



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through
Faith, Hope, and Love

Newsletter –Tuesday 5th December 2023

Keeping our Children Healthy

It is that time of year with the ever changing weather that our children are beginning to get coughs and colds. The children are or will be doing a REACH activity where they learn about good personal hygiene and how to stop the spread of germs. Any school-aged children that have missed their flu or HPV vaccine can call or email the school immunisation team to book a catch-up appointment: Telephone 0300 421 8140, Email GHC.Immunisation@ghc.nhs.uk

Has your child got a cough? UOB has produced a leaflet supporting actions to take when your child has a cough (attached).



Prospective Parents

Thank you all so much for your recommendations – we have shown round a record number of parents this year. If there are any more possible parents who you think would like to join our school family, please do let them know, they have until the 15th January to make their choices.

Uniform

Thank you all for supporting us in ensuring that your child/children come to school, smartly dressed and ready to learn. Please make sure that if their hair is shoulder length that it is tied back, that if they are wearing earrings, they are studs, there is no nail varnish or tattoos and your child is wearing shoes not boots. On the odd occasion that your child is not able to come to school in their school shoes – thank you for letting us know why that is.

Governor Vacancies

Congratulations and thank you to Claire Wooldridge who has been elected as a new parent governor. Joining the Board soon too will be Fr Philip. There are still vacancies for foundation governors and parent governors. If you have some free time and would like to be involved with the strategic vision for St Joseph's then please let me know, I can put you in contact with one of our co-chairs who will explain the role further.

Governor news

At the last Governor's meeting, 30-11-2023, Governors voted unanimously to join with five other Catholic Primary Schools in Gloucestershire to become The Little Way Academy Trust. The Trust will commence on 1st January 2024. The focus of the Trust is to improve the quality of education for all pupils, while giving greater opportunities for staff and attracting more funding to be spent on resources.

It has involved many meetings and much work to set up the Trust and we are grateful to all those involved in other schools, the Diocesan Education Department and our staff. In being

part of the founding members of the MAT, we hope that the future of St Joseph's will be secure and that we can offer more educational opportunities for all our pupils and staff.

LWP

Little Way Partnership staff training & time to reflect

On 6th November, while our children were having an additional day of half-term holidays, our staff were busy joining with other staff from our Partnership Catholic Schools. 230 staff from our schools collected together at St Peter's Primary School in Gloucester to learn together and from each other.

The staff had an opportunity to hear speakers talk about their own faith journey and we had time to reflect on ours too, learning to grow closer to God. We learnt about some lovely ways to help our children learn from the Gospels and we even took part in a twinning activity which created a Penpal Link between every class within our Partnership. Each class has already started to learn about their twinned class in another school and we look forward to seeing how these relationships develop between our schools both this year and into the future. We can learn so much from each other and it's so important that our children know that our school is part of something much bigger within our Partnership. Watch out for more information about how our schools are working together - coming soon!



Sporting News



Year 5's swimming lessons are coming to an end and I would like to thank all of the parents who have supported with transport to keep the cost to a minimum.

It will be Year 4 after Christmas. The letter will be going out soon, if you are able, please do sign up to help us with transport and enable us to keep the cost of the lessons down.

It is the third cross country race this Saturday morning - I think it is going to be another wet and muddy one! If at all possible, please can runners arrive 5 minutes early, park at Vale Vets and walk up the avenue to the Rugby Club. The amount of cars to park are causing great issues with the neighbours. Thank you for your help with this - see you all at Dursley Rugby Club at 9.30am Saturday morning.



Residential Next Year

Thank you all who managed to join us for the meeting about the Year 6 residential next year. If you have any questions then do ask and if you would like to discuss the cost of the trip again, please get in touch with us as soon as possible.

PTA News

The Christmas Raffle is coming soon. Don't forget – non-uniform day this Wednesday in exchange for a coloured item. Just a reminder that the colours are:

Reception/EYFS: RED
 Year 1 & 4: PURPLE
 Year 2: WHITE/SILVER
 Year 3: BLUE
 Year 5: YELLOW/GOLD
 Year 6: GREEN



We need to say a huge thank you to the PTA who have funded the fabulous new rotating book shelves for the KS2 classrooms and the seating areas for the KS1 classrooms – giving each classroom an area where high quality texts can be displayed and children can read for pleasure.

