

Newsletter 13th March 2026

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

We started the week with our whole-school Celebration of the Word, focusing on the moment when Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well. This reminded us of the importance of never excluding anyone and treating all with dignity and respect. It also linked beautifully with our British Values, which are woven throughout our curriculum and daily life at St Joseph's.

This week, we were delighted to welcome our Acting CEO, Mrs Lucie Stephenson, to our school. Mrs Stephenson took lots of time to speak with our children to learn more about their experiences. Our children spoke so confidently and beautifully about what makes St Joseph's such a special place. They highlighted fairness, our wonderful staff, and the strong sense of belonging that ensures all are welcome. We are so grateful for her guidance, encouragement, and the time she dedicated to celebrating all that makes St Joseph's so special.

Our EYFS children have also been discovering other faiths and cultures this week as they learned about the Holi festival, the Hindu celebration of colour, love and new beginnings. Through stories, creative activities and exploration, the children learned about the importance of understanding and appreciating traditions that may be different from our own. Experiences like this help our youngest learners to develop respect, curiosity and a sense of global awareness—values that sit at the heart of our school community.

We ended the week with a wonderful Mother's Day event. A huge thank you to our school staff, our fantastic PTA, and Stacey from *The Play Edit* for their hard work in organising such a lovely celebration. We wish all our mothers and mother figures a wonderful weekend. We also hold in our prayers all those who may find this time difficult; may they feel supported, comforted, and surrounded by care.

Looking Ahead to Next Week

We have a busy and exciting week planned in school.

On Monday at 2.00pm, we will be hosting our Sleep Workshop, and we hope to see as many parents and carers as possible. It promises to be an informative session offering practical advice to support healthy sleep routines at home.

On Thursday at 9.30am, we will gather in church for our Feast Day Mass. All families are warmly invited to join us as we come together in prayer and celebration.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes,

Mrs Urwin

Reminders

CAFOD Big Lent walk

Parents welcome and everyone will meet at school first, more information to follow:

EYFS children will do this on our school yard at 1:00pm

Year 1 and 2 children walk down to Oakies park at 1:30pm

Year 3 and 4 children down to Oakies park at 2:10pm

Year 5 and 6 children down to Oakies park at 2:45pm



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 93.88%. Our target is 97%

Nursery: 99.53%

Reception: 94.55%

Year 1: 91.33%

Year 2: 97.67%

Year 3: 91.03%

Year 4: 99.09%

Year 5: 90.77%

Year 6: 91.07%

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: Isaac for really impressing our CEO- Mrs Stephenson

Reception: Keela for being so polite to Mrs Urwin

Year 3: Emie for being so kind and sensible around school

Year 4: Izzy R for being an amazing role model

Year 6: Arthur for doing so well in his SATs prep

Star of the Week

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

Nursery: Maeve for lovely role play when pretending to be a teacher and being a kind friend including others in her play

Reception: Francesca for lots of creative ideas in play and showing resilience when bringing those ideas to life!

Year 1: Desmond for excellent work about Holi- The Hindu festival of colour

Year 2: Maddison for always making everyone's day brighter with her kind, caring nature

Year 3: Emie for excellent listening and exemplary behaviour

Year 4: Charlotte for some brilliant work identifying fractions and mixed numbers in maths this week

Year 5: Alice for excellent work with percentages

Year 6: Isla for some excellent problem solving skills in maths this week

Awards of the week

Captain's Table: Rudy, Archie, Arabella, Leon, Finlay, Harley-Kate, Harriet, Arthur

Mission Statement: Jensen, Imogen, Jak, Hugo, Lenny, Thomas, Emily R, Cade

British Values: Lily, Ethan, Alice, Mya, Emelia, Freddie R, Jude, Natalia


Writer of the week: Harper, Harvey, Sienna, Eadie, India, Louie, Zander

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

Nursery, Reception and Year One had the most wonderful afternoon learning about Holi, the Hindu festival of colour, love and new beginnings. The children explored the traditions of the festival through a carousel of hands-on activities, including:

 Colouring beautiful rangoli patterns

 Using loose parts to design their own rangoli creations

 Learning a Holi dance linked to prayer, worship, love and happiness

 Taking part in a colour dance, discovering what each vibrant colour represents

We finished the afternoon with the highlight of the day—throwing Holi colours together, managing to dodge the rain just long enough to enjoy the celebration! It was a joyful, energetic and meaningful way for the children to learn about this special festival.









Year 2 have continued to work very well this week. In English, the children completed a retell linked to their class text, 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark'. They worked hard to remember the key events from the story and include them in their writing. In maths, the children completed their topic on multiplication and division and showed great effort when applying the strategies they have been learning. During PE, the children enjoyed playing games such as 'Duck, Duck, Goose' and 'Noughts and Crosses'. These activities helped them to develop important skills that they will use when learning to play rugby. In history, the class explored the types of jobs children would do on a Victorian farm, including working as a human scarecrow and picking turnips. In science, the children looked at a range of habitats and sorted animals based on the habitats they live in. In addition, to celebrate British Science Week, they took part in a fun activity about ecosystems, where they used string to connect different elements of an ecosystem to see how they are all linked together. Well done to Year 2 for another busy and successful week!





In English this week, we have been reading Chapter 5 of *The Borrowers*. In this chapter, we learned more about the different Borrower families and how they live secretly inside different parts of human houses. The children enjoyed talking about which family they would most like to belong to and give thoughtful reasons why. In Maths, the children have been learning about measuring mass using kilograms and grams. They explored how we use grams to measure lighter objects and kilograms to measure heavier ones. Also, as part of British Science Week, our **Year 3** class explored the theme 'Curiosity: What's your question?' The children thought carefully about the world around them and wrote their own scientific questions to investigate. We discussed how scientists often begin their work by asking curious questions and the pupils were encouraged to share ideas and wonder about how things work.





In **Year 4** this week we have enjoyed taking part in British Science week, where we carried out a number of experiments to help us answer questions. We began our new class novel 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' and we used inference to help us find clues in the front cover and blurb that help us work out what the story will be about. In maths we looked at mixed numbers and equivalent fractions and in PE we enjoyed another swimming lesson.







We are all about Norse culture in **Year 5**. We have been learning about Viking sagas - exploring their gods and finding out how they related so much of their daily life to these beliefs. We had fun creating a Viking PE dance. For British Science week we explored Lunar Rovers - creating the best design for travelling on the Moon. In Maths, we continued to solve some tricky percentages problems - they really enjoyed converting scores to percentages, fractions and decimals. In English, we learnt about Kylan making deals with another character to escape from his Norse captor. In Geography, we explored North America: exploring countries, oceans and mountain ranges. A busy week!



Year 6 have had a great second week back. They're fully in the swing of preparation for SATs as well as enjoying all their foundation subjects too. In maths, they have been focussing

on reasoning questions, applying all the arithmetic problems which they have learned over the year. In English, they have continued to read Cogheart, learning more about the characters. They have started to plan their own non-chronological report about a mechanical animal which they have created. In their music lesson, they learnt 'The Orange Song', which they loved, and played their own chords to accompany 'Make you feel my love'. In history, they loved hearing about Erik The Red- with his violent temper and tales of his travels across the seas.





