

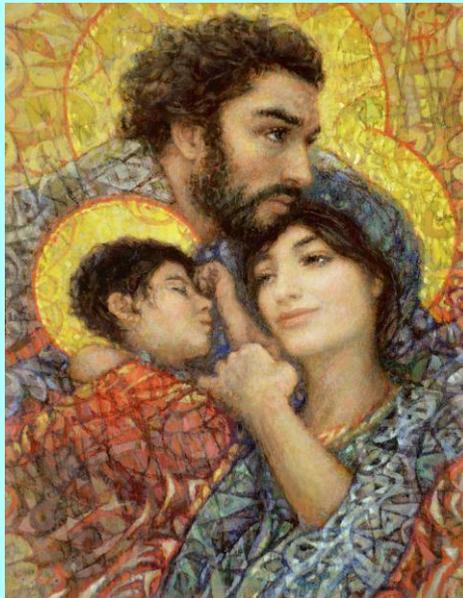
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oxford

"Let us protect with love all that God has given us"
(Pope Francis 19.03.2013)



Headley Way, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7SX
Telephone: 01865 763357
Email: office.3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk
Website: www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk

22nd March 2024



St Joseph, Husband of Mary

O St Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Dear Families,

Tuesday, was the feast day of St Joseph, the patron saint of families and fathers. This seems most appropriate as we have just celebrated both International Women's Day and Mothers' Day. We had a special assembly and looked at the ways St Joseph is represented in art with classes choosing their favourite image.

We are coming to the end of a short term, but we seem to have packed a lot in. A lot of learning has happened! Teacher assessments are now in and the senior leadership team reviewed the academic data child by child. This will then feed into next term as we move children forwards academically. This newsletter celebrates the breadth of the curriculum – what has happened in the last two weeks, but also all that we have achieved this term in addition to Reading, Writing and Maths!

Term finishes for the children next Wednesday at 3.10pm. After School club will run as normal. The teachers will have an INSET day on Thursday.

Finally, if you have not already done so, please can I ask you to fill in our parent survey (the QR code is on the next page).

Warm wishes

Jess Tweedie
Headteacher

Year 5 PE – Handball Tournament

At the end of our PE units where we cover team games, there is a tournament between houses. Last Monday, all 4 houses competed in a mixed mini-tournament. The sporting behaviour was excellent, and all games were enjoyed in the right spirit of competition.

It was clear to see the learnt skills being applied in game situations - goalkeeping and defending by marking, especially. It was largely girls' sharpshooting and marking opponents out of the game that led Willow to be the overall handball champions. Well done ALL in year 5 though!

Mr J Ingram



Stay and Play – Wednesday mornings 9am-10am

We are still running our pre-school Stay and Play sessions on Wednesday mornings during term time from 9am-10am. We are looking for a couple of parent volunteers to help with the running of the group as we enter a particularly busy time of year for the school office (who have been supporting the group until now). You would need to undergo a DBS check through the school but this is quick and easy to do. If you are interested or have any questions, please email the school office for the attention of Mrs Sproat, Office Manager.

CAFOD and Catholic Social Teaching



A special visitor from CAFOD came into school this week. Gerard Nolan delivered two assemblies and workshops to various classes with a focus on Catholic Social Teaching and the work of CAFOD with poor and vulnerable communities around the world.

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture and influenced by grassroots movements. It is a moral compass, guiding the way we live out our faith in the world. The principles of CST which inspire CAFOD's work are:

Dignity, Solidarity, The common good, The option for the poor and vulnerable, Peace, Creation and Environment, The dignity of work and participation.

Lost Property Plea

As the weather warms and children shed jumpers and cardigans at playtime, we accumulate increasing piles of unnamed 'lost' items. Please make sure that all of your child's clothes and belongings are clearly labelled with their name so that it can be returned to them easily.

Parent/Carer Survey 2024

At the beginning of this week we launched our parent/carers survey to gather the views and opinions of parents and carers. The results will be viewed by the school leadership team and used to aid school improvement. To complete the survey, please scan the QR code or follow the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/NAqBWzCnWT>



Story Museum – Story in a suitcase

On the 14th March a mysterious battered suitcase arrived in school, accompanied by a Story Museum Story Leader – a veteran traveller of many mystical story lands. The ICT suite was transformed into Narnia, with a hand stitched backdrop, and multisensory souvenirs to bring the story world to life. Pupils in Year 4 and Year 5 took part in performance and role-play sessions, developing their oracy and story-making skills.