Attendance

We had a visit from our Inclusion Officer from the Local Authority last week, who was reviewing our attendance policy and practise. Our policy is due to be reviewed anyway. She has recommended some changes which we will consider and update you on in the new year.

Below is the data the LA hold – children whose attendance is below 90%

PA (Autumn Term only)			
Academic Year	Number	Rate (%)	Trend
2022/23	21	14.09	↑
2021/22	13	8.67	↑
2020/21	6	4.17	↓
2019/20	7	4.35	↑
2018/19	5	3.27	

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-pupil-absence>

Children whose absence has been affected by an unauthorised holiday

Total Holiday Absence	days missed	Rate (%)	Trend
2022/23	57	0.58	↑
2021/22	45	0.43	↑
2020/21	12	0.12	↓
2019/20	61	0.52	↑
2018/19	54	0.49	

PA – Persistently Absent (attendance is 90% or under)

Clubs

This is the last week that staff led clubs will be running, thank you for supporting your child to join in the wider life of the school this term and for your prompt collection when the club has finished. Lego and Dodgeball run until 19th/20th Dec. A letter about the clubs for next term will come out towards the end of term.

Advent Retreat



Thank you to those parents who were able to join us for our annual Advent Retreat last week. The afternoon is a reminder of the excellent behaviour that we have at St Joseph's. The Chaplaincy team did us proud, as usual, delivering their stations in the classrooms across the school as the rest of the school moved around silently and respectfully between each one. A great way to begin Advent with some quiet reflection. Thank you to Mrs Barron and Mrs Hill who prepared the team so well to enable them to deliver their stations to the rest of the school family and to the parents/grand parents for their lovely feedback.

Chaplaincy News

Just a reminder that this Thursday afternoon is the CAFOD Toy Sale. Thank you so much with your support in sending in items to be sold that afternoon – many items are of good quality and some are new! We hope to see you there after school on Thursday.



Christmas Tree

Thank You

We need to again thank Mr and Mrs Brown for donating the most beautiful Christmas tree to school.

If you are looking for a top quality Christmas tree, you can pick your own fresh-cut Nordmann Fir Christmas Trees from the Browns farm in Uphorpe, Cam.





*Open on Saturday
25th of November*



UPTHORPE CHRISTMAS TREES
CAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE



<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/programmes/collective-worship/>

Just a reminder that you are able to access and see the focus for our Liturgies through the Ten Ten monthly Parent Newsletter.



This week's Advent prayer is written by Year 4.

Dear God,

You are my light and shining star. Help me to give someone a smile, make them happy and let my light shine. Thank you for everything, for loving us and helping us to understand that Jesus is the light of the world.

Amen

Class Mass

Class Mass will take place on a Thursday at 10am, we would be delighted if you are able to join your child and their class when it is their turn.

Two more class Mass' to go. It was lovely to hear that so many reception parents joined their children for Mass the week before last.

Thursday 7th December – Year 5
Thursday 14th December - Year 4



Dates for your



December

Wednesday 6th December - PTA non-uniform day for coloured item for the Christmas hampers

Thursday 7th Dec - Pre-loved toy sale for CAFOD World Gifts

Saturday 9th December cross country race

Tuesday 12th - KS1 dress rehearsal (**10.30am**)

Wednesday 13th - 9.30am KS1 Nativity

Thursday 14th - 2.00pm KS1 Nativity

Tuesday 19th - School Christmas dinner

6.30pm - KS2 Carol Concert

Wednesday 20th Pantomime AM

Thursday 21st - Christingle AM

Friday 22nd - Christmas Breakfast

Assembly 9.30am Hamper raffle

Friday 22nd - Key Stage parties in the morning

Friday 22nd - 1.30pm end of term

Friday 22nd - Christmas jumper day in aid of Save the Children

Friday 22nd End of term 1.30pm

Spring Term 1

January 2024

Monday 8th - INSET day

Wednesday 10th - Y6 PC Schoolsbeat visit - Internet safety 9.30am

Saturday 13th January cross country race

Tuesday 16th - Y4 swimming starts