

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School: Newsletter 22.03.24

Mission

Together we love, learn, follow Jesus

Vision

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, through an open and generous heart, we learn together as a family in faith, following the gospel values of love.

Values

Hope Thankfulness Collaboration Compassion Friendship Resilience Empathy Creativity Justice Respect



A Message from Miss Dewhurst: We have had a lovely and inspiring time in school this week. The older children have had the opportunity to listen and learn from a number of guest speakers who have talked to them about their career. From authors to business owners, the message from them all has been the same: hard work and perseverance pays off!

The children asked some interesting and thought-provoking questions and have had a taste of what the world has to offer them if they continue to work hard. A big thank you to all of our visitors, many of whom were parents, for giving up their time to come in and chat to our children. I think all of our visitors were put through their paces as the children challenged and questioned them and the children have experienced a wonderful and enriching learning opportunity!



Award Winners



CI R/1:



Dojo Champion: **Marnie**



School Values/Mission: **Cal**—creativity



“Spotted”: **Mary** for using her writing skills to write fantastic stories in her own time at home



CI 2/3:



Dojo Champion: **Sienna**



School Values/Mission: **Violet**—friendship



“Spotted”: **Hektor** for using the class modelled write to create a fantastic story



CI 4/5:



Dojo Champion: **Dexter**



School Values/Mission: **Isla**—compassion



“Spotted”: **Emily** for showing creativity and great imagination when writing her folktale



CI 6:



Dojo Champion: **Ruby**



School Values/Mission: **Ben**—hope



“Spotted”: **George** for always just “going for it” giving 100% in everything



Happy Birthday: Denis & Henry T

Sunday Gospel: When Jesus and his disciples were on their way to Jerusalem, they came to the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of his disciples into the nearby village to collect a donkey. He said to them, “If anyone stops you, tell them it is for the Lord and that the donkey will be returned.” So the disciples set off and found the donkey. When they untied it from its post, some people said to them, “What are you doing?” The disciples answered just as Jesus had told them, and the people let the disciples take the donkey to Jesus. Then Jesus rode into Jerusalem. People were spreading their cloaks and palm branches on the road in front of him. They praised God, shouting: “Hosanna! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!! Hosanna in the highest heavens!”
Mark 11: 1-10 (Wednesday Word)

This week spotted: Heidi

Showing compassion, giving up her seat for someone who was upset

Easter Holiday: Don't forget, school closes at 1.15pm on Thursday, 28th March and re-opens at 8.50am on Monday, 15th April.

Parents Evening: Don't forget to book your appointment via School Spider for after Easter.

Classroom Catch Up: In Forest School this week, Class R/1 had lots of fun making houses, meals and games for meerkat Sunny. The children have loved reading Sunny's postcards about his adventures so they were keen to show Sunny around St Joseph's Forest School. We have been writing in the role of Sunny during our English lessons this week too. Where will Sunny travel to next we wonder? In science, the children used their knowledge of everyday materials to design a bed suitable for a puppy. They used some impressive vocabulary such as absorbent, flexible, opaque and waterproof.



This week in Class 2/3, we have continued writing our story linking to 'The Accidental Prime Minister'. I have seen loads of examples of 'noun phrases' and 'inverted commas' which is great, as this was our grammar focus for the unit! As it is Assessment Week, maths has been taken up by tests, applying what they have learnt and showing their skills when solving problems. In R.E., we looked at what it means to follow in the footsteps of God - the class thought of some great ideas to ensure we were making the right choices. The class has also been continuing their geography unit on the UK. This week they explored Wales and really got into the Welsh language—why not say “good morning” to them?

WOW! We have had an incredibly busy week in Class 4/5! It has been assessment week in school which is always an amazing opportunity for our children to showcase their learning. Each child has given 100% effort and I am incredibly proud of them. Between our assessments,



we've had lots of visitors (an author, an entrepreneur and a social carer) and the children have really enjoyed learning about their roles. Curriculum wise, we have produced an independent piece of writing in English this week with an animal focus. The children have tried incredibly hard with this and each and every story is unique. We have also been very busy preparing for our parent workshop on Friday –



the children have enjoyed putting everything together to 'teach the parents about the Titanic'.

With SATs getting closer, Assessment Week is the perfect opportunity get in some practice before the big week! Y6 have shown great resilience, both when completing the tests, and then finding out their results - everyone is pushing for the best possible mark they can achieve! In English, we have begun writing our own version of 'The Great Kapok Tree' with an independent focus, which I'm sure will turn out fantastically. In science, Year 6 looked at how the American alligator has adapted its physical features to survive and thrive!

