



Diocese of Clifton

Faith, Hope, Love

St Joseph's Catholic School Newsletter

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4th April 2022 Term 4-3



From Mrs Howells

Where has the term gone...I can't believe it's nearly time for the Easter holidays! What a busy few weeks it has been. I would like to start by thanking you for all of your support over the last term. It has been disappointing that on a few occasions we have been unable to offer our usual remote learning. It has possibly been the most challenging yet in terms of staff absence. Unfortunately, we have had quite a significant amount of staff who have been affected by Covid and have been unwell. However, as usual the committed team here at St Joseph's have done their very best to ensure that teaching and learning has continued uninterrupted. I would like to thank all of our staff who work tirelessly. I am especially grateful to Mrs Hamlin, Mrs Daly and Ms Busby – flexibility and adapting on the spot is their speciality. We are so grateful and lucky to have them.

The last couple of weeks have been especially busy for Year 6. Hamish, Daisy, Harvey R and Sam took place in the wildlife quiz competition where they were competing against three other local schools. They did so well. Some of the questions were really challenging. The teams changed their positions throughout the quiz. There was only 2 points between us and the winning team. Whilst we did not win, Mrs Daly who took the Year 6 children to the event, was so proud of them. They represented the school so well and praise given to them for their conduct by the hosting school. Well done to you all what a great example to the rest of the school you are and thank you to Mrs Daly, who took the team so that they could take part.

It was the last dance lesson on Friday. Steph, who has taught the children for the last few weeks supported by Ollie, could not speak highly enough about our children. What a pleasure it had been, how much she has enjoyed coming to our school, how well the children listen and respond and as a result, what they have achieved in a short space of time. I was lucky enough to see all of the final performances – the concentration on our children's faces and the smiles showed how much they have enjoyed it. The music lessons are coming to an end too. Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed the music tech workshop, Year 4 have enjoyed learning to play the clarinet and Year 1 have had fun exploring notes and playing to a beat. I am sure that you have seen some of the picture on the class blogs from these great activities.

The highlight of my week last week was the mock trials. This is a well-established event where a team of children prepare to argue against another school. When Year 6 were enjoying their crime and punishment topic earlier in the year the invitation to join the trail came in. It is not something that either Mrs Knight or myself have been involved in before but thought we would give it go to see what experiences our children could get from it. It was definitely worth taking part. The team were: Freya, Michael, Harvey O, Emily, Maya, Benedict, Francesca, Harry, Charlie, Jack, Sam and James. Emily was our court reporter – taking notes throughout the trail and Sam, the artist, capturing the scene by drawing. Our team were the defence and needed to create reasonable doubt for the accused. It required quick thinking and responding on the spot to unknown questions. On arrival, the children were surprised by how seriously the event was being taken. But, not deterred they quickly got into the event and their roles. They did so well and won their first mock trial! Later that day, the organiser telephoned school to say how impressed they had been with our children and how well they had done especially seeing as it was their first time and they were competing against another school who had years of experience. The event is scored throughout. How well we did over all, we will have to wait and see! Thank you Mrs Kingston, Mrs Wright and Mrs Britton for taking the children and enabling them to take part in this great event. Thank you to all of you who have contacted Mrs Daly about coming in during Health week. It's not too late, if there is anything that you are able to offer please do let Mrs Daly know. The more parents that are able to support with this week the more exciting learning opportunities we are able to offer our children.

We are delighted that we have a new member of staff to join the Admin team. Mrs Gemma Wilkins will be in the office this week and will begin on a Thursday and Friday after Easter. Thank you for your patience while we have been short of staff this term.

We will be very sad to lose Jane Allen, who is retiring at Easter. Jane started work at St Josephs in 2008. She has worked tirelessly since I have known her but even more so during the last couple of years with the enhanced cleaning due to Covid. We cannot thank her enough for all that she has done for us and will certainly miss her. I am sure she will still pop in to see us on the way to do her horses in the mornings. Miss Wright will also be leaving us at Easter. We would like to thank her for all that she has done for the child that she supports while she has been with us and we wish her all the very best for the future.