Visit to Oxford City for Key Stage 2 pupils

Two of our Year 6 pupils tell us about their day at Oxford City...

On Wednesday 28th February, a group of children from KS2 were invited to Oxford City Football Club for a football training session, a meet and greet with some of the players and an opportunity to watch the first team train. While we were there we really enjoyed the football drills and getting the opportunity to learn a bit more about what life is like as a footballer. We all had a great day and it was topped off with a programme from the most recent match signed by some of the players themselves!



Year 6 Girls vs St Michael's – Match Report

In an electrifying showdown against St. Michaels, our girls' team showcased incredible teamwork in a nail-biting 0-0 draw. With slick passes and solid defence, they kept fans on the edge of their seats throughout the match. Despite the lack of goals, the excitement never waned, with near misses and spectacular saves keeping everyone guessing. A big shout out goes to the Pullin family for their generous washing machine contribution, ensuring our team looked sharp on the field. With high-fives and smiles all around, our girls left the pitch proud of their performance and ready for their final at Oxford City Football Club next Monday. We wish the girls the best of luck!

Mrs Montes



Year 4 Performance – Anglo-Saxon Chronicles

Year 4 pulled together a brilliant performance last week, with early English history unfolding before appreciative audiences. Congratulations to all the pupils who projected their voices so clearly and sang with such gusto.



Year 3 Poetry Performance

Year three also put on an amazing performance this week. New challenges as well as old favourites. ‘Granny Rap’ was excellent! Quite how the teachers get 60 children to speak in unison is amazing and their ‘Peter Piper’ tongue twister just got faster and faster! We can certainly see the impact of our Public Speaking coaching in the confidence of the pupils’ spoken delivery.

Specialist Rugby coaching

We're delighted to share some wonderful news from our PE classes! Our Year 4 and Year 6 students have been absolutely loving their rugby sessions, thanks to the fantastic support of our dedicated rugby coach, Mr. Ravenhill. Taking inspiration from the recent 6 Nations tournament, the children have thrown themselves into the game with enthusiasm and have truly embraced every aspect of rugby. From learning new skills to working together as a team, they've shown incredible engagement and enjoyment throughout.



Outdoor Learning in Year 1

As the vibrant hues of spring paint our surroundings, 1M has embraced the season's warmth with an enriching outdoor activity. Amidst the blossoming flowers in our school playground, our children moved their books and notebooks outside for a wonderful session on writing and reading.

The sunny weather not only provided a lovely backdrop but also served as a catalyst for boosting their reading and writing abilities, both pivotal aspects of a child's development and pillars of learning.

Year 1 is committed to empowering our young minds by providing inviting spaces to enhance reading and writing. Enhancing comprehension, expanding vocabulary, and developing critical thinking are a handful of benefits of reading. Equally vital is writing that helps children to articulate their thoughts, express their emotions and craft narratives from the very early stage of composing simple sentences.

We are eager for more opportunities to learn in the open-air next term!



Science Week – Science Fair

Our school Science Week culminated in our Science Fair on Thursday 21st March. Year groups displayed information about the experiments they had been conducting and the hall was packed with pupils and parents as the children explained clearly what they had been doing. From experiments showing the effect of different drinks on our teeth to exploring the impact of salt and the micronutrients and vitamins our bodies need – there was a clear focus on keeping our bodies healthy and active with pupils able to use scientific vocabulary to describe what they had discovered. Thank you to our Science Coordinators Mrs Bosco and Mr Turner for leading this whole school initiative.



Visiting Author!

Today we had a special visitor at our school Elara Vilar, a young author at the age of 12, visited our Year 2, Year 3, and Year 5 classes to share her incredible journey so far in the world of writing. The children were captivated as Elara read a chapter from her book and they were thrilled to have the opportunity to ask her questions about her writing process and inspiration. One of the highlights of the day was when Elara graciously signed copies of her book for our budding writers. It was truly an inspiring experience for our students, and we are grateful to Elara for taking the time to visit and share her passion for storytelling with us. Here are some highlights from the kids:

Mahira said, *"When Elara came, she talked about what it's like to be an author. I used to think it would be tough, but she made it sound like so much fun!"*

Lydia shared, *"I loved when Elara read a chapter from her second book, Adventures of Ancient Rome. It was so amazing to speak to a real author!"*

Ava chimed in, *"I really enjoyed when Elara visited our class to talk about her books and answer our questions. I'm super excited to see what she writes next!"*

Andria added, *"I liked asking Elara questions and hearing her read to us. It was great to get all our questions answered!"*

Angelica exclaimed, *"I loved listening to Elara read chapter 9 of Adventures in Ancient Rome and getting to ask her questions. It was so cool!"*

It's clear that Elara's visit was a hit with our students and we're grateful for the inspiration she brought to our school.

