

Newsletter 23rd January 2026

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Work hard, love tenderly, walk humbly: trusting in God

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

We began this week by learning about other faiths and cultures, giving our children the opportunity to explore and appreciate the rich diversity of beliefs found both locally and around the world. This linked beautifully with our British Value of the week: Tolerance. It was wonderful to see how confidently and respectfully the children spoke about different religions, showing genuine curiosity and enthusiasm for learning about others.

As part of our Personal Development curriculum, we were delighted to welcome Dr Morton-Laing on Tuesday morning. She absolutely *wowed* our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils with insights into her profession, helping them understand the pathway to her career and the impact her work has on the lives of others. The session left many children feeling inspired, with several commenting that they had learned something new about their own future aspirations.

We also received huge news this week—our school has officially achieved the Live Simply Award! This is a tremendous achievement for our whole community and reflects the commitment of our staff, pupils and families in living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with others. We were especially proud to hear the assessor comment on how incredibly strong the links are between our school, home and the wider community — something that means so much to us and sits at the heart of everything we do. We will share more about how we plan to celebrate this special accomplishment in the coming days.

A big thank you to Year 5 for leading a beautiful Celebration of the Word for parents on Thursday, centred around the theme of *mission*. The children led with confidence, reverence and a deep sense of purpose—well done to all involved.

A reminder that Mass continues this Sunday at 11.00am.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Reminders

Wraparound care

- A polite reminder Breakfast club is from 7:40am and children need to be in by 8:15 at the latest for breakfast.
- Wraparound care finishes at 5:30pm, a late charge may apply if you are late on multiple occasions.
- All children must be booked into both Breakfast club and wraparound care via Arbor and this must be paid for in advance of the session

Outstanding Payments

Any outstanding payments on ARBOR (school meals/ breakfast club/ wrap around care) **must be cleared and kept in credit**. If anyone has any problems with making payments, please contact the school office to discuss further. The Trust are looking very closely at all outstanding payments and non-payment of outstanding debt may result in your child having to bring a packed lunch to school and being unable to access breakfast club/wraparound care.



As you know, attendance is hugely important, and we report attendance on a weekly/ monthly/ termly basis. We monitor attendance/lateness very closely in school and will

raise any concerns with parents/carers on an individual basis. If you have any concerns with regards to your child's attendance/lateness, please contact us as soon as possible so we can work together to resolve any issues.

This week's attendance is 95.38%. Our target is 97%

Nursery: 95.75%

Reception: 96.52%

Year 1: 97.59%

Year 2: 97.67%

Year 3: 94.83%

Year 4: 99.09%

Year 5: 94.81%

Year 6: 88.93%

Well done to Year 4 who won this week's attendance award!

Head Teachers Award

The following children have received a Head Teachers Award this week:

Nursery: Isabella for trying her best in Nursery all week

Reception: Oliver for always being so polite in the dinner hall

Year 1: Livi for always having a smile on her face and making others smile

Year 4: Harvey for outstanding behaviour around school

Year 5: Lucas for working really hard on his reading

Star of the Week

The following children have received a Star of the Week certificate this week:

Nursery: Amara for enthusiastically joining in with sensory activities

Reception: Joshua for working hard in his group jobs this week

Year 1: Rita for always participating in lessons

Year 2: Edith for answering a range of questions showing her amazing understanding

Year 3: Noah for excellent work when measuring m and cm this week

Year 4: Thea-Pearl for contributing well in the group to create dance sequence in PE

Year 5: Leyla for an excellent effort with reading

Year 6: Zander for producing an excellent news report based on our class book

Awards of the week

Captain's Table: Effie, Francesca, Armina, Grace P, Emelia, India, Harry, Coby

Mission Statement: Isaac, Emmie, George, Ruby, Harry, Hayden, Rio, Ethan

British Values: Ellis, Marco, Aurora, Jenson, AJ, Eliza, Aria, Arthur

Writer of the week: Ewan, Ollie, Frankie, Nori, Noah, Jude, Grace

Please see below what our children have been getting up to this week in school

This week our **Early Years** children explored the Zones of Regulation, learning to recognise and name their emotions while understanding that all feelings are okay. Through play, stories, and group activities, they practiced simple self-regulation tools like breathing techniques to help calm their bodies, focus their minds, and feel ready to learn. It's been wonderful to see them building these important life skills, well done Early Years!









