. The same children will attend, more information will follow after Easter.

RESCHEDULED



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Year 1 Sportshall

Anna, 1B:

"I liked it because I did lots of activities and I like PE. We had to jump from one side to another and do relays. I had a great day!"



Year 5/6 Racket Pack

Alice, 6H:

"It was really fun to try different activities and learn lots of different skills. I liked learning about the tactics for playing badminton. It was nice to play sports that we don't get to play often!"

Year 1 and 2 Football Festival

Jimi, 2P:

It was a good day with some good shots on target. We had fun playing against teams like Branfil.

Harry, 1B:

I like it because we played lots of matches.

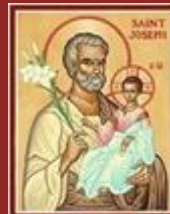


HOLLOWAY
COACHING LTD

Sport at St. Joseph's is supported by Alex, a coach from Holloway coaching, who also supply a number of our sporting after school clubs.



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Here is some of the fantastic artwork some Year 5 and 6 pupils completed to celebrate St. Joseph's Day

We were inundated with other beautiful examples; all of which will be display around school.

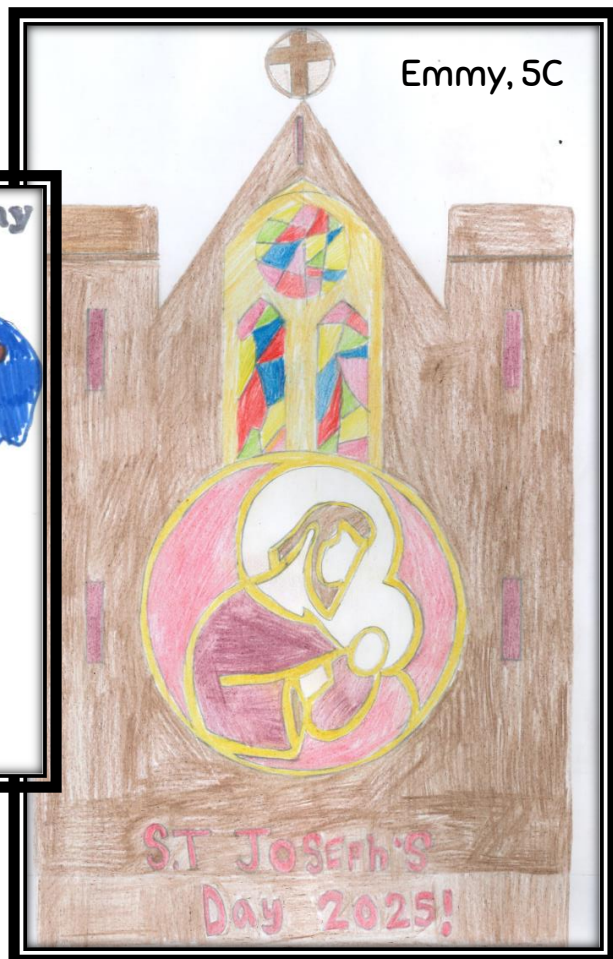
Thank you!



