



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

Newsletter – Friday 19th January 2024



It feels a bit late to be saying that but just in case I have not had the chance to say it to you personally – Happy New Year. I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed the extra time after Christmas.

I would like to thank you all for your kind and thoughtful gifts that you gave to me and the staff they were much appreciated.

The last week of term leading up to Christmas was so busy. So much fun and great singing performances from our children – how lovely to be able to share so many events with you. Thank you for your feedback too- any points that you made will be raised during staff meetings for consideration moving forwards.

Exciting News

On the 1st January, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School became one of the founding members of the LWCET and we came back to school as an academy.



Little Way Catholic
Educational Trust

To celebrate this historical moment and achievement, the children came back to a fun filled day, lots of activities that helped them to learn about and support our MAT motto of - **little acts, great love, big difference**. The children made class banners, bookmarks, and they especially enjoyed our celebration cake and meeting with their link class via teams.

Thank you all so much for supporting our efforts of a little act making a big difference, especially as it was the first day back at school. After we had played cereal dominoes, we took 127 cereal boxes down to GL11, a community hub who are running their 'Janpers' campaign – putting together hampers for people who are in need during January.

From Charlotte Blanche – our interim CEO

Little Way Catholic Educational Trust – Launch Day

On 1st January 2024, the Little Way Catholic Educational Trust was born!

As a Trust, we have made a huge difference to the communities that we serve because we have donated over 800 boxes of cereal to local foodbanks such as Gloucester Feed the Hungry, Open Door and CCP. They were astounded at how much we were donating and one of the charities has even decided to roll this initiative out from our Trust to other schools and organisations in

Gloucestershire – this is incredible and shows how our actions really can benefit our wider community.

We also celebrated with cake...because what celebration doesn't have cake?

We are proud members of the LWCET – have a look at the 'welcome' videos to learn more about the other schools in the LWCET:

St Thomas More, Cheltenham <https://youtu.be/2i7RLJLE278>

St Gregory's, Cheltenham <https://youtu.be/CX-xlUGhCY4>

St Peter's, Gloucester <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVOO36Wlawk>

Rosary, Stroud <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqBBeiJE7V8>

St Joseph's, Nympsfield <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HszTAQ1iSuo>

St Catharine's, Chipping Campden <https://youtu.be/4aY1n7t4ORg>

Staffing update

Dear Parents/Carers

One of the many benefits of the process undertaken to join schools together in the LWCET has been the opportunity to redefine job descriptions.

It therefore gives me great pleasure in letting you know that Mrs Howells has been confirmed as Head teacher of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in a permanent capacity. This is super news for the whole school community and together with the Governors, I would like to thank her for all of her hard work over the last few years.

As a Trust, we are always looking out for Foundation and Parent Governors to support the work of the school. This role has shifted since becoming an academy to become much more focused on teaching and learning and so I ask you to consider whether you could volunteer to support your school in this important way. If you would like to know more, please visit the school website: http://www.st-josephs-nympsfield.com/web/meet_the_governors/358209.

With thanks for your continued support of St Joseph's

Mrs Charlotte Blanch
LWCET Interim CEO

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 your child comes to school wearing **black school shoes** – not boots. On the day that your child has PE they are allowed to wear trainers and of course Fridays. Please ensure that your child is in trainers – not high top trainer/boots as they restrict ankle movement which may cause an injury if worn when taking part in the wrong sport.

Governor Vacancies

Now that we have become part of the LWCET, the structure for governance has changed. However, there are still vacancies for foundation governors and one for a parent governor. 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.

Sporting News



Year 4's are having swimming lessons this term –thank you to all of the parents who are supporting this essential life-saving skill by helping to transport the children there and back again.

It was the third cross country race last Saturday morning- it was a much colder one, but less muddy. The children were amazing and as usual, ran well, supported each other and worked hard to be the best that they could be. Thank you to all of the parents who support this event, I know that this is an extra thing to do on a Saturday morning for many of you. Also, thank you for parking at Vale Vets and walking up the avenue to the Rugby Club. The final race will be held on **Saturday 3rd February**, this will be longer (10-12) as the presentations will take place afterwards in Stinchcombe Village Hall. If your child is not able to race that day - please let us know, every child is important to the team.

PTA News

The Christmas Raffle had such incredible prizes to be won – congratulations if you were a lucky winner! Thank you for your support with the donations for the Christmas hampers - they looked amazing. Thank you also to Mrs Wand, who yet again made a pile of coloured items into magnificent hampers.

