



Diocese of Clifton

Faith, Hope, Love

St Joseph's Catholic School Newsletter

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25th March 2021 Term 4-3



From Mrs Howells



I can't believe it's only one week to go until we break up for Easter – what a busy fortnight it has been! We have experienced our first cases of COVID that had an impact on school resulting in us sending two bubbles home. There have been enough cases in one of the classes for it to be classed as an 'outbreak' (which sounds rather dramatic) but more importantly the best word being used is 'contained'. The quantity of children sent to isolate was precautionary and no member of staff was affected. I cannot thank the St Joseph's team enough for working as hard as they do and continuing to keep each other safe. Most staff spend their days in their own bubbles and haven't actually seen each other for a long time. Only key members of staff move between bubbles in order to allow the school to operate. Thank you also to the parents who have kept us so well informed and to Mrs Freckleton who as ever has done her best to support our families and children who have been at home.

I would like to thank all of the parents who are doing their very best to follow our requests at school drop off and collection. There has, however, been an increase in children arriving later to school. Obviously when this happens, because of the restricted movements around school site, this not only impacts on the class but on other members of staff too who then have to collect and deliver the late arrivals. Please can you ensure that you drop your child off on time and leave school as quickly as possible.

The PTA continue to do their best to raise much needed funds for the school. Last Wednesday was our non-uniform day in exchange from some Easter goodies. They have sold a few tickets but are always willing to sell more! The raffle will take place next Thursday in the last celebration assembly of the term. Thank you to all who have sent the items in. For the children who were self-isolating, it's not too late! If you have not already, please send in your donation tomorrow morning.

Last Friday was St Joseph's Day. Sadly, there was no mass in our beautiful church. However, despite the obstacles that were in their way, Mrs Barron and the Chaplaincy Team were determined to ensure that our celebrations were the best that they could be! I know that their liturgy was not what was planned but none the less we were able to share it together and the children spent Thursday afternoon celebrating in their classes. Some stunning work has been produced and will be displayed in school. As soon as it is ready we will post pictures on the website and will let you know. If you have not had the chance already, please do take a look at the liturgy the Team produced, it is under the Collective Worship tab on the school website.

Year 6 have had an exciting week – they have been working hard on producing The Stations of the Cross for the school to share before we break up for Easter. I have had the pleasure of a sneak preview and have been so impressed by how seriously the children have taken their roles. Normally we would join the children to move round the field to each station, but next Thursday we will be in our classes sharing their production. This will be available on the school website for all to enjoy!

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Mrs Barratt. Mrs Barratt has been with Year 4 since they began in Reception and over the years has offered help and support to many of the children. We will be sad to see her go, we would like to thank her for all that she has done to support the children at our school and wish her all the best as she moves onto pastures new.

After Easter the Governors will begin the election process for two parent governors. If you have a bit of free time and would like to be involved in shaping the future of our great school, then do look out for the communication which will come out after Easter. We are obviously still in national lockdown but Monday 29th March brings about the first lifting of restrictions (other than children returning to school). This is when the rule of six or two households are able to mix outdoors, still no mixing indoors. We will update you with the guidance next week.

With just one week to go until the Easter Holidays, I would like to remind you all that we finish early on Thursday 1st April. In order to stagger collection at the end of the day, the collection time will be as follows.

1.25pm – Year 6, Year 4, Year 2 and Year 1.

1.30pm – Year 5, Year 3 and Reception

Finally, thank you all for your support over the past term, we have shared many new experiences and learnt together. Please look out for our Easter Card which will be posted on the school website next week. Wishing you all a peaceful and well needed rest - when we all get there.

In Your Prayers

Dear Lord please make sure people stay safe in these hard times. Make sure they have help and let them have faith, hope and love.

Amen

by Bella Year 3



Class News!



St Mary	Rose—had lots of fun building a mouse house on the field this afternoon; she used sticks, buttercups and daisies. Jake—looks forward to the Daily Mile run. Seth said he runs as fast as a car and Etienne can go fast too!
St Joseph	Gilbert - I am enjoying maths. I am being challenged! Henry - I like running in the daily mile.
St Peter	Sidney - I like being back in school but I enjoyed making up my own safety quiz at home. Hannah - I'm glad to be back at school with all of my friends and learning about time in numeracy.
St Patrick	Spencer - I have really enjoyed doing the daily mile this week. I like counting how many laps I have done and seeing if I can beat my laps each day. Amelia - Maths has been great fun because we have been learning about money. We have been challenging ourselves by taking away pence from pounds. Reuben - This week I have enjoyed MOT because I like using number lines to work out how much change we have.
St George	Florence - This week, I have enjoyed learning about different angles especially obtuse angles. On Monday, we had a music lesson. We were learning to beatbox. Manny - In Literacy, I have enjoyed writing the 'apply it' task. I wrote about two characters venturing through a forest.
St Teresa	Harry - I have actually really enjoyed our home schooling experience because, for me, it has been less of a rush and I enjoy the quiet of my home. However I do miss everyone back at St Joseph's and I can't wait to return so that I can see all of my friends again. Francesca—I am very happy to be back in school but I do miss all of my friends on TEAMS. It has been a very strange couple of weeks for Year 5 but we have remained half normal and lessons are still very fun! My favourite subject at the moment is Topic – I love learning about WW2.
St David	Amelia – This week we have been practising our Stations of the Cross, I've really enjoyed playing the role of one of the 'Women of Jerusalem'. Niamh – This week I have been enjoying our fun quizzes in Y6, learning and applying lots of new knowledge to get ready for secondary school.

eSchools —school communication from next term will be sent via the eSchools app. From 19th April If you have not downloaded the app you will need to go to the school website to keep up to date with school communication. If you need a reminder of the e-Schools login details or have any questions please email the Admin Team at admin@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk. Thank you.



Please be considerate to our neighbours when parking at school. Try to use the village hall, it's only a couple of minutes away. We have received calls from residents reporting of parents/carers blocking and reversing in driveways. We are all guilty of rushing about and not leaving enough time but please leave early enough to be able to park properly and considerately.
THANK YOU.

