

# Newsletter 27th 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, where we reflected on the wonderful Gospel story of Lazarus. The children thought deeply about having faith, even in the most challenging times.

*“Do you believe this?” She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God...”***John 11:26–27**

It has been an extra-special week in school. On Tuesday, we were honoured to welcome representatives from the Department for Education and OFQUAL. I hope you all received the letter earlier in the week, highlighting their extremely positive comments about our children and our school community. We are extremely proud and delighted to have been involved. Sir Ian Bauckham, Ofqual's Chief Regulator, described our language learning as “first class”, praising the children’s excellent pronunciation, confidence and enthusiasm in Spanish. He

was particularly impressed by the way languages are taught across the school and how engaged our pupils are in their learning.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the CAFOD Walk for Lent on Tuesday. The rain certainly didn't dampen our spirits, and the children enjoyed taking part in something meaningful to help others during this season of giving.

It was also lovely to welcome so many of you to Parents' Evening on Wednesday. These evenings are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your child's progress, talk about next steps, and continue working in partnership to support their learning and wellbeing. Thank you for your time, your support, and the positive conversations shared with staff.

Our Reception and Year 6 Buddy Assembly was a particular highlight of the week. The older children showed such care, encouragement, and leadership, while our youngest pupils shone with confidence and enthusiasm. It was a beautiful celebration of friendship, teamwork, and the strong sense of family we nurture here at St Joseph's.

Next week, we enter Holy Week, as we prepare for the death and resurrection of Jesus. On Tuesday, children will take part in the Stations of the Cross, and throughout the week we will be preparing for Easter *the St Joseph's Way*—with prayer, reflection, and acts of kindness.

As always, Mass continues on Sunday at 11am, and families are warmly invited.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs Urwin

## Reminders

### 🌸 Easter Egg Decorating Competition – Thursday 2nd April! 🌸

We're excited to announce our Easter Egg Decorating Competition taking place next **Thursday, 2nd April!** Children are invited to decorate an egg at home and bring it into school for a chance to win a **special prize**.

To help us display the entries safely and fairly, **please do not bring decorated eggs into school before Wednesday from 3:20pm.**

We can't wait to see all the creative and colourful designs!



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 95.29%. Our target is 97%**

**Nursery:** 99.04%

**Reception:** 99.6%

**Year 1:** 97.67%

**Year 2:** 98.67%

**Year 3:** 95.86%

**Year 4:** 89.08%

**Year 5:** 88.46%

**Year 6:** 95%

**Well done to Reception who won this week's attendance award!**

## Head Teachers Award

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

**Nursery:** Roman for being a superstar!

**Reception:** Tiara for always being so polite

**Year 1:** Phoebe for being such a wonderful member of our school family

**Year 2:** Alice for always following the St Joseph's Way

**Year 4:** Daniel for outstanding knowledge in Spanish

## Star of the Week

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

**Nursery:** Ella for sharing super ideas during carpet time activities

**Reception:** Freddy for great partner work in maths, when learning about odd and even numbers

**Year 1:** Lakelon for being so sensible and participating in the Big Lent Walk

**Year 2:** Savannah for a brilliant week in school

**Year 3:** Frances for excellent work on times tables this week

**Year 4:** Harvey for excellent work in maths this week converting mixed numbers and improper fractions

**Year 5:** Rose for excellent work with area and perimeter

**Year 6:** Coby for using some excellent vocabulary in his descriptive writing

## **Awards of the week**

**Captain's Table:** Arron, Brody, George, Theo, Frank, Izzy R, Esme, Freya

**Mission Statement:** Isabella, Cora, Livi, Sienna, Aria-May, Eliza, John, Ellen

**British Values:** Charlie, Marco, Ollie, Grace W, Ollie, Freddie S, Maisie, Martha

**Writer of the week:** Zeke, Sadie, Hugo, Harriet, Clementine, Rio, Matthew

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

The **Early Years** children were full of excitement this week as a special surprise arrived in the form of some tiny caterpillars! The children were fascinated as they carefully observed their new visitors, already asking lots of curious questions. Over the coming days, we can't wait to watch them grow and change, giving us the perfect opportunity to learn all about the life cycle of a butterfly!





