

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

"To Live Love and Learn in a Caring Christian Community"

NEWSLETTER NO.9

JULY 2023

HEADTEACHER AWARDS – July 2023

Cedar **Joseph -** For the calm, common sense approach you exhibit every day, both in

> class and on the playground. You are a super role model to your friends. Maria - For the empathy and kindness you show every day to your friends in

Cedar Class. You really are a kind, caring Christian.

Cherry **Sam** – For being caring and very welcoming to new friends, and for your

positive attitude to your work.

Orla - For working hard and for living out our School Mission Statement by the

way you treat others.

Elm Nathaniel - For always demonstrating a positive attitude towards all areas of

the curriculum and always asking questions to deepen his knowledge and

understanding!

Oliwia - For always trying her best in all areas of the curriculum and always

preserving, even when things are a little tricky!

Fir Oliver - For always being a helpful and caring member of Fir Class, who

strives to live out our Mission Statement. It has been wonderful to watch you

flourish this year, we are very proud.

Abigail - For consistently exhibiting our school values. Abigail is a thoughtful and caring learning partner, who enjoys helping others - this truly shows her

kind and selfless nature.

Hazel Merlin - for being a cheerful, positive and caring member of the class who

comes into school every day with a smile on his face. He has worked hard to

follow the Mission Statement this term.

Hannah - for always demonstrating a positive attitude to learning. She is a hardworking member of Hazel class and lives out the Mission Statement in all

that she says and does through treating her peers with respect and kindness.

Maple Rafael - For his inquisitive attitude towards all learning activities and for the

unwavering effort he puts into all homework tasks. His ever-growing resilience and daily smile when arriving at the classroom door is something that we can

all aspire to!

Bella - For being a caring and considerate member of Maple class who often goes out of her way to help and support those in need. Her genuine concern

and kindness towards others, is something that she should be proud of and I

am sure this will continue to flourish in Year four.

Oak **Henry** - for always approaching tasks with a smile and a positive attitude. He

has made excellent progress across the curriculum. He is kind and considerate to all members of the class and lives out the mission statement every day.

Nathan - for his enthusiasm and commitment to improve which has resulted in great progress across the curriculum, especially in Maths. He always comes into school with a smile and a ready to learn attitude. He is a friend to all

members of the class and lives out the mission statement every day.

Pine

Sienna - For being an enthusiastic and cheerful member of Pine class. She is always thoughtful and considerate of the feelings of others.

Taron - For always trying his best and being a great role model to other members of the class. He is sensible, thoughtful and hard working at all times.

Poplar

Luke - For his genuine friendship and warmth towards others and for his determination to do well in all areas of the curriculum.

Anwen - For settling in so well into the family of St. Joseph's school this year and for being a great contributor, especially in the area of gymnastics, dance and P.E.

Rowan

Celeste - For being an exemplary role model to all in our school community. You live out our Mission Statement in all aspects of school life with care, commitment and love.

Jackson - For your effort in all areas of the curriculum. Your determination to do the best you can and make the most of every opportunity really stands out. Congratulations on an excellent year!

Sycamore

Jeshua - for living out the Mission statement at all times, as he demonstrated during our PGL trip! Well done for being a good friend to everyone in your group.

Sofia - for the courage and resilience she has displayed throughout this academic year. Also, for bringing a buzz and energy to the classroom environment.

Jamie - has really embraced everything about Year 6. His humour has cheered us up during the year and he was a pleasure to be with on our PGL trip. You will be a star at secondary school.

Willow

Benjamin - has had a fantastic year in Year 6. Not only has he achieved incredibly highly, but he has done this was an exceptional attitude. He is kind to everyone and it has been a pleasure to teach him.

Ruby - has really grown throughout her time in Year 6. She has achieved very highly academically, yet is also incredibly kind and polite to all her peers and adults in school. She has been a joy to teach.

YEAR 6 AWARDS

This year our Year 6 awards were presented to:

Alex - O'Carroll Cup - for effort and achievement in Religious Education

Gabriel & Neve - Jack Fielder Scholar Award

Patrick & Hannah - Jack Fielder Achievement Award

Oliver & Anastasia - Father Hanton Citizenship Award – voted for by the pupils, which child in year 6 has epitomised our school mission statement during their time at St Joseph's.

Music Awards

Congratulations to the following KS2 Music Award Winners for 2023:

Year 3 – Noah

Year 4- Mylene

Year 5- Georgina and Eliza

Year 6- Ben

Music and Singing Club Concerts

Thank you to our singing club and Ms Roper for showcasing your talents to your parents and staff.

It was amazing to see so many of you perform so well in front of such a large audience. We hope that everybody keeps on practising over the holiday!

