



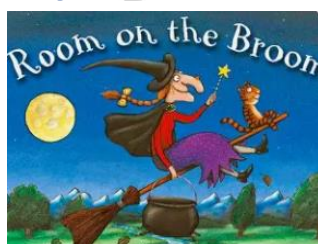
## St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

### Newsletter – Friday 24th October 2025

The last eight weeks have flown by and here we are at half term. The children are tired and ready for a break. They have worked hard and settled into their new classrooms well - it's time for them to have a break. Please do keep up with the reading and times tables over half term – I fully understand that it is nice to have a break from the routine but the more the children practise, the more confident they become. Equally, a break for some children leads to it being harder for them to get back into it when they come back to school than it needs to be. It was lovely to see so many of you at parent's evenings. I am sorry that Miss Keightley was not well and unable to do the Year 4 meetings. However, just a reminder that they have been re-scheduled for Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November. But for now, we wish you all well and hope that you have a lovely half term. Please don't forget that Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November is an INSET day and the children return on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 8.40am.

#### Story Time at the Convent



Unfortunately, I was unable to join the last story time. But having spoken to a few parents, I understand that parents went straight to the convent and had a drink before the staff and children arrived, children sat with their parents if they were there. Thank you to all of the parents who were able to join us for this event. If you have any feedback or thoughts about how to improve this session, please do catch me and let me know.

#### Soup Kitchen



The Key Stage 2 Soup Kitchen was a lovely event last week. The smell of basil filled the office area as Year 6 prepared their vegetables for the soup. The children really enjoyed spending time with their grown-ups who were able to join them. Thank you to all of the Key Stage 2 parents who sent in the vegetables to make the soups - the children who tried one, agreed that the ones they tried were lovely. I would also like to thank Lucy and Leah for making the soup and being so flexible in supporting this event. For the parents who were able to join us, any feedback about this event would be gratefully received.

#### Key Stage 1 Harvest Celebrations

It was lovely that so many parents could make it to the Harvest Celebration on Wednesday. I know that many of you have been learning the songs at home and in the car on the way to school! Just a small measure of how much the children have enjoyed preparing for this event. Thank you for all of your lovely feedback. With missing children and staff so many children seamlessly stepped in and delivering lines they had not practised for. I would like to thank the staff and children for all of their hard work and especially to the staff who stepped in at the last minute and Mrs Daly who supported her class during her PPA time.

Thank you also for your kind donations, all of which will go to the Stroud Food Bank – what a lovely way to end the term.

## Learning for Peace

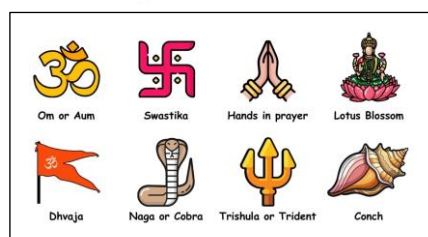


"Peace with myself, peace between us,  
peace among us and peace in the world"

We are very excited to be involved in a project called 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.

Mrs Carr, having been working on this with her class over the last term was observed this week. Heather, the lady supporting the project, was blown away by what she saw: the change in the children in such a short space of time and the excellent quality of the lesson that she saw. She left saying that it was the best lesson that she had seen and taking away ideas to improve her practise as she continues to support other schools to develop this. How lucky we are to have Mrs Carr to lead this initiative across the school and how exciting for the children who will be involved in this project.

## Week of Awe and Wonder



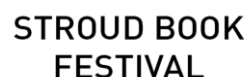
This week the children have been learning about the world's third largest faith, Hinduism. There has been science and music activities that link in – thank you to Mrs Carr and Miss Drury, the subject leads for the work that has gone into planning this for all of the classes across the school.

## Residential

Year 6 have had a great week this week at their residential. This is the first time that we have been to this area and they are staying in a castle! They have had so much fun. They have exclusive use of the castle and the same staff for the week, so they have all built great relationships with them. The food is good and there is flexibility with the activities because we are the only school there. The children have taken part in some great activities including a medieval banquet!

They have come home exceptionally tired, as have the staff, and are ready for half term. I would like to thank Mrs Knight and Mrs Pickering for this week. They have taken our Year 6 children away and have left their families behind, especially tricky when you have young families as I am sure you can imagine. I am even more grateful when I know that in other schools class teachers are refusing to take their classes away overnight, that our staff are willing to do this should not be taken for granted. So, I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Knight and Mrs Pickering for taking our Year 6 children away on residential, building stronger relationships with them and as usual, going above and beyond.

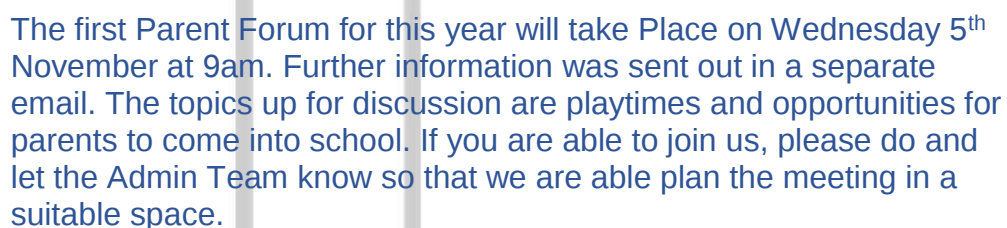
Just a reminder that when we come back to school on 4<sup>th</sup> of November, that we will be having a visit from an author – Sian Hughes, a UK poet, teacher and novelist. We will be celebrating the **Literacy Festival**.



