



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

Newsletter – Friday 14th November 2025

Welcome back. I hope that you all had a lovely half term – last week, the children are full of all of the exciting things that they got up to. We are already in week 2 of what is possibly the busiest time of the year. If you have children in KS1, I am sure that the songs are now changing from harvest to nativity! We have come back to a fun and busy week – last week we had the Excellent Eco Event – thank you so much Mrs Piper for running the committee and for supporting the children in all things environmental. They play a big part in influencing the school community – once again, earning the green flag award for 2025. What a great opportunity for our children to be involved in one of our very successful committees.

Excellent Eco Event

I would like to thank Mrs Piper for the excellent job that she does in supporting and leading our Eco committee. I know that some parents were able to join the Excellent Eco Event last week when the Green Flag Award was celebrated again we hope that you enjoyed the morning.

Also a thank you to Gill Thomas and members of the National Trust who came along and provided workshops (at no charge) for the children. We are now the first school in Stroud District to become a Litter Champion Hub. Please make use of the litter pickers available outside the school and keep an eye out for the eco newsletter to learn more about it. There will be more about the event in the next Eco – Newsletter.

Here is what Laura, Amy and Tom from the National Trust had to say about their visit:

"We really enjoyed meeting your students and were impressed by their inquisitiveness, curiosity and politeness. It was lovely to hear about their passion for nature and the environment."

Remembrance Service

It was lovely to see the parents that were able to join us on Tuesday for the Remembrance service and great to see the relationships between our Reception and Year 6 children. We hope that you enjoyed it. I would like to thank all of the staff for their efforts in putting the service together. It was a lovely respectful service with a clear message.



Thank You

A very big thank you to Mrs Smith and Mrs Wooldridge who helped us to dispose of unwanted rubbish.

Anti-Bullying Week



This week the children have been taking part in anti-bullying week. Thank you to Miss Keightley for supporting the delivery of these lessons this week. The week ended today with odd socks day (not the official day which was the 10th November but we moved it to ensure that the children understood why they were wearing them). The purpose of which celebrating individuality and kindness – two things that link closely to the ethos of our school, recognising that everyone is unique and our ‘little acts of kindness’. Throughout the week the children have taken part in various activities to support their understanding of bullying and what to do if they find themselves in this situation.

Bullying is a word that is often misused and it's helpful if we have a collective understanding of what bullying is to be able to best support our children. Please see this extract from our Trust Anti-Bullying Policy.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is the repetitive, intentional harming of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying is contrary to the Gospel message of love, peace, and justice.

Types of bullying include:

- Physical – hitting, kicking, taking belongings.
- Verbal – name-calling, insults, discriminatory remarks.
- Indirect – excluding from groups, spreading rumours.
- Online (cyberbullying) – harmful behaviour via digital platforms, including harassment, intimidation, or exclusion.
- Prejudice-based – related to race, religion, gender, disability, SEND, or other protected characteristics.

We also help pupils understand the difference between:

- Bossiness vs Bullying – the former is immature behaviour, the latter is a wilful desire to hurt.
- Boisterousness vs Bullying – playful energy vs deliberate harm.
- Bullying behaviour vs Bullying - playing in a way which deliberately spoils other children's activities, often showing violence and hostility.

When behaviours become bullying

Socially unacceptable behaviour becomes bullying behaviour when, based on the information gathered, TRIP criteria are confirmed:

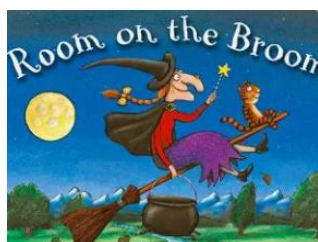
TARGETED When the behaviour is TARGETED at a specific pupil or group of pupils

REPEATED When the behaviour is REPEATED over a period of time.

INTENTIONAL When the behaviour is deliberately INTENDED to cause harm.

PSYCHOLOGICAL/PHYSICAL When the behaviour causes PSYCHOLOGICAL, EMOTIONAL or PHYSICAL harm.

Story Time at the Convent – 21st November



The next date for story time at the convent is fast approaching for Reception and Year 1.

Please do come along and join us if you are able. Younger siblings are welcome too. For those of you who have not been able to join us yet – tea and coffee are available for parents from school drop off, so please go to the Convent while you wait for us to join you.

Staffing Update

We are looking forward to Mrs Guoite returning to school towards the end of this term. She will be coming back just before Christmas and reducing her working days to three days a week. We are equally delighted that Mrs Ponting will be staying at St Joseph's as our permanent SENDCO, her working days remain a Monday and Tuesday.

Learning for Peace

Peace with myself, peace between us,
peace among us and peace in the world"



As you know, we are very excited to be involved in learning for peace. This is something that Mrs Carr has been trailing, with a view to roll out across the school. The curriculum is teaching the children the skills that they need to manage conflict and resolve situations using the skills required, when faced with conflict to manage and deal with the situation themselves. Following on from the Parent Forum, where a parent said that she was able to see the impact of the work that had been done so far at home. It was discussed whether there could be an opportunity for parents to come and see a circle and the sentence stems that children are learning so that they can replicate this at home. The answer is – yes, this is something that we will look into arranging at some point after Christmas when the weeks are a little less busy!

