



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

Newsletter – Friday 10th October 2025

Only a couple of weeks to go until half term. Whilst the sun is putting in an appearance at the moment, it can be chilly in Nympsfield. Please make sure that you send your child fully dressed for the weather. Teaching and learning is well and truly underway, and the children are all working hard, striving to 'be the best that they can be'.

I would like to thank Mrs Lane so much for her time this week, weeding the pathway on the entrance up to the main school gates – what a difference you have made. What a great act of kindness – thank you.

Macmillan



What a hugely successful event. I would like to thank you all for your support. Whilst this was a Year 3 event, many of you supported by providing cakes and most of you supported the event by sending your child to school with some money to buy cakes and it was lovely to see those of you who were able to join us for the afternoon. It was also lovely to see some residents from the village who joined us too. Your generosity resulted in the event raising an incredible £812.40! This is an incredible amount for a small village school. Miss Drury has run this event with her class for the last 3 years. The children learn so much from organising and running this event as well as developing the confidence to communicate with unfamiliar adults. Altogether these events have raised over £2000. I would like to thank Miss Drury for organising the events and you all for your great support of it.

Parents evening

Parents evenings are next week on **Tuesday 14th October 3.30–5pm (Y4 until 5.30pm)** and **Wednesday 15th October 3.30–6.30pm**.

The links went live last week, if you have not signed up yet - please do so before Sunday. Just as a reminder to ensure that the evening runs smoothly:

- Please come into the school hall before your appointment time
- Let Mrs Howells know that you are there
- Find your child's books and have a look through them
- Mrs Howells will call you when it is time to go to meet your child's class teacher
- If you have finished looking through the books, please take them into the classroom with you
- Knock on the classroom door to let the teacher know that you are waiting
- All parents get a 10-minute time slot
- Please stick to your allotted time
- Class teacher's will monitor the time

Thank you for your support in ensuring that the evenings run efficiently for everyone.

Story Time at the Convent



The next date is fast approaching – it is on Friday 17th Oct at 9am. Mrs Hammond, a past parent, will be sharing once again a couple of stories with the children and their parents if they are able to come.

Having spoken with parents who came last time, we agreed that, they could drop their children off at school and instead of waiting for us to go to the convent, they could go on down, get a tea/coffee and have a chat in the warm. We will organise it this time so that all children whose parents are able to come will sit with their child and pre-school children are welcome too. We are looking forward to another lovely start to a Friday Morning.

Harvest Celebrations this year

We are looking forward to our KS1 harvest celebration on Wednesday 22nd October at 9.15am. KS1 will be collecting donations for the Stroud Foodbank. Donations can be brought into school from Monday 20th October. Please see the advert below for this year's shopping list.



Harvest Appeal



Help support your food bank this Harvest

We're collecting donations to support local households across the district. Every gift makes a big difference!

Donate Food

Donate whilst you shop at:
Waitrose Stroud • Tesco Stroud, Cam & Merrywalks • Sainsbury's Stroud • Most local Co-ops

Or drop off at our warehouse:
Unit 19, Canal Iron Works, Hope Mill Lane,
Brimscombe, Stroud GL5 2SH
Monday to Friday 10am–12pm

Or visit us on our Open Days:
Thursday 23rd October 10am–4pm
Saturday 25th October 10am–12pm

Donate money

Prefer to give financially? Your donation helps cover the costs of buying, storing and distributing food, and supports sustainable projects for those facing hardship.

Shopping list

Tinned Ham
Fray Bentos Pie
Pasta Sauce
Tinned Potatoes
Nuts or Crisps
Biscuits
Fruit Juice (long-life)
Milk (UHT)
Shampoo & Conditioner
Laundry Detergent

Please click the QR code to donate

<https://strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk>



Key Stage 2 will be doing something a little different – they will be supporting a soup kitchen as a celebration and giving thanks for the food that we have while sharing it with others.

Each class will be preparing the vegetables to support Lucy, our talented cook, in making soup to serve to themselves and members of our community. We are asking parents to donate specific ingredients in order to make the soups!

Year 3	Carrot and parsnip
Year 4	Vegetable soup and pasta
Year 5	Roasted sweet potato and carrot
Year 6	Tomato and basil



All ingredients need to be delivered to school on Wednesday 15th October. Parents are invited to join their children to share their soup at 12.20pm. It is essential that any parents who are able to join us let the Admin Team know so that we are able to fully prepare for the amount of people coming. The soup kitchen will then be open to the community at 1.15pm.

Prospective parents

It is that time again and the phone has been ringing with parents who are considering which school to send their children to in September. What is really lovely is that when I ask how the parents have heard about us, most of them are recommendations from existing or past parents. Please do let your friends know about us if their child is coming to school in September. Next academic year is another low birth rate year so it is really important for our school that as many parents as possible come to see us so that they can make the decision about the right school for their child.

