



'Live, love and learn in a caring Christian community'

Newsletter April 2025

Dear Parents,

Every half term is busy, but this one has been even busier, more exciting and fun-filled than usual! It would be impossible for me to capture every 'wow' moment that has taken place, but I hope this newsletter will give you a flavour of life at St Joseph's over the last half term.

Awards Assembly

Each half term, we recognise the children who have made a huge effort to follow our school rules.

S	Safe choices and listening.
A	Always remembering to be honest, kind and gentle.
I	I do the best I can, and I help others to do the same.
N	Noticing and acting when someone needs help.
T	Treating ourselves, our community and our property with respect.
S	St Joseph's is a place where we follow in Jesus' footsteps.

This half term, we say a huge 'well done' to the following children:

S	Victoria T, Michail, Milda-Maria, Miski, Payton N, Joseph, Teiran, Tom Z, Finn Mc, Joseph E, Nicky, Rebekah.
A	Mateo, Millie C, Hugo, Theo, Aleksander, Darcy B, Alice CB, Tosia, Theo C, Charlie, Sienna, Sabrin.
I	Eden, Ella, Luca C, Maximillian, Tymi, Audra, Emily K, Evie S, Valentina, Noah, Jacob M, Isabel P.
N	Jett, Cartrick, Maria, Jasmine, Myla, Isabel L, Gabi, Catherine, Joel P, Jenna, Charlie, Kai P.
T	Eoin, Sebastian S, Finn O, Joshua A, Param, Oliver C, Nia T, Dominic P, Kajetan, Natalie, Mina, Aiden V.
S	Neth, Amelia T, Frankie, Shay, Teddy, Jacob E, Antonio DSR, Maeve, Poppy J-J, Leo, Maya P, Conor.

House points:

St Margaret Clitherow – 4042

St Pope John Paul II – 5195

St Anthony – 4972

St Bernadette – 5032

St Oscar Romero – 4974

Congratulations to the children in St Pope John Paul II. We look forward to rewarding you all after the Easter break.

St Joseph's Day:

The 19th of March was a day of great celebration as we gave thanks for St Joseph, our patron saint, and all members of our school community. Fr Marco led Mass for us, we iced biscuits, created decorations and took part in sports activities.



Throughout the day, all members of our school community participated in a mosaic workshop with skilled artists to contribute to two mosaics, which will be installed at the front of our school during the Easter holidays. Many thanks to the School Association for funding not only the artwork, but the wonderful experience for the children. I have given the children (and adults) the challenge of remembering which part they created! Here is a sneak preview:



Our Lenten preparations:

Our Lenten preparations started on Ash Wednesday with a liturgy led by Fr Marco, and we learnt about the true meaning of praying, fasting and almsgiving during this season. Through RE lessons and collective worship sessions, the children have an excellent understanding of how we can experience 'being with Jesus in the desert' during Lent.

Fr Marco also offered the children in Years 4-6 the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation; it was wonderful to see how many children chose to partake.

Colours of Hope/Charity Week:



As we continue our journey as ‘pilgrims of hope’, it was wonderful to see all the children dressed in the colours of hope and taking part in our sponsored move-a-thon as we raised money for the Westminster Catholic Children’s Society. The children learnt about how the charity has helped a young boy called Tommy.



I would highly recommend asking your child/ren to sing the following words, which come from our ‘Hope Song’ – it is a song that they know very well; hearing them sing it always lifts my heart, and I’m sure it will bring you hope and joy:

*“Fan the flame of hope,
Bringing light to all the world,
May my song of hope,
Rise to you,
God of love, Lord of all.”*

Science Week:

We had an incredible Science Week, filled with fun and engaging activities, workshops, and experiments. Children were inspired by multiple parent talks that explored various STEM careers. In EYFS, children discovered the wonders of 'light' by creating rainbows with prisms and torches. Meanwhile, Key Stage One and Two experienced the magic of science through exciting experiments, including potion making, chemical reactions and memorable explosions.



Sports news:

We have had another great half term of sporting events, beginning with Year 2 and Year 4, who took part in the BSP gymnastics competition.