We have had a wonderful and busy time in **Year 1**, full of creativity, curiosity and learning. The children have shown great enthusiasm across the curriculum, and we are very proud of all they have achieved. Here are some highlights from our recent learning. In RE, the children explored The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. They listened carefully to the story and learned about Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna, discussing why this event was important for Jesus' family and for Christians today. Year 1 have been developing their digital skills by creating digital paintings on iPads. They experimented with different tools, brushes and colours, learning how technology can be used creatively. As part of our science learning, we have been observing trees across the seasons. The children noticed how trees change during the year, including differences in leaves, colour, and shape. We compared trees in different seasons and learned new vocabulary such as deciduous, evergreen, buds and leaves. In English, we have been enjoying the classic story *The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck* by Beatrix Potter. The children have loved getting to know the characters and exploring the settings. We worked on sequencing events, describing characters, and re-telling the story using our own words. Well done Year 1 for an excellent week!



This week in **Year 2**, the children have been busy learning across the curriculum. In English, they were introduced to their new poem, 'The Owl and the Pussycat'. The children shared what they liked and disliked about the poem and worked hard to summarise each verse. In maths, we began our new topic on money, where the children have been learning to recognise coins and understand their values. In science, we explored the difference between things that are living and things that are dead, encouraging thoughtful discussion and observation. Our learning continued in geography, where we looked at different climates around the world and compared them to our own. In history, the children learned about how the Victorians made improvements to towns and cities, including the creation of parks and the building of taller chimneys to help reduce pollution. Well done Year 2 for another fantastic week of learning!



This week, **Year 3** have been writing some excellent setting descriptions inspired by *The Iron Man* at the beach, and we were overwhelmed by the rich and imaginative vocabulary they used. In maths, we have moved on to measure, focusing on centimetres (cm) and metres (m), and the children have shown great enthusiasm and understanding. In history, the children thoroughly enjoyed creating their own mini museums by using plasticine to recreate artefacts from the past. In PE, they loved developing their own dances and learning how to work in unison as part of a group and with a partner.



This week in **Year 4** the children have continued to learn about the Roman invasion of Britain, they looked at how one of the Celtic chieftains, Caratacus, fought back and evaded capture for many years. In Geography they looked at different types of erosion and how this changes the land structure in coastal areas. In PE, children began to create movements to represent different circus acts which would then be used to form a short dance sequence. In computing, we used coding to make a screen turtle move and create simple pictures, letters and numbers.













Year 5 led a reflective celebration of the word linked to their RE topic of Mission. They explored the beginning of Jesus' ministry and thought about how it impacted the mission they lead in their own lives. They also explored the work of various worldwide and local charities, exploring their role in society and how they help others in crisis. In Maths, we continued with division, exploring remainders in problem solving. We wrote a descriptive narrative in English using complex sentences linked to Skellig. In computing we explored Micro Bits and had great fun programming them to make numbers and letters. We are looking forward to our Theatre Trip next week...a Shakespearean musical!



Another busy week in **Year 6!** They started this week with a fantastic careers talk from Stephanie. She told them all about her career as a scientist working on medical research. She discussed the different career paths in science and the opportunities which are available. The children have been working hard in all curriculum areas. In English, they have been planning and writing their own news report which focusses on the issue of child labour. Within these reports, they have been exploring using different cohesive devices to join sentences. In maths, they have been exploring algebra, looking at different ways of expressing their numbers in algebraic equations. In computing lessons over the past 2 weeks, they have been looking at programming. They have studied pre-made games and the variables within them and have started to make their own simple games on scratch. In our music lesson this week, they enjoyed playing their ukuleles. They were remembering the skills they learnt last year and moving onto playing some simple chords.