The Yellow Lighted Bookshop are offering parents the chance to buy a signed copy of the books that the classes will be reading during the festival week. An email with the correct links and instructions were sent out on Thursday to all. Here's the links again:

<https://yellowlightedbookshop.co.uk/product/the-game-i-will-never-forget-onjali-q-rauf/>

## Parent Forum



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 for after half term. Our new clip has gone out on Facebook – thank you to many of you who have shared it in local groups. It was planned in time for half term so if you can keep on sharing it that would be really helpful. Just in case you haven't seen it yet – please find the link to the clip [here](#)

## Facebook Reel

## Sporting events

Race one done! What a great race and didn't the children do well. The weather was on our side, great conditions for running, that with the children's excellent attitude made for a really successful morning. It was the first race for our Year 3 junior runners, but they took it all in their stride. We were so proud of them all. Thank you to all of the parents who supported the event - the children couldn't do it without you and especially to Mr Amigoni and Mrs Knight for their commitment to training the children. It was the first event that we have used our school flag for – a great way to set up a meeting point! Thank you so much to Mrs Barrowman for driving this forwards and collecting it for us and to Mrs Faulkner for her great design.



The running club offer a mindful mile every Saturday morning at 9am around the fields that the races are – that would be excellent extra practice if you are able to take your child.

Also, there are hills that the children need to run. To be prepared for that, they need to train on hills. We have lots of hills by us, perfect for training but it would need another adult to join the club for the session (Mondays at 3.20pm-4.15pm) in order for us to be able to take the club off site. If you are able to support this at all, that would be great. No commitment is required, even a one off would make a difference. If you could spare one Monday to join the club, please let Miss Gardiner know, and the staff will be able to arrange a different session which will really support them to get race ready.

## Attendance



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.**

Thank you to the parents who have tried really hard with ensuring that their children are on time – there has been a real improvement over that last couple of weeks.

## PTA News

What a great night the Quiz at the Fox was on Monday. It was lovely to see so many parents supporting the event. There were great questions – a few tricky rounds (Mrs Smee!) but enjoyed by all that were able to go. The event raised £522 – which is amazing. Thank you so much Mrs Smee for organising the event, to Mrs Wooldridge for supporting at the event, the donation of raffle prizes and to every team who took part. We are looking forward to the next one later on in the year.



### **Christmas Craft Market - Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

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.

The PTA will also be looking for cake donations nearer the time.

I would like to thank the PTA for their recent purchase of an outdoor speaker for the disco area of the playground. It was lovely to see the children joining Mrs Ponting for the Macarena on Monday lunchtime!

### **Play time**



The zones are in action and playtimes are on the change. We would like to thank all of the parents who have generously donated unwanted items from home for the children to use at lunchtimes. This has made a huge difference to the children's play and what they are able to engage with, especially thank you to Nona Rushton who invited Mrs Ponting to see what resources could be used from Uley playgroup – there was a lot!



We would like to thank you all for your support over the last term and wish you all a happy half term, spending valuable time with your friends and family.

# LET US PRAY



## Mass Schedule

**Mass begins at 10am**

### **October Half Term**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Reception  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance  
Service 10.30am – all welcome  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Year 6  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November – Year 5  
Thursday 27<sup>st</sup> November – Year 4  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm – Advent Retreat-  
all welcome

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Year 3  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 11am – KS1  
Nativity  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – 9.30am  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December – 2pm  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Year 2  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm KS2  
Carol Concert  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 the School Council Prayer

Dear Father in heaven  
Guide us in this School Year  
To support our fellow students with Little Acts  
Give us the strength to be fair and kind to show  
Great Love  
So we may follow in your footsteps to make a Big  
Difference  
Inspiring us to REACH in Faith, Hope and Love  
Bless us O Lord  
Amen



# Dates for your



## Term 2 - November 2025

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> - Sian Hughes visiting school (author)

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

5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> - Stroud Literacy Festival

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> - Parent Forum 9am - all welcome

WB 10<sup>th</sup> - Anti Bullying week

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> - Remembrance assembly 10.30am

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> - whole school flu immunisation

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> - Cross country race (2)

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> - Chaplaincy commissioning

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

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> - PTA Christmas Craft Market 12pm-3pm

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> - Non-Uniform day Christmas hamper

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> - Advent Retreat

## December 2025

WB 1<sup>st</sup> - Last week for teacher led clubs

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Y6 and Reception Heights and Weights

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> - Cross country race (3)

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> - KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> - KS1 Nativity 9.30am

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> - KS1 Nativity 2.00pm

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

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> - KS2 Carol Concert 6.30pm

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> - Music concert am-pantomime pm

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Dinner

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> - Christingle KS1 - 9.00am  
KS2 - 10.00am

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children charity

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> - PTA Christmas and Breakfast with Santa

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> - Assembly 9.30am with PTA Hamper Raffle draw

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> - Key Stage parties in the morning

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> End of term 1.30pm