Careers Week Talks:

Pupils in Class 4/5 and Class 6 have enjoyed listening to a variety of different guest speakers talk about their jobs. Coach Lee from SportsCool came into talk about as an entrepreneur, finding a gap in the market and seizing it, making a success out of his sporting passion. Marnie's mum,



spoke about the importance of promoting independence and resilience in the social care community. Having worked as a carer, she wanted to ensure those she looked after were given strategies to be able to support themselves. Former soldier Mr Hickey, discussed his life in



the army and how he rose through the ranks, serving overseas in Kosovo, Iraq and Sierra Leone. He brought an armour plated vest, a fully packed kit bag and spoke about the realities of serving your country in conflict. Having worked in theatre and television, drama club leader Ella focussed on needing to have resilience when auditions don't go your way. She talked about how musical theatre is not just about singing on stage, it also involves a huge crew working collaboratively! Mr Webster, Isla's dad, has travelled the world with work. His specialised job as a blast engineer has taken him to Australia, Norway and, soon, to Saudia Arabia. Currently based in Whitby, he is excavating fertiliser from nearly a mile under-



ground! Jen Carney, a best selling children's author and illustrator, talked about persevering to make it as a writer.

School Attendance:

	This Week	This Year
Yr R	99.2%	96.9%
Yr 1	95.8%	97.5%
Yr 2	96.7%	94.6%
Yr 3	100%	94.5%
Yr 4	97.6%	94.7%
Yr 5	100%	98.5%
Yr 6	88.7%	96%
Total	96.7%	96.2%



Pope Francis: *With the help of the Holy Spirit, each of us can sow seeds of hope and peace, in our own small way and particular state of life. (Taken from X)*

Diary Dates: Thursday, 28th March Lenten Walk, Easter bonnet competition & Easter lunch
Thursday, 28th March: School closes at 1.15pm

Birthdays next week and over Easter:

Heidi, Bobby, Henry C, Flynn, Lois

Lenten Walk: Weather permitting, we hope to be raising funds for Cafod's Big Lent Walk on Thursday. Pupils should come to school dressed in appropriate clothing with suitable footwear for walking across fields. If you are able to help our fund-raising efforts, please visit our Just Giving page: <https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-josephs-hoghton-fundraising-page>



Children's Liturgy: Sunday is Palm Sunday when we remember how Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem by crowds of people who waved palms and shouted "hosanna". How would you welcome Jesus if he arrived here today? How can we welcome Jesus into our lives? After Jesus had had the Last Supper with his friends he was arrested and handed over to Pontius Pilate. Why did the elders and chief priests arrest Jesus? Pilate tried to release Jesus but the crowd shouted for him to release Barabbas and crucify Jesus. Why do you think the crowd did this? How do you think Jesus felt when he heard the crowd shouting? Pilate sent Jesus to be crucified. The soldiers placed a crown of thorns on Jesus's head. They hit him and spat at him. They made Jesus carry his cross to the place where they would crucify them. The cross was heavy and Jesus struggled to carry it so the soldiers made someone help him. Can you remember the name of the man who helped Jesus? How do you think Simon of Cyrene felt while he was helping Jesus to carry his cross?

We all know that we are supposed to help other people, but how often do we actually do so? When was the last time you helped someone? What did you do? It is sometimes very easy to help people – we know exactly what to do to make them happier or to solve their problem. Sometimes it is very difficult to help people – others may laugh at us or think that someone is not worth helping. Or it may be that we do not know how to help them. This week let us help others and live our lives in your love.

We do hope you can join us at 9:30am Mass - there will be a procession into church.

Other services for the children : Good Friday - 3pm activities in the Liturgy room.

St Joseph's Day: Thank you to Fr Raphael who came into school on Tuesday to lead us in our St Joseph's Day Mass. Earlier in the day the whole school enjoyed an exciting time playing laser tag as part of our celebrations.



As part of our continuing Lenten journey, Fr Raphael and Fr Colin allowed our children to go to confession.



ST JOSEPH'S



EASTER BONNET COMPETITION



To celebrate Easter, children in all year groups are invited to enter this year's Easter Bonnet Competition.

Please send the bonnet into school with your child on Thursday 28th March in order for them to participate in the Easter Bonnet Parade.