Mrs Montes



Health and Safety at St Joseph's

It was suggested by Governors at the Health & Safety committee that we share a bit about the work they monitor.

Trips and residential

Trips and residential are an important part of our broad and balanced curriculum. They provide pupils with opportunities to apply their learning outside of the classroom, to find out more about themselves and the world around them. We have Educational Visit Coordinators (EVC) who review the risk assessments for all trips outside of school, and also inform our insurers when trips take place outside of the core school day. Oversight by EVC colleagues means that these trips and visits take place in the safest possible way and that contingency plans are in place to help deal with anything unexpected.

And Finally

We had a visitor today in Year 1 and EYFS! Frida (the 85 year old!) tortoise, came to visit thanks to Mr James. We learned all about the differences between reptiles and humans. The children were very excited feed and stroke Frida and RO did some lovely writing!



Building a Broad and Balanced Curriculum - Spring Term Review!

It is important to celebrate all that we do to extend learning and develop our broad and balanced curriculum which Catholic Education is rightly celebrated for. Here is a recap of the wonderful Spring 24 term!



Catholic Life of the School

This term our values were **compassionate & loving** and **faith-filled & hopeful**. Our social teaching focus was **family & community** and **option for the poor & vulnerable**. Our Social Justice group have been active – including collections for Sobell House and the CAFOD Big Lent Walk and family fast day.

Over this term we have celebrated St Joseph's feast day, we have held Mass in school twice to celebrate the start and end of term. We have held a reconciliation service and Fr Mervyn came in to do the Stations of the Cross with the children. We have also had CAFOD come in to talk about Catholic Social teaching (see [this link](#) for an explanation) and work with Year 3 and year 4.

Special Weeks and Focus

Over this term we have had several focused weeks and special days to reinforce aspects of our curriculum. This has included a focus on healthy eating and Science week which culminated in a open event for parents. We have also had internet safety week and celebrated reading on World Book day. International Women's day and Mother's day coincided this term as well, with a very special focus on Women.



Performance

Performance is an essential part of what we do. We are proud to provide curriculum time for public speaking and Philosophy for Children (in Year 5). This encourages pupils to have a voice and be able to both articulate their learning, but also have confidence to speak in public. This term we have had performance for both Year 4 and Year 3 as well as the iRock concert.

Trips and Visits

A range of trips for every year group this term! This takes a lot of organising and a huge thanks to the staff and office. We had Reception, Year 1 and Year 4 visit museums in Oxford City – the Natural History Museum, Science Oxford and the Ashmolean Museum respectively.



Year 3 went to Cirencester to visit the Roman museum there and Year 5 visited the Synagogue in Oxford.



And Year 6 went to the JR to the IMPs programme to learn ways to keep themselves safe.

Visitors to our school

As well as going out of schools, we invite a range of speakers into school. This term this has included Zoolab (our Mighty River sticker treat!), both hockey and football visitors as well as story tellers from the Story Museum. And just this week a young author – as spoken about earlier in the newsletter!



Curriculum Enrichment

We have specialist subjects we have chosen to do in school in different years. This includes *Philosophy for Children* (P4C) in Year 5, *touch typing* and *Chess* in Year 3& 4, *Cycling Proficiency* in Year 5. Year 3 went *swimming* this term as well. We also run *Public Speaking* sessions from Year 1 to Year 6 and are seeing a real impact of this when performing and speaking in public. Our Forest has been very flooded so nature school has been a challenge, but it is finally drying out! We are having an engineer to come and look at how we can drain it more effectively.

