



**HEADTEACHER AWARDS**

<b>Cedar</b>	<p><b>Jerome</b> - For showing such enthusiasm for his work this half term, especially with his reading and writing, keep this up.</p> <p><b>Joshua</b> - For his attitude towards learning, showing patience and perseverance when you are working on a task, especially during your phonic and writing lessons and for showing kindness to others.</p>
<b>Cherry</b>	<p><b>Millie</b> - for approaching challenges with enthusiasm and for being a positive role model to others.</p> <p><b>Spencer</b> - for living out the school mission statement when playing with others and for his positive attitude to his work.</p>
<b>Elm</b>	<p><b>Erin</b> - for always trying her very best. She engages in all our class discussions with interest and enthusiasm.</p> <p><b>Aoife</b> - for being a fantastic role model, always trying her best and living out the school rules daily in everything that she does!</p>
<b>Fir</b>	<p><b>Emma-Rose</b> - For a huge improvement in her Phonics and Reading this term. Emma-Rose loves learning and always to challenge herself. Keep up the hard work!</p> <p><b>Teddy</b> - For his perseverance, Teddy has tried very hard in Maths this term and can now add two-digit numbers using the column method. Teddy always wants to help other children in class and make sure that they are okay - he is a lovely and friendly member of Fir.</p>
<b>Hazel</b>	<p><b>Rebecca</b> - For your 'can do' approach, and your perseverance to do your very best in every piece of work you carry out.</p> <p><b>Oliver</b> - For your kind and caring nature, and constantly looking for opportunities to help your friends and adults in Hazel Class.</p>
<b>Maple</b>	<p><b>Tosia</b> - For her positive approach to all aspects of school life. Tosia always tries her best to live out our school mission statement.</p> <p><b>Daisy</b> - For the fantastic progress Daisy has made so far this year. She always tries her hardest in school.</p>
<b>Oak</b>	<p><b>Lily</b> - for living out the mission statement every day. She is a kind and helpful member of the class. She is an excellent learning partner, always willing to support and encourage others. She has a positive attitude to all her learning, always starting the day with a smile and a cheerful greeting.</p> <p><b>Michal</b> - for working hard in his maths. He has shown great resilience in persevering even when he has found some topics hard. He has shown great determination in learning his times tables - well done Michal!</p>
<b>Pine</b>	<p><b>David</b> - for maintaining a mature and sensible approach to learning at all times and for showing determination and excellent concentration in every lesson.</p> <p><b>Emily</b> - for trying her best in all lessons, showing enthusiasm and determination and for being an outstanding role model of respectful behaviour.</p>
<b>Poplar</b>	<p><b>Micaela</b> - For putting outstanding effort into her learning, especially maths and for being a very supportive learning partner in class.</p> <p><b>Isaac</b> - For his positive approach to his learning challenges, especially in English and for being a good learning partner who is fun to work with.</p>

<b>Rowan</b>	<p><b>Max</b> - for having a hardworking and enthusiastic attitude in every lesson. He leads by good example through his wisdom and how he perseveres in challenges.</p> <p><b>Isabel</b> - for her determination, efforts, and enthusiasm across the curriculum and for always challenging herself.</p>
<b>Sycamore</b>	<p><b>Max</b> - for his loving appreciation of all others within the school community. You are a fine example of how to follow in Jesus' footsteps.</p> <p><b>Sophia</b> - for her brilliant application across the curriculum and contribution during group tasks. Well done for making fantastic progress so far this year!</p>
<b>Willow</b>	<p><b>Marcus</b> - for working incredibly hard this term and making superb progress across the curriculum. His contribution to class discussions is fantastic, and really help to further the learning of his peers. Well done, Marcus - keep up the great work!</p> <p><b>Lottie</b> - for growing in confidence considerably throughout her time in Year Six. She is progressing wonderfully across the curriculum, and it is lovely to see her take such pride in her work. Really well done a super half term, Lottie!</p>

### **What does it mean to live out our mission statement?**

A prospective parent on a recent school tour asked the question about our mission statement. As a reminder for us all:

Our school is rooted in the mission of the Church.