We have had a busy and exciting week in **Year 1**, full of exploration, hands-on learning and wonderful discoveries. Here's a look at what we've been up to! This week, the children have been learning all about what life was like on ships in history. We explored: What ships looked like long ago, how sailors slept and what they ate. The children especially enjoyed imagining

themselves as sailors and talking about whether they would have liked life at sea! In Science, we have been learning about amphibians. The children discovered: amphibians start life in water but move onto land when they are grown, why damp habitats are important for them and what make an animal an amphibian. Year 1 were brilliant scientists, using their observation skills to spot similarities and differences with other animal groups. In Maths, we have been mastering length and height. We have been comparing objects, using non-standard units of measure and carefully mastering how to measure with rulers. We also took part in the CAFOD Big Lent Walk. Year 1 showed fantastic enthusiasm as they walked together in support of others around the world. Thank you for all your continued support with the children's learning. Well done Year 1!





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**Year 2** have had another fantastic week of learning and exploration! In PE, the children loved taking part in games linked to rugby. They showed great teamwork, enthusiasm, and growing confidence in their skills. In maths, they continued their work on measure, focusing this week on mass. The class enjoyed comparing the weight of different objects and developing their understanding of grams and kilograms. In English, we began our new book, 'Tadpole's Promise'. The children were captivated by the story as we read it together and spent time discussing how the characters felt at different points. They then completed their own life cycle of a frog, linking to the text. In history, Year 2 compared the lives of wealthy Victorian children with the lives of other children during the same period. In geography, the class explored mountain wildlife, discovering which animals survive in these challenging habitats and learning how they adapt. The children also took part in their 'Big Lent Walk', reflecting thoughtfully on why we are raising money for CAFOD and how this support can help others around the world. Well done, Year 2 for another brilliant week!



**Year 3** have had another fantastic week in school. In English, the children enjoyed reading the ending of *The Borrowers* and worked hard to write their own prediction paragraphs about what they thought might happen next. We were impressed by their imaginative and thoughtful ideas. In History, we began exploring the Greek City-States, discussing what they had in common as well as the ways in which they differed. The children were particularly interested in comparing aspects such as leadership and the unique strengths of each city-state. In maths, we have been focusing on our times tables, particularly the 3s, 4s and 8s.

During our RSHE lessons, the class explored different types of bullying with a focus on emotional and physical behaviours. The children especially enjoyed acting out a range of scenarios to show positive ways these situations could be resolved and relationships restored.



We have had another busy week in **Year 4** this week. We continued our swimming lessons on Monday, practising all of the strokes we have looked at over the last few weeks. We took part in the Big Lent Walk for CAFOD, helping to raise money for struggling communities in other countries. In maths we continued to look at mixed numbers and improper fractions and how to convert from one to the other. We wrote expanded noun phrases including prepositional phrases and fronted adverbials to describe Narnia in English and in history we learned about Emperor Constantine and the vision he had before battle, which led to the end of the persecution of Christians in Rome.









**Year 5** really enjoyed the Big Lent Walk as it gave them an opportunity to think about why they raise money to help others. It was also a fun way of participating, despite the rain! We have had lots of work on shape this week - exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shapes as well as calculating the area of compound shapes. In English, we have focussed on refining our complex sentences and writing from a character's point of view. We loved exploring mega cities in Geography, and in History, we learnt about Thor and Odin. We are combining our computing (databases) with our animal topic in Science and next week we will incorporate data from our Maths sessions.



Another busy week in **Year 6!** The children have juggled lots of extra activities as well as working hard in class. They enjoyed the CAFOD walk, despite the rain, and loved working with their buddies, singing, drawing and preparing for their assembly. In history, they have continued to enjoy their Norse topic. This week, they studied how the 'Norsemen' developed longboats and used them to explore the globe, trading and fighting their way across Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and North America. They even practiced what it would be like to row a longboat in the warm and dry of our classroom. They have been doing some excellent descriptive writing in English lessons based on our class book, Cogheart.