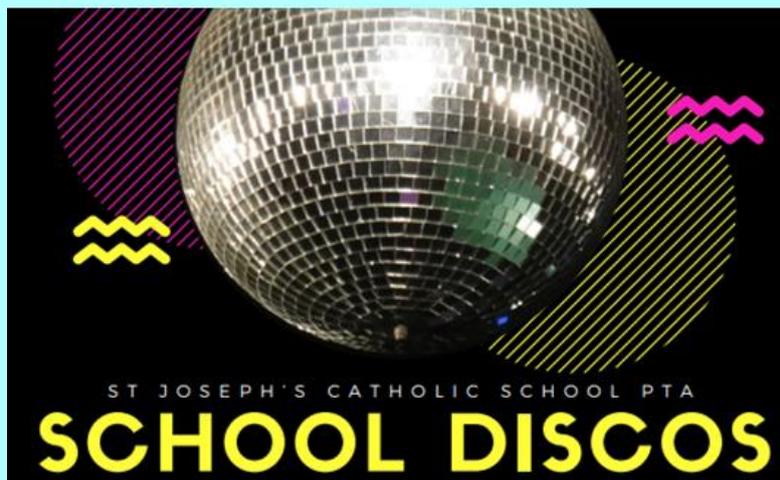
Competitions

We continue to participate in competitions. The girls teams in chess have had the opportunity to take part in both a face to face competitions (2024 ECF English Schools Girls Championship Semi Final Under 11), as well as an online chess tournament. Both our boys' and girls' squads have played football competitions. We also had the final of our Chevron sponsored Sign Competition. Finally, we success in our Young Art Oxford competition and have one First Prize winner as well as two commended and several pieces of art on display at the Ashmolean! Well done!



PTA

And finally, our amazing PTA hosted 3 amazing discos for our pupils. They were a great success and much fun was had by all! Money raised by the PTA has part funded coach trips for different year groups to help reduce the cost for families. Thank you to all our volunteers.



Practical Help and Signposting

Sadly, things at the moment are difficult for many of our families. Bills all seem to be rising, and everything is getting more expensive. We want to make sure that all our families have support in place if it is needed. Even if your child is not eligible for Free School Meals, we may be able to help with uniform from our vast stock of good-quality second-hand items, we are able to refer to local Food Banks and signpost families to other sources of help, advice, and support.

If you are struggling, please contact our home/school link worker, Mrs Kate Stratford. Her contact details are below. Mrs Stratford will be happy to talk to you in confidence to see what support we can offer.

If you need help towards paying for school trips, please contact the office to arrange a confidential conversation with Ms Tweedie.

Mrs Kate Stratford

Home/School Link Worker and Deputy DSL

Tel: 01865 763357

Mobile: 07500 802732

Email: kstr3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk

Dairy Dates

Date	Year Group/Class	Event
Monday 25 th March	All year groups	End of term Mass in school
Monday 25 th March		Family Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 27 th March	All year groups	School finishes for Easter break at 3:10pm (ASC running as usual)
Thursday 28 th March	All year groups	INSET day – school closed to pupils
Friday 29 th March – Friday 12 th April	All year groups	Easter Holidays – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 16 th – Friday 19 th April	Year 5	Woodlands residential
Thursday 18 th May	EYFS	Vision screening
Monday 10 th -Tuesday 11 th June	Year 3	Camping residential
Tuesday 30 th April	Year 3	Story Museum visit
Monday 6 th May	All year groups	May Bank Holiday – school closed to pupils
Monday 13 th – Thursday 16 th May	Year 6	KS2 tests administered
Monday 20 th May	Year 6	Retreat Day
Tuesday 21 st – Friday 24 th May	Year 6	Cycling Proficiency
Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May	All year groups	May half term break – school closed to pupils
Monday 3 rd June	All year groups	INSET day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 4 th June	Year 6	Story Museum visit
Tuesday 16 th July	Year 6	Legoland trip
Wednesday 24 th July	All year groups	Last day of summer term

Flyers and Information

REAL KINGDOMS
ADVENTURES

FAMILY FUN DAY

at
Hill End
Sat 20th April
10 am to 2 pm

SCAN ME

Activities included:

- safe action archery
- axe throwing
- meet the baby dragon
- Viking map quest
- spear and shield practice
- explore ancient settlement

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07830084877

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A FREE healthy lifestyle programme for families with children aged 4-12.

- Fun weekly physical activity sessions for children taking part.
- Weekly sessions working with parents covering topics like fussy eating, portion sizes, physical activity, and how to lead a healthy lifestyle.
- Free 12-week programme, funded by Oxfordshire County Council.

Nutrition
 Movement
 Mind
 Sleep

When and where?

Barton park school, Barton Fields Road, Oxford, OX3 9WN
 5pm-6pm
 Starting Thursday 9th May
 10 free multisport sessions for the children

Scan the QR code to sign up and find out more!

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Free places for children in receipt of benefit related free school meals

Easter Holiday Clubs

St Nicholas' Primary School, Oxford
These clubs are open to children aged 3-11

Tuesday 2nd April to Friday 5th April
Monday 8th April to Friday 12th April

Activities include dodgeball, dance, drama, yoga, multi skills, ball games, art and crafts, team and confidence building activities and much more




Cost: £35 per day
All childcare vouchers accepted

Timings: 8am-5pm

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