The Christmas raffle raised just over £1,000 this year – what an incredible amount especially at a time when so much else is going on. The fireworks raised £2,413 and breakfast with Santa ran at a loss. Thank you all so much for your hard work in fund raising – all of which goes to benefit our children.



THANK YOU!

Attendance

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Any child whose attendance is **below 90%** is considered as **persistently absent**.

What does that actually mean?

90% means that your child has missed a day every other week of the Autumn term.

They have missed **8 days** of school.

8 days = 72 lessons (minimum)

You are aware that we track all children's attendance – this happens when attendance falls below 96%. Any parent of a child who is recorded as persistently absent (**90% and below**) will be receiving a letter to ensure that you, as parents, are aware of your child's attendance as this will be having a significant impact on your child's progress.

Save the Children

Many thanks to all of you who supported the Christmas Jumper Day on the last day of term. You raised an amazing £237.70 – thank you all so much!



Clubs



This term's clubs started back this week. Thank you for signing your children up. We offer a wide range of clubs considering the size of our school. We are also supported by some of our dedicated parents who run weekly clubs which enables us to offer such great opportunities to our children. Please encourage your child/children to come along and join in if they are not already and please do let us know if you would like to join a club to help or would like to lead a club.

This is also a polite reminder asking you to collect your child/ren from clubs on time. Staff are willingly spending additional time after school with your children, please show your appreciation and respect that by collecting your child/ren promptly.

Many Hands Make light work.....

Last week Laura sent out a message asking if anyone would be able to help clear the school site if we had some snow. Thank you to the one parent who responded, your response was much appreciated. I am hoping that this message was lost amongst other communication last week. So, if you are able to offer some help in the event of snow, please email Laura and she will gladly make a list of parents who are able to help.



Chaplaincy News



2025 will be a Jubilee year in the Catholic Church. To prepare for this special year Pope Francis has designated 2024 as a Year of Prayer. During this year we are encouraged to deepen our commitment to prayer and accompany others, especially school communities, in their prayer life. We should reflect and think about why we pray.

Pope Francis tells us that "Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters. It is in prayer that our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity."

During the year there will be a particular focus on the prayer Jesus taught us, the 'Our Father.'

Our Father,
Who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

The School Council and Chaplaincy continue to work together with the aim of making a prayer garden. They have a design, and they have had a quote from a landscape gardener. If anyone knows a good landscape gardener who would be willing to come up and give us a quote, please contact the Admin Team and let us know....then the fund raising will begin!

The team are getting ready for the Lent Retreat on Thursday 8th February. Please do come along and join us for the afternoon, all are welcome.



<https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/OfciUdRB2b3N/>

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 prayer is our LWCET prayer;



St Thérèse,
Help me to always believe,
As you did, in God's great love for me,
So that I might imitate your 'little way'
each day.
Amen

St Thérèse; pray for us.

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.

Thursday 18th January – No Mass
Thursday 25th January - Year 2 & Year 1
Thursday 1st February – Reception
Thursday 8th February – Year 6
Thursday 22nd February - Year 5

Thursday 29th February – Year 4
Thursday 7th March – Year 3
Thursday 14th March - Year 2
Thursday 21st March – Year 1



Dates for your



PTA updates.....

Wednesday 28th February

Friday 1st March

Sunday 24th March

Non-uniform day - in exchange for and Easter gift for the
Easter Hampers
PTA Disco
PTA Easter Event 1-4pm

February

Saturday 3rd – Last cross country race

Thursday 8th – Lent Retreat

Friday 9th Feb – Half Term

Spring Term 2

WB 19th – Week of Awe and Wonder

Tuesday 20th – Y3 swimming starts

Wednesday 28th – Non-uniform day

March

Friday 1st – PTA Disco

Tuesday 5th – Parents Evening with
Scholastic Book Fayre

Wednesday 6th – Parents Evening with
Scholastic Book Fayre

Thursday 7th – World Book Day

WB 11th – SEN structured conversations
face to face

Friday 15th – Year 6 Skill Zone visit

Thursday 21st House Singing Competition
1.30pm

Friday 22nd – Stations of the Cross AM
(Chaplaincy Team)

Friday 22nd – End of Term 1.30pm

Sunday 24th – PTA Easter event 1-4pm

April

Tuesday 9th – Rec and Y6 heights,
weights and vision NHS screening

Tuesday 9th - Y2 swimming starts

Friday 19th – Y6 PC Schoolsbeat visit –
online relationships 1pm

May

WB 13th May – KS2 SATs

WB 20th May – Y6 Bikeability training

Friday 24th May – Half Term

Change of date – EYFS parents evening now Monday 10th June 2024