Olivia, 6H



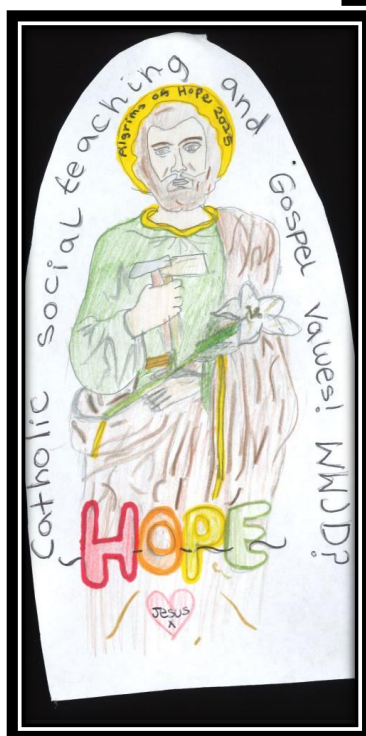
Daniel, 5M



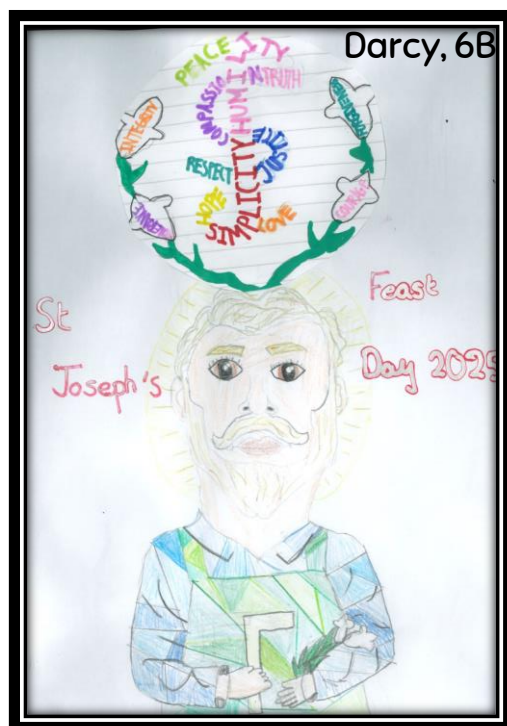
Emmy, 5C



Lara, 5C



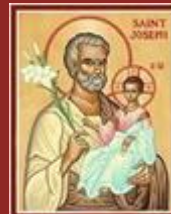
Darcy, 6B



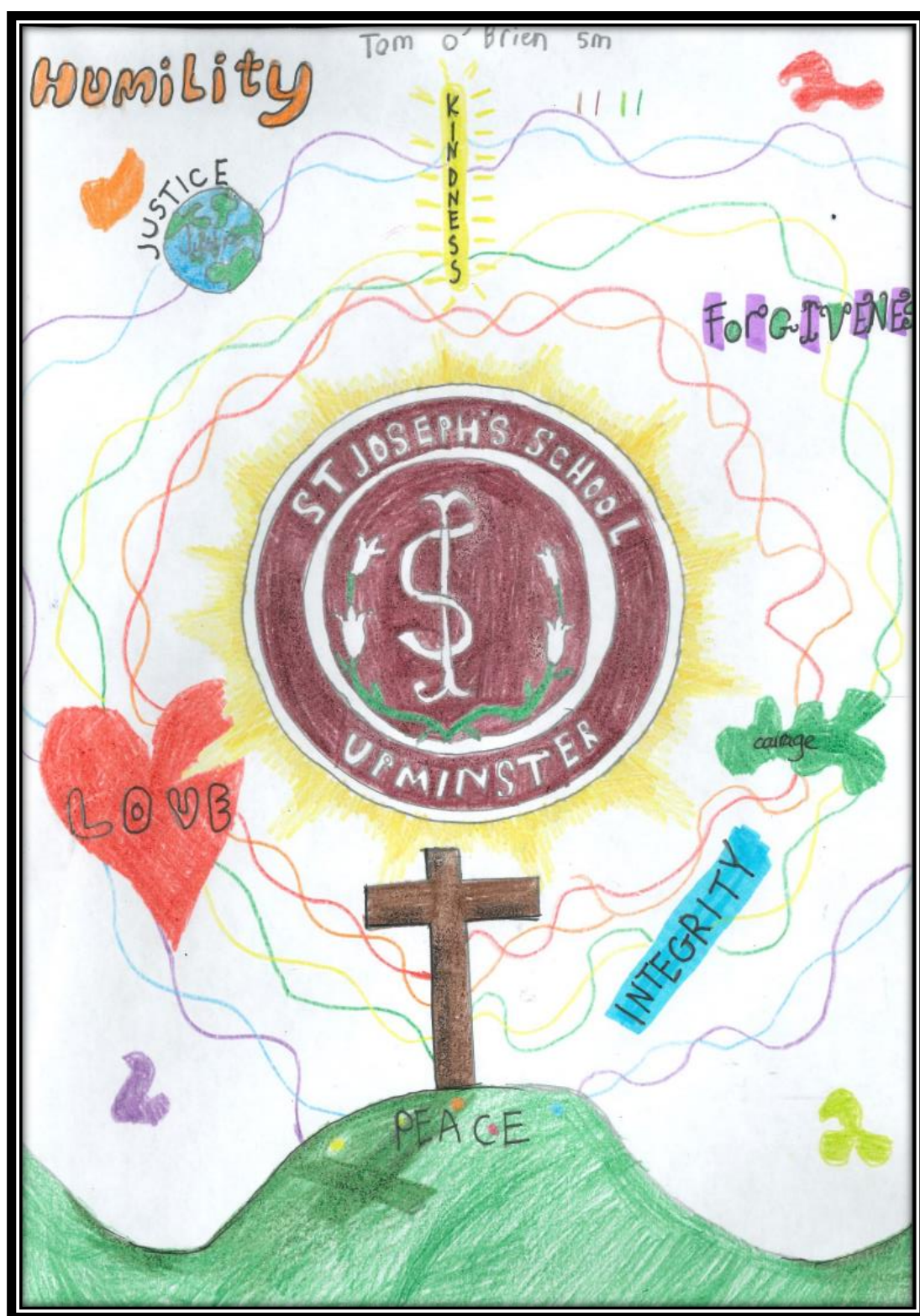
Feast
St Joseph's
Day 2025



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



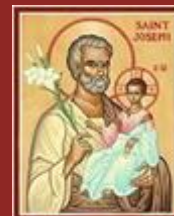
A special mention to Tom in 5M, whose incredible piece beautifully reflects our Gospel values and reminds us that Christ is at the centre of all we do at St. Joseph's. His thoughtful work is a true testament to the faith, kindness, and love we strive to live out every day. Well done, Tom!





ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Summer Uniform Reminders

When we return after the Easter break, all pupils will be expected to wear their summer uniform.

A few reminders regarding school policies:

•**Hair:** For health and safety reasons, all hair that can be tied back should be, regardless of gender. Hair accessories must be plain and simple. Fashion hairstyles (e.g., shaved sides, patterns) and noticeable hair products are not permitted.