Author visit and Stroud Literacy Festival

Sian Hughes, a UK poet, teacher and novelist visited last Tuesday to kick off the Stroud Literacy Festival in school. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed her visit and some children were lucky enough to buy one of her books that she signed for them. She spoke to me before she left and as an ex teacher said that she couldn't believe how engaged in their learning the children were and what great questions they asked – this was across the school. It is always lovely to receive such positive feedback from visitors who come into school.



**STROUD BOOK
FESTIVAL**

For the rest of the week, the children then joined live sessions with various authors which they thoroughly enjoyed - Thank you to all of the parents that have paid and paid it forwards. Unfortunately, we have 38 parents who have not paid yet - even with the kind

parents who have paid it forward, we do not have enough to cover this event. Please do pay as soon as you can.

This appears to be an event that we always have to chase for so for whatever reason does not appear to be seen as a valued experience for the children. If we do not cover the cost we will sadly have to consider removing this great experience for diary.

Parent Forum



Thank you to the parents who came to the Forum last week. There was some good discussion around the items on the agenda and more items for us to consider. The information about the development of play times can be found in this newsletter!

Prospective parents

Thank you to all of you who have recommended us to your friends – we have met lots of lovely people recently and there are more booked in this term. There is still time for families to book a tour so please do keep on spreading the word!



Sporting events

Unfortunately due to the weather tomorrow's cross country race has been cancelled. We have a huge junior team, which is fantastic but are a bit short on senior runners – it is not too late! Anyone in Year 5 and 6 who would like to join the club for the next 2 races would be most welcome.

They staff are still hoping to take the club offsite – anyone who is able to join them for a one off session, please let Mrs Knight know. It would be greatly appreciated.

The running club offer a mindful mile every Saturday morning at 9.00am around the fields that the races are – that would be excellent extra practice if you are able to take your child.

Attendance



As a 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.**

Please find attached the ratified Attendance Policy for the year.

PTA News

Thank you to all of those parents who joined the PTA AGM. This is an annual meeting that needs the support of other parents. Thank you to Jo Smees, Sam Brittain and Gemma Wilkins, who were re-elected into their posts. Thank you also to Alexa Timbrell, Naomi Smith-Wallace and Rachel Holmes who do so much to support the committee. Thank you also to the parents who help when they are able – your support is invaluable in ensuring that events are able to go ahead.

I would like to reiterate our thanks for the parents who are on the committee and who are organising the events. Not just for the funds that they raise, which enable our children to get so much more as a result of this, but for their part in bringing our school community together and offering events that the children thoroughly enjoy.



Christmas Craft Market - Saturday 22nd November

Volunteers still needed! Thank you to all of the parents who have signed up to help so far – there are still some gaps that need to be covered. Please do take a look and sign up if you are able to help at this event by clicking this link: [Christmas 2025: Christmas fayre/market](#)
The PTA will also be looking for cake donations nearer the time.

Monday 24th December - non-uniform day – for a donation to the Christmas hampers:

Reception - Silver

Y1 - Purple

Y2 - Green

Y3 - Yellow

Y4 - Orange

Y5 - Blue

Y6 - Red

Play time

We are excited to share with you our new Zoned Playtime Provision. Our playground has been thoughtfully zoned into dedicated areas for sports, adventure, imagination and even a disco zone! Each zone is supported by a member of staff who observes and engages with pupils to help make playtime inclusive and enjoyable for everyone. Children are free to enjoy any zone and move between zones during lunch time. Our aim is to encourage positive, purposeful play and support improved behaviour at lunch times with greater structure and choice. Our most vulnerable students were at the heart of our decision making, but we are already seeing a positive impact across the whole school community. Examples of activities in each zone:

Imagination Zone:

Stage, dressing up

Small world toys

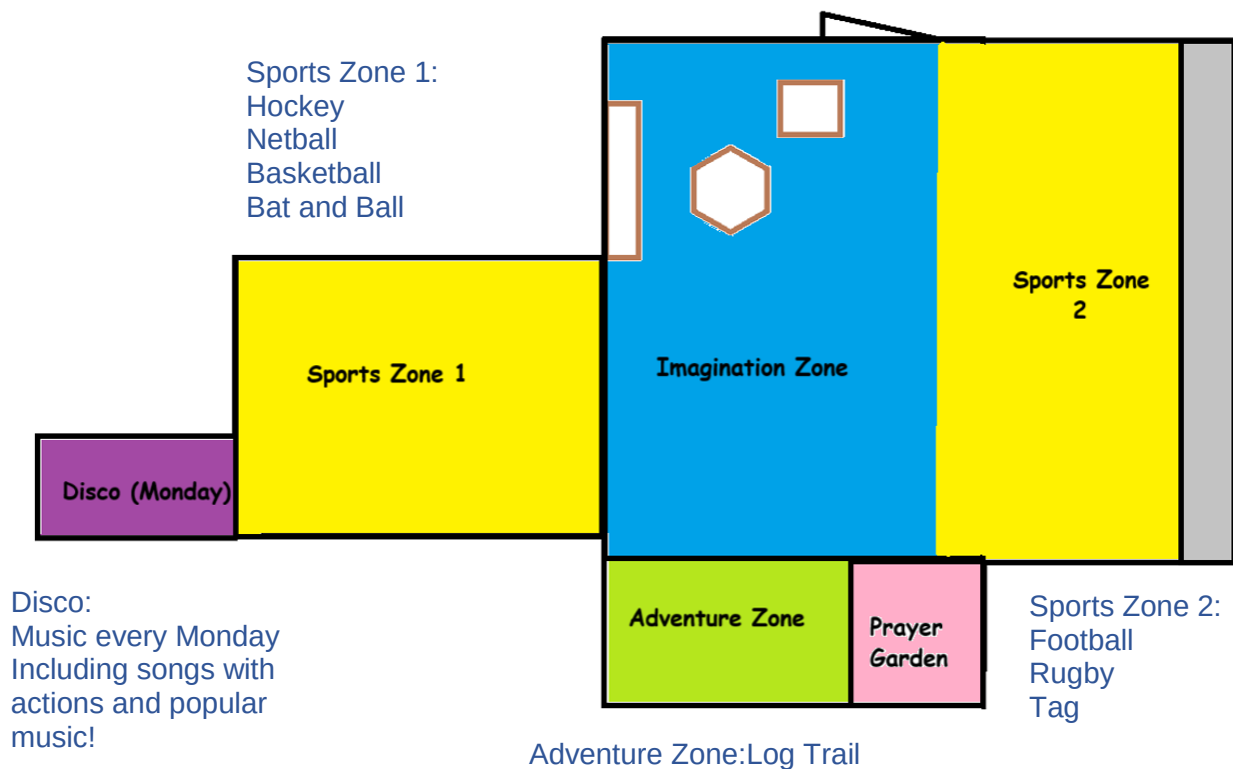
Lego

Blocks

Colouring

Cars

Trains



This is just phase one of our project, phase two will see the introduction of a nature zone and traditional games, with plans to continue to develop the space through larger builds and new resources.

The indoor lunchtime activities are still on offer as before:

Tuesday - Check Mate (games club)

Wednesday – Choir

Thursday – Reading club

Once again, thank you for all of your generous donations that have enabled us to get started with this. Thank you also to the PTA for the great outdoor speaker for the disco zone (which is very popular). If you have any thoughts or ideas about how we might secure funding or resources for our bigger projects, please do contact Mrs Ponting.



LET US PRAY



Mass Schedule

Mass begins at 10am

Parents are warmly welcome to join their child's class when it is their turn to go to Mass. Please let the Admin Team know if you are able to come.

Thursday 20th November – Year 5
Thursday 27st November – Year 4
**Thursday 27th 1.30pm – Advent
Retreat- all welcome**
Thursday 4th December – Year 3
KS1 Nativity:
Tuesday 9th December at 11am
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



[November 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 Xanthe:

Almighty Father God,

We praise your glory. We ask for your mercy as you put your hands on us and bless us. We adore you every single day. We pray for our sins. Let our faith consume us while it spreads in our community and let your light shine on our hearts. Amen





Remembrance Poem written by Reception and their Year 6 buddies

Red poppies scatter the fields. (Thomas and Noah)
 We will work for peace.
 Stop the killing and let everyone live. (Oliver and Teddy)
 We will work for Peace.
 We need peace to help us live. Emilia (Rosie and Celeste).
 We will work for peace.
 The soldiers fought in the fields. (Marmaduke and Charles)
 We will work for peace.
 We respect those who went to war to protect us. (Finley and Jonah)
 We will work for peace.
 We will always remember those who fought in the wars. (Hebe, Layla and Pippa)
 We will work for peace.
 Poppies, people they all show peace, we put our hands together to say a little prayer.
 (Ellianna, Zadie and Fearne)
 We will work for peace.
 Red everywhere patches of black, purple and white, all poppies. (Harry and Oren)
 We will work for peace.
 Red poppies scattered all around. (Kian and Maddie)
 We will work for peace.
 Thank you for serving in the war for us. (Millie, Novie and Elara.)
 We will work for peace.
 Thank you for fighting for us. (Marianne, Grace and Niamh)
 We will work for peace.
 We will celebrate the soldiers that that fought in the war. (Ed and Mason)
 We will work for peace.
 We celebrate Remembrance Day for people who have fallen in the war all over the world.
 (Sol and Ivy).
 We will work for peace

Dates for your



Term 2 - November 2025

Saturday 15th - Cross country race CANCELLED

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 at 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 9.00am

Wednesday 17th - Choir singing carols at local care homes - 10.30am-11.30am

Wednesday 17th - Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 17th - Pantomime - 2.00pm

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