Staffing Update

We have some good news, I am sure that you will remember Mrs Staples, she left us last autumn to have her baby, and she will be coming back after October half term. We are very much looking forward to her return and having her back as part of the team.

Mrs Frankcom will be leaving us just before half term. She has decided to make a change to her career. We would like to thank her for all of her hard work while she has been with us and wish her all the very best in her new job although we will of course still see her on the playground!

Sporting events – Cross Country League 2025/2026



Race one is nearly here – next Saturday 18th October. Thank you to all of the children who are part of our team this year and to their parents for their support.

There is a mindful mile at the Dursley Rugby Club on a Saturday morning at 9am which is a great opportunity for all of our runners to go and familiarise themselves with the course if you are free at that time. Looking forward to seeing you all for race 1.

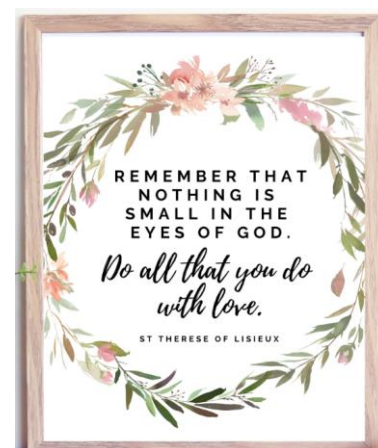
Prayer Garden

The prayer garden is nearly there. Mr and Mrs Barron, Mr and Mrs Jenkins and Miss Gardiner spent several hours with Mrs Steele, Austin's Gran planting up the prayer garden – there are a few more plants to come and then it will be fully ready for use. We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Steele for her time and expertise in advising, sourcing and leading the planting for the garden – your support has been invaluable – thank you so much. And to the staff for again giving up their weekend to realise the children's dream.

Little Way Week

What a great week it has been. The children have been involved in lots of different activity all focussing on little acts of kindness. And what a great end to the week – the Macmillan Cake Sale. All schools in our MAT were asked to make a 1 minute reel to be shared with the other schools, showing what our week had looked like. If you haven't yet seen it, please find it here:

[Little Way Week Facebook Reel](#)



School trips - Pay it Forward

I would like to thank the parents who have already paid it forward for the Stroud Literacy and Author event and during Little Way Week too. Your small act of kindness will make a big difference to someone else - thank you so much.

Stroud Literacy Festival and Author

There appears to be some confusion about the cost of this event. Just to clarify the cost of £4 covers the class activity in the Stroud Literacy Festival and the cost of Sian Hughes the Author who will be visiting school around that time. Thank you for your support in enabling this

Attendance



Last year we started looking at punctuality. This year class teachers have already spoken to several parents about the importance of children arriving at school on time and the impact that it is having on their learning when they are late. Not only does it impact on the child that is late but it also impacts on the rest of their class, who are settled into their learning and a late arrival disturbs this.

As a polite reminder:

School gates open at 8.40am

School starts at 8.50am

In order for your child to be in their classroom, ready to learn they need to be **walking through the school gates by 8.45am.**

I have left this information about lateness in as sadly there has not been much of an improvement. Class teachers will have spoken to some parents about this already and will also be addressing this at parents evening next week.

We need your help!

Thank you so much to all of the parents who have donated to the request for toys. We have had some things come in but still need more. If you have any of the items listed below they would be greatly received:

- Barbies
- Dolls House
- Car/ Tractor Tyres
- Dressing up
- Toy cars
- Clip boards
- Scooters
- Toy animals/ dinosaurs
- Toy prams
- Pots and Pans
- Cooking utensils (wood spoons, whisks etc)
- Musical instruments (recorders, xylophones, keyboards etc)
- Crayons/ pencils
- Pebbles/ bark



Thank you in advance for your support in developing the outdoor play opportunities for our children!

PTA News

There are still a couple of tables left for the quiz- please get in touch with Jo Smee if you would like a table.

Monday 13th October is a non-uniform day. This is in exchange for sweets in a jar/bags/cones or a bottle of alcohol – all will be used for prizes at the Christmas Market.

If you have any medium or small teddies that are in good condition they would be gratefully received too.

I would like to thank the PTA for their recent purchases. They have bought new tables for Year 2 – they were delivered a couple of weeks ago and make the room look much lighter-



what a lovely place for the children to learn. And for buying some games for Mrs Ponting's lunchtime club – Check Mate. There are a couple of games that are very popular and this will help to reduce the waiting time for the children that are keen to have a go!

Families First newsletter

[Families in Partnership newsletter October 2025 | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Also, [The Annual Parent Carer Survey for SEND families is now live](#) – please take 10 minutes to share your views to help them to improve services.