All the gymnasts worked extremely hard to learn and prepare floor routines and vaults to perfection. They all performed superbly in front of the judges and were wonderful representatives of St Joseph's.

Congratulations to our Year 6 netball teams who participated in the School Games Netball Competition! Our Aspire Team finished in 3rd place in their pool and our Compete Team finished in 1st place overall, winning the nail biting final 5-3! Fabulous team work and some really great netball! Well done girls!!

Year 5 showed some excellent skills and teamwork last week and had a great time at the hockey competition. They were undefeated throughout the tournament and had great fun!

We are looking forward to lots more exciting sport opportunities next half term.

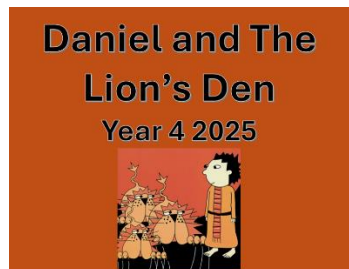


Year 5 Distraction Training:

This term, Year 5 took part in some Road Safety training, which focused on distractions. We discussed the use of mobile technology and its potential for distraction. The children's favourite part was a practical demonstration showing the differences between walking without technology distractions and walking with technology distractions. It highlighted how hard and dangerous it is to write a text message whilst crossing the road.



Year 4 Production – Daniel and the Lions' Den:



The Year 4s impressed family and friends this week with their superb performance of the Biblical tale, Daniel and the Lions' Den. The message to trust in God was portrayed beautifully by all the children with superb acting and singing, along with fabulous costumes. Well done to all the children for the hard work and enthusiasm that went into creating such a super show - what superstars you were!



Staffing news:

As you know, we said ‘goodbye and ‘happy early retirement’ to Steve, our site manager at the end of March after 15 years. Our new site manager, James McNaughton, has started and is already making a positive contribution to the school community.

We say ‘goodbye and good luck’ to Mrs McElhinney at the end of this term. We wish her well in her new role as Early Years Mental Health Lead for Hertfordshire – their gain is very much our loss. Elm Class will be taught by Miss Theunissen for the summer term, who has spent some time this term getting to know the children, and she is excited to be joining the Family of St Joseph’s.

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Reed, Mrs Begum and Ziomek, who have joined our team of support staff this term.

Key dates for April and May:

Tuesday 22nd April: children return to school

Tuesday 29th April at 9.15: Phonics workshop for Year 1 parents

Monday 5th May: BANK HOLIDAY

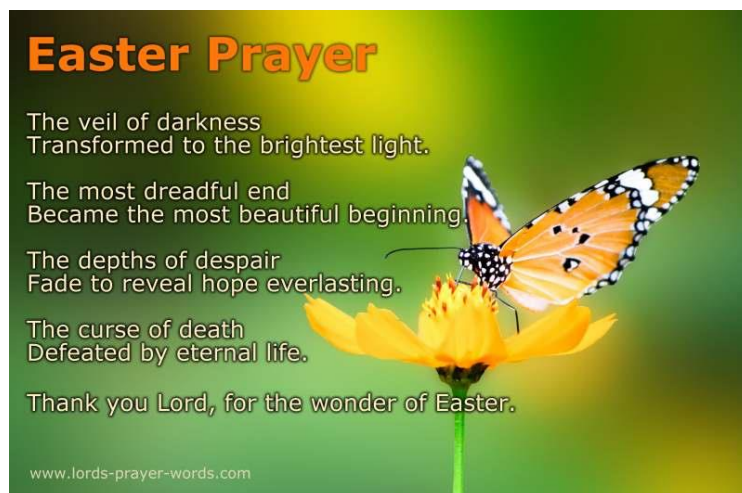
Monday 12th – Thursday 15th May: SATS week for our Year 6 pupils

Monday 26th - Friday 30th May: HALF TERM

Next Term:

There are lots of things to look forward to next term, including school trips for many year groups. There will be an opportunity for you to formally share your views on various aspects of the school through our parent survey.

An invitation for prayer and reflection:



I wish you and your families a Happy Easter and we look forward to seeing you all at the start of the Summer Term on Tuesday 22nd April.

With best wishes,

Ann Cassidy-Jones
Headteacher