



Diocese of Clifton
Faith, Hope, Love

St Joseph's Catholic School Newsletter

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9th January 2023 Term 3-1

From Mrs Howells

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to school for 2023. I hope that you have had a lovely Christmas, spending time with family and friends. I would also like to thank you for your generosity, for the lovely Christmas gifts and messages that you sent in before Christmas, not just to me but to all of the staff.

What a way to begin the year, sharing the news of being placed 7th out of 500 schools in the South West and 138th nationally out of something like 37,000 primary schools. This is a testament to how incredibly hard all of the staff and children work here at St Joseph's and the great support that you give us – thank you all for that. I would also like to thank all of the parents who have been sharing this on Facebook, that is fantastic. As you all know, we do not have a natural catchment area and rely on parents often driving past their local school to bring their children to us. Thank you for support in sharing this great news.

We have some photos in this newsletter from before Christmas. The last week was incredibly busy but we just about managed to fit everything into the shortened week. Thank you all for your support throughout the week, especially the PTA who were providing refreshments as usual and to the parents who were able to support the events. I have to say, I was incredibly proud of our choir and what they managed to achieve in such a short space of time.

Clubs begin again this week, there is still time if you haven't already signed your child up. Please contact the admin team if they would like them to join in. Just a polite reminder, please make sure that you collect your child from their club on time. I understand that the varying end times can cause confusion at times but staff have a lot to do once the club has finished. An extra 5-10 minutes makes a difference to the time that they are able to leave work, so please support them in enabling them to go home as soon as they can. Many thanks.

Swimming starts this term for Year 4 and some Year 6 children. Thank you so much to all of the parents who have committed to take the children to the pool and back. It has made the cost of the sessions so much more realistic for parents.

Year 6 residential for next year, if you have not already let us know if your child is going, then please do as soon as possible. Until we know, we are unable to let you know the final costings. Many thanks for your help with this. The next KLB race is this Saturday 14th January, 9am start as usual. I can't wait, our children are doing so well and the support that they show each other is something to be very proud of. I will see you there at 8.30am!

I hope that you all enjoyed reading Mrs Knight's reading newsletter. Lots of great pictures of the children reading in their special place are being sent in. There is still time, so if you have not sent them in already, please do. We are looking forward to her new lunchtime club starting tomorrow, offering the children a cosy place to come and read for some of their lunchtime if they would like to. I am hoping that I will be able to join them – what a treat to be able to read for pleasure at lunch time!

Some exciting news for Miss Hall, this year (a support assistant in Year 6) she is expecting a baby in April. We are all delighted for her.

Just to remind you, you are all welcome to join your class at Mass on a Thursday at 10am. Please see the dates on the back of this newsletter.

The governors have sent out some communication about St Joseph's being part of the Little Way Partnership MAT. Please do take the time to have a look through and it would be great if you could find the time to fill out the short survey, your thoughts and opinions matter.

Finally, I would like to let you know how well your children have come back to school. It's always hard getting back into the school routine after a couple of weeks off, especially Christmas because it is so busy and exciting. However, aspiring to be the best that they can be, they have returned, refreshed and ready to work their socks off for Spring Term 1!

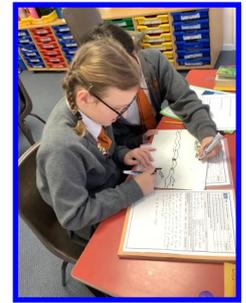
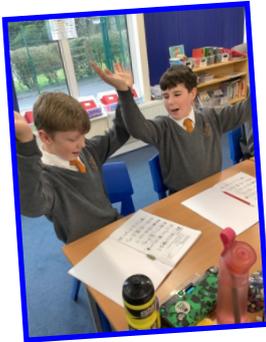
***We pray for our parish, families and friends:
that the Holy Spirit may move us to do what
we can to help others and to try to make the
world a fairer place for all people.***



Class News!



St Mary	Niall - We're learning about The Smartest Giant in Town! Penny - I was a mermaid called Ariel!
St Joseph	Cooper- I like doing phonics. Olivia - I love P.E, learning the owl babies story and maths. I love everything!
St Peter	Bea – Well I loved it when we were doing Maths. We've been learning our left and rights! Ava – I like it when I did left and right too. I liked that it was fun.
St Patrick	Edward – I liked PE because it was football. Hebe – I enjoyed our Stone Age topic because I found it interesting.
St George	Isla H— I really enjoyed the clarinets because it was something I haven't done before and I found it really exciting. James— I really enjoyed Maths because it was all about times tables and I love times tables!
St Teresa	Roxi- Over the course of a couple of weeks, we collected items for the Rotary's shoe box appeal these were donated items. We also helped to load all the boxes collected across the classes into the car. Pippa - We worked together to draw and annotate the features of an Anglo-Saxon settlement. We learnt that they were eco warriors before their time!
St David	Safia - Last week I loved football and Maths. Maths was challenging, although, I felt it really pushed me to my limit. We did shape drawing and we had to do the exact right measurements and angles. Isla - My favourite thing was art. We looked at a Spanish artist (Salvador Dali) and he made surrealism art; we had to write about pieces. I enjoyed it because every time you looked at it, there is something new on the page.



A fantastic £293 was donated by families this year for our Christmas Jumper Day. The Government are match funding every penny so just short of £600 will be going to Save the Children from St Joseph's School and Pre-School – what an amazing amount, well done—thank you all for your continued generosity in troubled times.

CLASS MASS DATES	
12 th Jan	– Y1
19 th Jan	– Reception
26 th Jan	– Y6
2 nd Feb	– Y5
9 th Feb	– Y6
16 th Feb	– Y5
2 nd March	– Y4
9 th March	– Y3
16 th March	– Y2
23 rd March	– Y1
30 th March	– Reception



St Dominic's Dursley—children's liturgy takes place every Sunday at 10.30am Mass. Primary school children are invited to go into the parish hall for their own liturgy which includes prayers and activities linked to the week's Gospel. Tea, coffee and cake is also served after this Mass in the parish hall at Café Dominic for all parishioners.

CONTACT INFORMATION—
To try and save printing and paper costs we will not be sending out Data Sheets but rely on you to inform us of any changes to your child's contacts.
Thank you Admin Team.