Mass Schedule

Mass begins at 10am

Thursday 16th October - Year 2
Wednesday 22nd October KS1 Harvest
celebration – all welcome
Thursday 23rd October – Year 1

October Half Term

Thursday 6th November – Reception
Tuesday 11th November - Remembrance Service
10.30am – all welcome
Thursday 13th November – Year 6
Thursday 20th November – Year 5

Thursday 27st November – Year 4
Thursday 27th 1.30pm – Advent Retreat- all
welcome
Thursday 4th December – Year 3
Tuesday 11th December 11am – KS1 Nativity
Wednesday 10th December – 9.30am
Thursday 11th December – 2pm
Thursday 11th December – Year 2
Tuesday 16th December 6.30pm KS2 Carol
Concert
Thursday 18th December – Christingle Service –
all welcome
9.00 – KS1 10am – KS2



[October 2025](#)

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 from the Diocese:

We pray especially today for our Jewish brothers and sisters caught up in the dreadful events in Crumpsall, and ask the Lord to embrace those who have died in his love and grant them eternal rest. Help us to build a community of our love, solidarity, and support so that together we may gain lasting peace for all.





Bishop Bosco statement on the Attack in Manchester



Returning from our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome, I was deeply shocked and saddened to learn of the violent attack in Manchester on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. We grieve with the Jewish community at the tragic loss of lives and we hold in prayer those who remain in hospital with serious injuries.

On behalf of the Diocese of Clifton, I wish to express our heartfelt solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters at this time of anguish. An attack carried out in a place of worship, or on a day of sacred observance, wounds not only the immediate victims but the whole fabric of our society.

As Christians, we share with the Jewish people a profound bond of faith and history. A true Christian cannot be an anti-Semite. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the Jewish community in condemning violence, hatred, and terror in all its forms.

We also keep in our prayers the police, emergency services, and all who responded with courage. In the face of such darkness, we turn to the God of Abraham, the God of life and peace, and pray that He will bring healing, consolation, and the strength to build together a future founded on mutual respect and hope.

I ask that all parishes and schools in our diocese remember in their prayers the victims of this attack, their grieving families, and the Jewish community in Manchester and beyond.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.

+Bosco

Rt Rev Bosco MacDonald
Bishop of Clifton

Dates for your



October 2025 - Month of the Rosary (Month of Mary)

Monday 13th - Non-Uniform day

Tuesday 14th - Y5 STEM day - meeting at Wycliffe

Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th - Parents Evening

Thursday 16th - KS2 Soup kitchen 1-2pm (early lunches)

Friday 17th - Story time EYFS/Y1 at Convent (parents invited too) 9.00am

Saturday 18th - Cross Country race in Dursley RFC

WB 20th - Y6 Residential Week

WB 20th - Week of Awe and Wonder

Tuesday 21st - SEND Information Meeting 9am

Wednesday 22nd - KS1 Harvest celebration 9.15am

Friday 24th October - Half Term ☺

Autumn Term 2 - November 2025

Monday 3rd - INSET day

Tuesday 4th - Sian Hughes visiting school (author)

Tuesday 4th - PTA AGM at 7pm - all parents/carers welcome

Wednesday 5th - Stroud Literacy Festival

Wednesday 5th - Parent Forum 9am - all welcome

WB 10th - Anti Bullying week

Tuesday 11th - Remembrance assembly 10.30am

Thursday 13th - whole school flu immunisation

Saturday 15th - Cross country race (2)

Thursday 20th - Chaplaincy commissioning

Friday 21st - Story time EYFS/Y1 at Convent (parents invited too) 9.00am

Saturday 22nd - PTA Christmas Craft Market 12pm-3pm

Monday 24th - Non-Uniform day Christmas hamper

Thursday 27th - Advent Retreat 1.30pm

December 2025

WB 1st - Last week for teacher led clubs

Tuesday 2nd - Y6 and Reception Heights and Weights

Saturday 6th - Cross country race (3)

Tuesday 9th - KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal

Wednesday 10th - KS1 Nativity 9.30am

Thursday 11th - KS1 Nativity 2.00pm

Friday 12th - Story time EYFS/Y1 at Convent (parents invited too) 9.00am

Tuesday 16th - KS2 Carol Concert 6.30pm

Wednesday 17th - Music concert am- pantomime pm

Wednesday 17th - Christmas Dinner

Thursday 18th - Christingle KS1 - 9.00am KS2 - 10.00am

Friday 19th - Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children charity

Friday 19th - PTA Christmas and Breakfast with Santa

Friday 19th - Assembly 9.30am with PTA Hamper Raffle draw

Friday 19th - Key Stage parties in the morning

Friday 19th End of term 1.30pm ☺