Sports Update

Our annual sports day followed a slightly different organisation this year with EYFS and KS1 having their own sports day events as opposed to having one combined event, and KS2 having their traditional sports day morning of races. The introduction of a long race in KS2 was very popular with the pupils, as was their afternoon sports activities. Our thanks to the parents and family members who were able to attend this year.

Sport is an area in which we excel at St Joseph's; the Year 5 and 6 school team won the K.A.S. Football Festival earlier this year as well as finishing very high in the League having been unbeaten in matches. Then, as the Summer weather arrived, came the time for the cricket season. Again, we achieved very well, making it all the way to the finals! Well done to all of our UKS2 cricketers - it was a super season and you should be very proud of what you achieved.

Year 6 Concert

It has been an incredibly busy time for Year 6, as we have approached the end of this academic year. A particular highlight was our performance of, 'I'm an 11-Year-Old, Get Me Out of Here'. The children all worked amazingly hard to put on the most spectacular show; they were funny, charming and creative. We even had some children take charge of the sound and screen!

Leavers' Mass

Our Year 6 Leavers' Mass was celebrated for the last time by Fr Antonio, with staff, governors, parents and pupils this week. After mass, we gave the Year 6 pupils each a bible which was generously funded by the School Association, and a gift for Fr Antonio, who will soon be leaving us to go to his new parish in Harrow. We wish him the very best of luck and thank him for his dedication to our school over the last three years.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to all of our pupils who have recently celebrated their First Holy Communion. It was a privilege to attend this special event and we celebrated as a community all together at a special mass in our hall.

House Points

Congratulations to all of the children for contributing towards the points for their houses.

The following number of house points were awarded to each house this year:

Saint Margaret Clitherow - 3,793

Saint Bernadette - 2,335

Saint Pope John Paul II - 1,066

Saint Anthony - 4,301

Saint Oscar Romero - 4,305

The children in Saint Oscar Romero House enjoyed their collective reward on Wednesday afternoon.





News from the Chaplaincy Team:

Our Retreat Day at St Edmund's, written by Francesco, Gabriel and Ethan

On Tuesday 16th May, we joined all of the other Chaplaincy Teams from St Francis of Assisi Catholic Trust at St Edmund's School for a Retreat Day which was focused on Catholic Social Teaching.

When we arrived, we were astonished by the towering size of St Edmund's School, with the beautiful Church, decorated with stained glass windows. We then split into groups and spent the day doing activities to help us to understand more about Catholic Social Teaching – these are the principles that we are asked to follow in order to make our world a fair place for all.

Our favourite activities included creating a coat of arms based on the quality of Justice and thinking about how we can show respect for God's Creation. We also visited the museum, where we were informed us about how difficult it was to live as a Catholic in the 1500s. We also enjoyed looking at the many artefacts, including an altar which was disguised as a kitchen dresser.

To end our day, we gathered together for a service in the Chapel, where we sang hymns and offered our praise to God. It was a wonderful day which helped us to deepen our faith in God.

'Our Year', written by Ruby, Anastasia and Lily

As we enter our last few days as Year 6s and members of the Chaplaincy Team, we wanted to write to tell you about our year...

Being on the Chaplaincy Team has brought many privileges and also responsibilities; some of our highlights have included:

- leading readings during Masses;
- organising fundraising events, especially arranging the collection for the food bank on the day we ate our Christmas dinner;
- visiting St Edmund's to take part in a Retreat Day with the Chaplaincy Teams from the other schools in the St Francis of Assisi Trust;
- Leading and participating in virtual prayer sessions with the other Chaplaincy Teams; and
- Designing our Chaplaincy Team badges.

It has been an honour to be able to guide and teach others in our school community about our faith and to help them grow closer to Jesus.

Although we are now leaving the Family of St Joseph's, we will cherish the memories that we have made here; we will keep those memories, and our belief that God will journey with us as we move to our Secondary Schools.

A prayer written by Ava, Lucas and Tabitha

Loving Father,

We pray that You will watch over our school community during the summer holiday and grant us all peace, rest and enjoyment.

We ask You to journey with the Year 6s as they go to their secondary schools, and also that You will walk alongside Mr Dove, Mrs Hookham and Mrs Ashbrook as they, too, leave the Family of St Joseph's.

Amen

We would like to thank our Chaplaincy Team for being wonderful role-models in faith this year. They have shared the Good News with our whole school community and have helped us to walk in Jesus's footsteps.

Our school milk scheme

Our school provides a milk scheme that is available to all of our pupils. If your child is over 5 years of age and you wish to pay for your child to receive school milk, please see below:

Each child that registers with Cool Milk will receive a 189ml portion of semi-skimmed milk every day, delivered fresh and chilled to the classroom. Their school milk will not only provide them with essential nutrients, but as it is rehydrating and energy boosting it also bridges the gap between breakfast and lunch to help children stay focused. For more information on how milk can benefit children visit www.coolmilk.com/why-milk-is-great.