•**Jewellery:** Jewellery is not allowed, except for one small, plain stud earring per ear for children in Year 1 and above. Earrings must be removed for PE and sports events, so if your child is getting their ears pierced, please do so at the start of the summer holidays. Reception children must not wear earrings. Necklaces, bracelets, and rings are not permitted. Year 2 and above may wear an analogue watch, but Fitbits and SMART watches are not allowed.

•**Name Labels:** Please ensure all items of uniform and equipment are clearly labelled with your child's name to avoid loss and mix-ups.

GIRLS' SUMMER	BOYS' SUMMER
Maroon cardigan	Grey jumper
St Joseph's maroon & white summer dress* OR Grey skirt with a plain white polo shirt (NO Logo)	Plain white polo shirt (no logo)
	Grey shorts or long trousers
Socks (white socks only – <u>NOT</u> grey)	Grey socks
Sensible plain black flat shoes. No canvas, slip-ons, 'fashion' shoes, flashing lights, trainers or boots	Sensible plain black flat shoes. No canvas, slip-ons, 'fashion' shoes, flashing lights, trainers or boots

Lenten Prayer

Heavenly Father,

As Lent draws to a close, we thank You for this time of reflection and renewal. Help us carry the lessons of prayer, sacrifice, and love beyond this season. May we embrace Holy Week with open hearts, drawing closer to You through the gift of Your Son's sacrifice. Strengthen our faith and guide us to live with kindness and grace each day.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