Thank you for all of your contribution toward the Easter Hampers. Mrs Wand will be in later on today to put them together. I would like to thank her once again, for the amazing job that she does with them. Photos of the hampers will be sent out as soon as we have them. Also, just a reminder about the PTA's Easter Event on Sunday 10th April 1-4pm. We hope to see you there! Mrs Barron has been working hard with Year 6 to prepare for this year's Stations of the Cross. We are very much looking forward to this on Thursday morning.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter. I hope that you all have a well-deserved rest and get to spend some time with friends and families. The children need to recharge their batteries and come back in summer uniform ready to go for the Summer Term!



We pray for the safety of those impacted by the war. We ask for God to protect them from harm and fear. We ask God to comfort those experiencing the loss of friends and family, their homes, and sense of security. We pray that the people of Ukraine will not lose faith but maintain hope. We pray with Mary, Queen of Peace for peace between these countries.



Class News!

St Mary	Bessie - I like the baby dolls. Charlotte - We went in the snow outside!
St Joseph	Julia – I am enjoying literacy because I like the story of the Gingerbread Man. Beatrix – I enjoy school especially when we made super hero masks with Miss Mason.
St Peter	Olive—I have liked doing literacy, today we had to write a letter to Willie Wonka and I enjoyed it. Hebe—This week I have liked completing my Great Teams because I've liked writing about what has happened.
St Patrick	Theo - I love swimming and this week I earned my badge. Maya - In science, we tested out how water is transported up flowers. It was really fun!
St George	"I really enjoyed learning dance with Steph. In three weeks we learnt a whole routine and performed it to Mrs Hares and Mrs Howells." "I really liked it when Gloucestershire Rugby Club came in. We learnt how to play tag rugby and we did some games at the end which was really fun. Even Mrs Hares got to join in!"
St Teresa	Alfie- I have really enjoyed converting different units of measure especially mm to cm. Alfie— I love performing 'Walking with my iguana' poem and using the bongos. You can watch our performances if you go to the Year 5 blog.
St David	Sam - I really enjoyed the Gloucestershire Nature Quiz that a small Year 6 team went to. It was fun talking about wildlife; it is my passion! Benedict - I really enjoyed the Mock Trial that we took part in because it was a brilliant experience working as a team to find Charlie (Harvey) not guilty, but it was a very close decision.

WOMEN AND GIRLS FOOTBALL

The final FGR Women's team game is on

Sunday 1st May vs St Austell 2pm KO

This game is free to watch at Chalford Sports and Social Club, GL6 8LZ. Refreshments available to buy.

The opposition side is vying for the title while FGR are looking to confirm a top half finish in their first season since promotion. This should be a competitive game so it would be great to have lots of you coming along to support.



Hi all,

Thanks so much again for your generous donations last week.

I just wanted to share a quick update - we delivered some of the supplies to [Molson Group in Avonmouth](#) on Thursday (as they were still taking nappies, wet wipes etc) and delivered the rest on Saturday to the [Bristol International Centre for Ukraine](#). Both organisations are still taking donations if you know of anyone who would like to donate further items. (Just check their websites for up to date info). Astrid Barrowman



This term for our PE unit we have been doing Dance. The children have benefited enormously from having Stef Reid come to us (a professional dancer, fresh from a European Tour) as part of the Montagu Academy's amazing provision for our PE coaching. Each class has been learning a different routine, and have been brilliant at remembering it through the weeks. We are always so proud of how hard the children commit to their learning, and Stef (new to the school) has been commenting how brilliant their attitude to learning something new has been. Olly, who usually sees them in PE for sport has also been hugely impressed with their engagement and expression in this unit. Great work St Joes!



END OF TERM EARLY FINISH

SCHOOL WILL FINISH AT 1.30PM THIS FRIDAY. PLEASE BE PROMPT AND ARRIVE ON TIME.

