



Diocese of Clifton

Faith, Hope, Love

St Joseph's Catholic School Newsletter

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7th November 2022 Term 1-4

From Mrs Howells

I hope that you all had a lovely half term, we are back to school and well underway with the busiest term of the school year. The children have come back ready to work hard to be the best that they can be.

The week before half term I had the pleasure of joining Year 6 on their residential. The week was jam packed with a wide range of outdoor activities which challenged the children and needed them to dig deep for confidence on many occasions. As always, our children did us proud. The staff at the centre commented on how well they listened to instructions and were engaged in the activities at all times. I would like to thank all of the team that made this fantastic opportunity possible for our children. We are in the process of booking the residential for our current Year 5's. As soon as we have managed this we will invite our Year 5 parents into school to discuss this trip.

I drove back from Llanwrtyd Wells just in time to join Year 4 for their Macmillan coffee morning – in the afternoon. What a brilliant way to end the half term. The event was a huge success, many parents and neighbours from the village came to join us. By the end of the afternoon the sale had raised just over £500 – what an amazing achievement. A huge well done to Year 4, this was their REACH activity for the half term, to plan and organise the event, and thank you all so much for your support, which made this such a successful event for both the children and for the charity too.

We seem to be having a bit of an issue with parking by the bus shelter. I would like to politely remind parents not to park on the yellow keep clear markings here, that ensure that there is access for our families with disabilities who need to use this space.

Last Tuesday was Holy Souls day and as a Holy Day of Obligation, our Catholic children, who have made their First Holy Communion, went along with the Chaplaincy Team to the convent and enjoyed Mass there. As always, they read beautifully and represented our school as we would expect them to. Thanks to Mrs Barron and Miss Williams for supporting the children at this event.

Last Thursday, Louise White, the education advisor from the Diocese, came to visit us for the day. She was once again, impressed by how much our children knew and by how well they could talk about their learning – especially our new Reception Class! That evening, some staff and Governors went to Clifton Cathedral and enjoyed this year's Education Mass. Thank you to Charlotte Daly who represented our school so well. The Mass was lovely and the choir was so impressive.

The following day our Chaplaincy Team headed off to St Peter's Primary School, to meet up with the other schools in our partnership for the commissioning of new members to the team. Because the commissioning was taking place locally, we took the opportunity to take all of the team along, some of whom have missed out over the last couple of years because of Covid. The service was lovely, followed by other fun activities. It was great to see our children mixing with children from other schools. Our children were so well behaved and Head Teachers from other schools commented on how smart they all were. I would like to thank Mrs Barron for coming to work on Friday, her day off, so that our Team did not miss out, and for organising the event, our Chaplaincy Team, who represented the school so well and to the parents who drove the children there Mr Clapp, Mrs Di Stazio, Mrs Batten and Mr Connolly.

Thank you to those parents who helped us by completing the survey that we sent out before half term. We are having a few issues accessing the data but, hopefully this will be resolved this week.

For those of you who made it on Saturday, wow, what another incredibly successful event that the PTA organised. Having watched the weather with concern, fortunately, once again, the rain stopped allowing the event to go ahead. It was lovely to see so many of you there as well as families whose children have left our school, coming back to the event and many of our neighbours from the village. What a great community event. I would like to say a huge thank you to the parents and staff who helped on the night and raised about £2300 for the children at school. But, mostly to Becky Maltby and her family who not only cooked the great food, Becky, Jon and Rachel, but also Rob and Mike, who planned, bought and set off the incredible 20 minute firework display. Thank you all so much for your kindness, time and generosity in making this event so successful.

During gardening club, the children are trying to plant the gravel wall outside the school with hardy plants. Every week, when they check them, they are finding that some of the grasses have been pulled out. If you see anyone, doing this please could you either let us know or support the children by asking them not to do it. They are finding this really upsetting.

This week is our Open week, when we are welcoming prospective parent to come and have a look around St Joseph's. If your friends and relatives have a child who will be starting school next September, please do let them know, they can book an appointment by contacting the school office.

Finally, we are looking forward to our remembrance service at the end of the week. Whilst Year 6 and Reception will be delivering the service, any parents who would like to join us are most welcome. Please contact the office to let them know so that we can ensure we have enough seats out.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November: For children who suffer

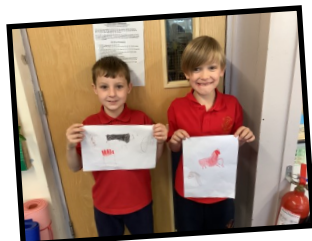
For children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.



Class News!



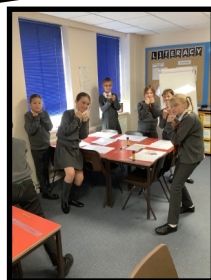
St Mary	David - I like the spinning firework! Darcie - We rolled the marbles around and made firework pictures!
St Joseph	Otto - I like maths and playtime. Freya - I enjoyed literacy and learning the Goldilocks and three bears story.
St Peter	James – I've been having fun playing football with my friends. I also like Maths. I like the bridging method. Seth – I've been playing football with my friends.
St Patrick	Sol - I loved the whole of last entire week, it was amazing! Sebbie - I have enjoyed learning about the stone age.
St George	Sidney - I have really enjoyed learning the related facts "magic" trick in Maths. Now I can do ANY times tables! Orla - I loved Religious Education because I was able to use the Bible a lot to help support me with my answers.
St Teresa	Rosalie - I enjoyed learning about St Therese and using a page from Mrs Hathaway's special Saint a day book to make links in my work. Elsie - I enjoyed geography where we learnt about the different biomes.
St David	Manny - I really enjoyed learning about parliament in our workshop. I also enjoyed guided reading because there was a funny poem this week. Sophia—In maths, I have enjoyed doing long division because it was challenging; we used our logic and skills. Also, today we talked to a member of parliament which was very interesting because it gave me a lot of knowledge.



Please use the link below to see the collective worship newsletter for November:

[Parent Newsletter –](#)

[Ten:Ten Resources](http://Ten:Ten Resources (tentenresources.co.uk))
(tentenresources.co.uk)



*Fri 11th Nov—Remembrance assembly 10.30am.
w/b 14th Nov—Anti Bullying Week
Thurs 24th Nov—Non uniform day in exchange for PTA hamper gift
Fri 25th Nov—Dursley and Nailsworth Councillors visiting Y6
Mon 28th Nov—Advent Retreat 1.30pm
Wed 7th Dec—KS1 Nativity 9.30am
Thurs 8th Dec—KS1 Nativity 2pm
Tues 13th Dec—Christmas dinner
Tues 13th Dec—KS2 Carol Concert
Wed 14th Dec—School panto (in-house)
Thurs 15th Dec—Christingle
Fri 16th Dec—Christmas Breakfast
Fri 16th Dec—Christmas Jumper Day
Fri 16th Dec—Assembly hamper raffle 9.30am
Fri 16th Dec—Key Stage parties in the morning
Fri 16th Dec—End of term 2 at 1.30pm*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Application forms for the next preparation course are available from the school office or the back of St Dominic's Church. Candidates should be at least 8 years old, or in Year 3 at school, to benefit fully.

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.