



Diocese of Clifton  
Faith, Hope, Love

# St Joseph's Catholic School Newsletter

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21st March 2022 Term 4-2



*From Mrs Howells*

We are half way through term 4 and the weather seems to be improving, the ground is drying up which means that we have been able to have the children on the field for a few days. The morning dew is still heavy so wellies are required. Please ensure that your child has all that they need (wellies, coats etc..) and are ready to go outside whatever the weather.

We hope that you enjoyed speaking to your child's class teacher during parents evening. We are well aware that many of you have missed coming into school to look at their books with them. We are planning to invite you all in hopefully soon, however, at the moment we are seeing an increase in positive covid cases, along with all other schools in the area, which is putting a hold on this for the moment. For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic there are several members of staff who are off at the same time, which has meant that sadly we are unable to offer remote learning to one year group. I am hoping that we are past the worst of it and will be back to our full complement of staffing soon.

On Saturday, 4 of our children went to Cheltenham to compete in the Primary Schools County Cross Country Championships 2022. The children, who have attended running club since the club began, completed a time trial last term. All of the times were submitted to Ron, the organiser of the KLB races, along with the times from other schools and Maya, Emily, Lawrence and Raffy were chosen to compete at the championships. The course is a killer – there is a hill that the runners have to climb which is steeper and longer than the hills at Woodchester. Our children were St Joseph's through and through, ran as well as they could and were the best that they can be! Well done to you all, what an amazing achievement to be selected. Also, thank you to Mrs Hares and Mr Britton who run the club and to the other parents who have supported the club so that they are able on occasion to go off site to train.

Last Wednesday was a busy day in school, we had invited some visitors in to look at teaching and learning across the school with us. We were in and out of classrooms all day, speaking to children and looking in their books, something that Miss Jones and myself do on a regular basis. They went away impressed by the calm purposeful atmosphere across the school and the high expectations that are being set. The children who they spoke to, as ever articulated their learning well and did us proud. One of the visitors, an ex Headteacher, commented that she wished the children's books in her schools had looked like ours!

Last Thursday we celebrated St Joseph's Feast Day by coming together as a school for Mass. Although St Joseph's Feast was actually on Saturday, Thursday was the day for us. Despite it being 6 months since the last Mass that we were able to attend together, the children conducted themselves impeccably. They sang beautifully and read well. We were also joined by the Sisters from the Convent and a parent! What great opportunities our children are being offered once again. As usual, I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Gwyer for organising the Mass for us.

Just a reminder of the opportunity for you to go and watch a FGR home game on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022. Please contact the school office if you would like to go by Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022. This opportunity is being offered to the school thanks to the enthusiasm and commitments of our FGR ambassadors this year along with the support of their parents – thank you so much.

I would like to thank the parents who dropped into Mrs Knight's classroom after school to look at some of the new books that we now have for Key Stage 2 and ask any questions. For those of you who were unable to make it, a copy of the hand out that was there has been emailed out for your information today.

Last week was Science Week and my goodness what a hard job Mrs Hobbs had at selecting the posters to submit to the competition, the standard and effort put in by the children who entered was so high! Congratulations to Francesca (Y6), Lucy (Y4), Safia (Y5), Orla (Y4) and Tristan (R), whose posters were entered to the competition.

Finally, we are understaffed in the office at the moment while we are recruiting to replace Ms Harper. Miss Gardiner will be in the office Monday–Wednesday, 8.30am–4.00pm. The admin email will not be monitored from Wednesday until Monday. Mrs Meek will be in the office on Thursday and Friday from 9.30am–2.30pm. On Thursday and Friday if you need to contact us please email [schoolfinance@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:schoolfinance@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk)

## A prayer for refugees

*Jesus, friend and brother,  
You know what it is like to be hungry and thirsty.  
You know what it feels like to be a stranger who is made unwelcome.  
You know the suffering of all who have lost everything.  
We pray that by welcoming refugees we may show love for our neighbour and be closer to you.  
Amen*

## **Class News!**



St Mary	Otto - I built a football pitch! Alvin - I am Police!
St Joseph	Jake - I liked writing the little red riding hood story and making my penguin nest. Elliot - I enjoyed making the penguin nest and playing football at REACH time.
St Peter	Sol – This week I have been learning about how to tell the time. We've been learning about the hour hand and the minute hand. Oliver – I've been learning about Jesus. He told us a story about the Lost Sheep.
St Patrick	Kacper - I enjoyed learning about pop-art in our REACH activity time. Isla C - I love going swimming with my class.
St George	Bella— I enjoyed making our paper cup telephones in science. We learnt how sound is caused by vibrations. Spencer—It was interesting to learn about riddles in literacy. We got to create our own one about an animal and we had to guess each other's.
St Teresa	Lawrence- On Friday we took part in a workshop delivered by Renishaw. We learnt new skills whilst using a cad design programme. Not only this but our 3D printing design will be printed for us to keep. Florence- We will also get to paint them once they are printed, as they come out grey. We have also been learning about Mardi Gras. We created our own masks to celebrate 'fat Tuesday'.
St David	Emily - This week in PE we have been focusing on gymnastics and learning new skills such as: tuck, pike, star, straddle, straight, V sit, teddy bear roll, front support and back support. Benedict - In Gymnastics this week, we have been practising routines to impress the PE Coaches (Ollie and Steff) and the winners were awarded 1 REACH point.