How to register and pay

- Register and pay online at www.coolmilk.com
- You can pay Cool Milk either online, over the phone or at a local PayPoint in halftermly, termly or annual instalments
- Please pay by a Tuesday at 5pm for your child's milk to start the following week

If you have any questions regarding school milk please visit www.coolmilk.com or contact Cool Milk directly on 0800 321 3248.

Finally

And so 190 school days since September comes to an end.

We wish all of our Year 6 leavers the very best as they move onto their respective secondary schools. It has been a pleasure seeing every Year 6 flourish at the school and the whole staff and governors are very proud of your achievements and who you are as people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of our school and for your contributions to our family of St Joseph's. I pray that all of you will have a safe and enjoyable summer break and that we return refreshed for the next academic year. God Bless.

Prayer

We thank you Lord, for this term and year.

For the challenges, the successes, and the mistakes from which we have learnt.

Be with us as we spend our time with family and friends.

Give us strength and courage to do what is right; to be witnesses of our faith.

Help us to be a practical Christian these holidays, to appreciate what others do for us, to give time and effort to help others, to be peacemakers in our family.

Keep us safe in our activities; give us good rest and good fun.

Bring us back refreshed and ready for a new year.

We thank you for our classmates, teachers, parents and a community that cares for us. May we always be conscious of you in our lives.

Amen.

Academic Year Dates 2023/2024

Autumn Term 2023:

Friday 1st September INSET- No pupils Monday 4th September INSET- No pupils Tuesday 5th September Pupils Return Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October Half Term holiday Wednesday 20th December Last day of term (13.30 finish)

Spring Term 2024:

Wednesday 3rd January INSET- No pupils Thursday 4th January Pupils Return Monday 19th February-Friday 23rd February Half Term holiday Monday 26th February INSET- No pupils Thursday 28th March Last day of term (13.30 finish)

Summer Term 2024:

Monday 15th April Pupils Return Monday 6th May Bank Holiday Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May Half Term holiday Friday 19th July Last day of term (13.30 finish) Monday 22nd July INSET- No pupils Tuesday 23rd July Occasional Day

(Please note that primary school term dates do not follow those of secondary school term dates.)

St. JOSEPH'S GOVERNORS'ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The governors would like to thank all the staff who have worked so hard this year to maintain the standard of education and provide the best for our children. Their efforts were rewarded by the Ofsted report the school received and the school is to be congratulated for this.

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust

A lot of work has been undertaken this year to work together with the Trust by way of consultation meetings and sharing of documents, to consolidate the best way forward in terms of cooperation and consistency across the schools in the Trust.

This year we took the decision to streamline the Committee structure of the governing body by creating two larger Committees, namely Curriculum and Admissions Committee and Resource Committee.

Curriculum and Admissions Committee

The meetings of this Committee are held every term. In these meetings, the Governors consider the teaching, learning and progress at St Josephs. Each teaching area is reviewed biannually and involves the subject leaders submitting data, plans and policies prior to the meeting and then presenting a report and answering questions at the meeting itself. At these meetings, pupils are invited to attend to give a first-hand account of their learning and we see and discuss work they are proud of. Teachers work hard to constantly embed new changes in the curriculum. As always, it is a real privilege to see how well school leaders are preparing, teaching and assessing the subjects in order for our students to maximise their potentials, and this is reflected when we meet with the well-motivated and enthusiastic pupils.

Admissions are now incorporated within this Committee which reviews the School Admissions Policy. Whenever we use our oversubscription criteria the process is witnessed by an independent person with no connection to the school. A paid Local Authority clerk takes minutes. We do not have any discretion to stray from the oversubscription criteria set out in our published policies.

Resource Committee

The newly reformed Resource Committee saw the amalgamation and streamlining of the finance and personnel committees. The following highlights the key achievements, challenges and future plans regarding our resources and financial standing. Operating expenses were well within the allocated budget with funds allocated across both administrative and building expenses. The Chair is pleased to announce an in year surplus which will be carried forward to next year to support specific projects and initiatives identified by the school and the governing body. Further investments were made in upgrading our infrastructure including technology, equipment and facilities resulting in improved operational efficiency and effectiveness. We have faced challenges due to economic uncertainties and market volatility, resulting in increased costs for energy however, our finance strategy helped mitigate the impact, ensuring the continuation of key initiatives and programmes. A focus on developing our financial sustainability revenue streams, particularly through lettings of the school buildings has provided long- term success. A focus on health and safety and risk management processes through regular assessments and implementing appropriate controls, has ensured both high levels of safeguarding for our children and staff. The Resource Committee will continue to work towards our school's continued growth and success.