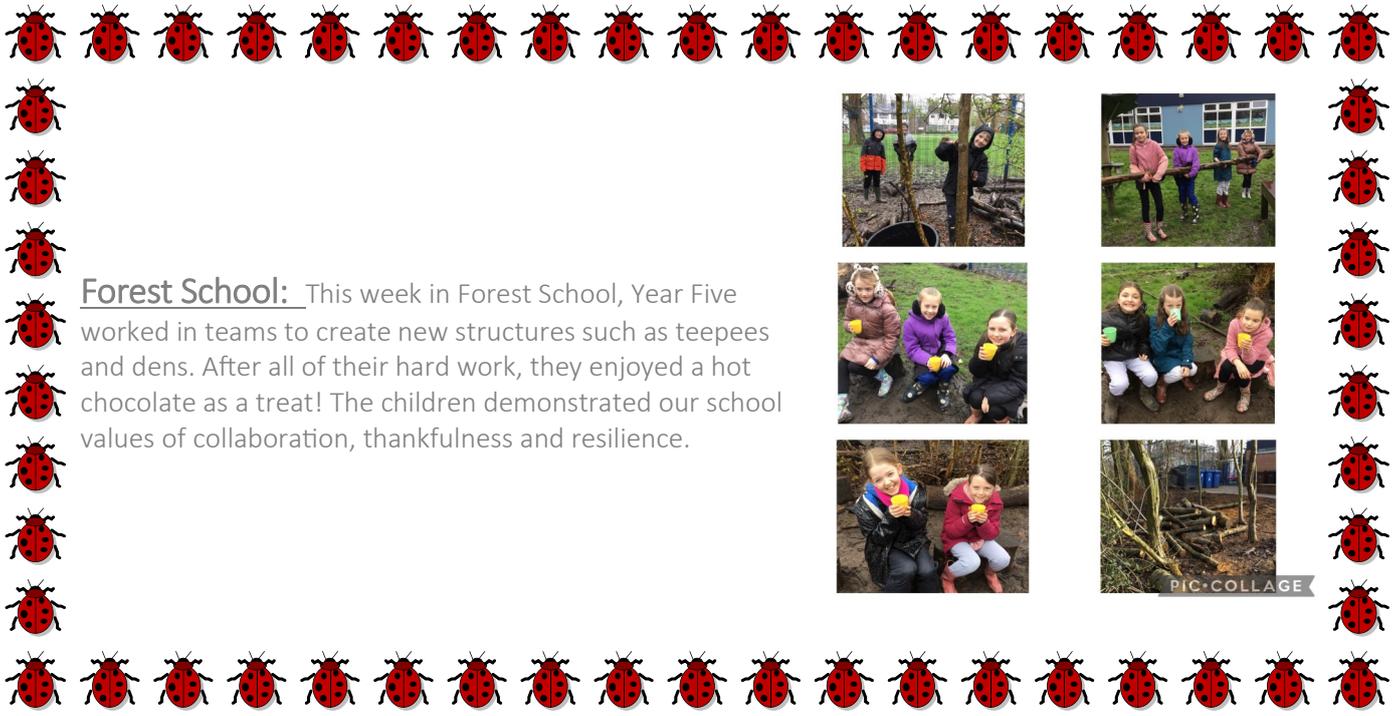
We look forward to seeing everybody's creations! If you have any questions, please speak to Miss Ollerton.



Individual Liberty

There are times in our lives when we will feel disappointment. We can choose how we respond to it. It is important to remember we are responsible for our actions.

Stanley Grange: Group 2 planted their seeds in individual pots choosing from peppers, cucumbers and pumpkins. They also planted two sunflowers each, one to take home and the other to leave at Stanley Grange to enter the sunflower competition. Pupils also weeded and tidied the plots, composting all of the dead plant material from last year's sunflowers.



Forest School: This week in Forest School, Year Five worked in teams to create new structures such as teepees and dens. After all of their hard work, they enjoyed a hot chocolate as a treat! The children demonstrated our school values of collaboration, thankfulness and resilience.



PIC-COLLAGE

Donations Welcome

Bamboo Canes



Old Sheets/ Fabric



Cable Reels



**Fairy Garden Accessories/
Outdoor Ornaments**



Pebbles/Rocks



Tubing



Class R/I are looking for donations of the items pictured above. If you can help in any way, please speak to Miss Ollerton. Thank You!

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS

Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS

Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

4 LISTEN ACTIVELY

When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or 'teenage angst' – or to assume that they'll simply 'get over' whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS

Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES

If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries: this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS

Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here; you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

9 PROVIDE RESOURCES

It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.

10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®



SCAN HERE
TO BOOK!

the HARRIS
HOME from HOME

EASTER EVENTS PROGRAMME

2 & 9 APRIL
**BABY BOUNCE &
RHYME / FREE**
CHILDREN'S LIBRARY
10:30 - 11AM

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3 APRIL
**MAD SCIENCE: ENERGISE
IT! / £2 - £3**
GUILD HALL FOYER
1 - 1:30PM

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3 APRIL
**MAD SCIENCE: THE
GLOW SHOW / £2**
GUILD HALL FOYER
2 - 2:45PM

3 APRIL
**MAD SCIENCE: LIGHTS,
COLOUR, ACTION / £2**
GUILD HALL FOYER
3 - 3:45PM

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4 APRIL
**INFLATABLE CHICKEN
PUPPETS / FREE**
GUILD HALL CORRIDOR
1:30 - 3:30PM (DROP IN)

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5 APRIL
**SPRING FLOWERS
WORKSHOP / £2**
GUILD HALL FOYER
1:30 - 2:15PM

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8 APRIL
**LEGO & PROGRAMMING
SESSION / £8 PER GROUP**
GUILD HALL FOYER
10:30 - 12PM, 1 - 2:30PM

10 APRIL
**HUNGRY CATERPILLAR
CRAFT / £2**
GUILD HALL FOYER
1:30 - 2:15PM

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11 APRIL
**VIKING SESSIONS /
£2**
GUILD HALL FOYER
11AM - 12PM & 1:30 -
2:30PM

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12 APRIL
**BOUNCING BUNNIES
CRAFT / FREE**
GUILD HALL CORRIDOR
1:30 - 3:30PM (DROP IN)



NHS



If we're not vaccinated
we're not protected

Our generation's risk of
illnesses like measles and
whooping cough is rising

ARE YOUR CHILD'S VACCINES UP TO DATE?
BOOK NOW AT THEIR GP PRACTICE