As a Catholic school, we believe in the education of the whole person and the uniqueness of the individual made in God's image and love by Him.

We are not a selective school, only for the bright. Some children need additional support, and some children require significant support to help them.

We are a family where every single child has a right to receive the best Catholic education we can offer. We are proud to live, love and learn together, whatever our needs.

It is through living out our mission statement that our children display amazing understanding, tolerance, acceptance and kindness towards each other.

### **Sports News**

We have had another great half term of sporting activity. At the Sports Hall Athletics competition, a team of sixteen Year 5 and 6 pupils and sixteen Year 3 and 4 pupils competed over two days in January. They demonstrated excellent skills, determination, and teamwork. The Year 5 and 6 team were winners on the day of their competition and were only just knocked into second place overall out of eighteen schools on the second day of the event. In Gymnastics, a team of six Year 6 pupils entered a competition at Stortford Gymnastics. The team worked extremely hard in the build-up to the competition to learn the complex routine. All pupils performed superbly and were fantastic representatives of the school. The standard of gymnastics at the competition was very high and we only just missed out on a medal, coming fourth overall.

Next half term will see the school competing in a Yr2 gymnastics tournament, UKS2 hockey tournament and the conclusion of our football league, where we are currently undefeated.



### **Playground Leaders:**

Lots more children have been getting active in the playground at lunchtimes over the last few weeks. A team of Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils underwent an afternoon of training to become Playground Leaders. Each lunchtime the playground leaders supervise and lead a variety of activities that all children can join in, including traditional playground games, sporting equipment and a quiet area for those who would like to read or draw. The games area has proved very popular and the children have enjoyed having a wider variety of activities to take part in.

### **Moment In The Spotlight**

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 26 children from years 5 and 6 who regularly take attend Singing Club, participated in the Young Voices 2024 Concert at the O2 Arena in London. Having rehearsed for about 3 months, the singers joined thousands of other young vocalists to form a gigantic choir. They sang a wide repertoire including songs from 'Moana,' and 'Matilda' along with a pop medley and a special piece written by MC Grammar. We were delighted to have the support from nearly 70 family members who attended the evening concert and it was certainly a night to remember!

Ms Roper said, "It was a wonderful experience for the children to be involved in such a large-scale musical event and to be able to share their love of singing with an arena full of like-minded children."

**Reminders:**

- Children should not be wearing an iwatch in school- only normal watches which do not have access to the internet/ web are allowed.
- We are a NUT FREE school due to the increasing number of children with severe nut allergies. Do not include any form of nut in your child's snack or packed lunch- this includes Nutella.
- Snacks brought in at KS2 should be healthy and not consist of junk food, or fruit snacks which are man-made and contain high levels of sugar.
- PRIME drink is not allowed in school. Your child does not need an energy fuelled drink during the school day. The only drink your child should bring in is water.

**School Car Park Gates**

Parents and children should not walk through the car park gates at any time. It may be the shortest route to the playground path, but it is incredibly dangerous and is reinforcing to your child that it is safe to walk through any open gate.

**School Attendance**

Our goal is for attendance to be over 96%- which was our pre-covid levels at the school. Well done to Oak, Pine , Poplar and Sycamore classes for meeting our goal.

Ash- 93.7% Beech- 92.9%  
Cedar-94.8% Cherry- 95.1%  
Elm= 95.4% Fir- 94.5%  
Hazel- 95.6% Maple-95.9%  
Oak-96.1% Pine 97.1%  
Poplar-96.6% Rowan- 95.3%  
Sycamore- 96% Willow-95%

**Nursery Admissions 2023-2024- Spread the Word!**

A reminder to parents that our nursery admission for September 2024 is now open. We offer 15 hours, 30 hours or 34 hours nursery provision, depending on your funding arrangements and entitlement. The application form to apply for your child is available to download on the school website and should be returned to the school office by Friday 8th March.

**World Book Day**

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, the school will be participating in World Book Day 2024. The children will take part in a variety of activities to celebrate our love of reading.

To mark this special occasion, we would like to invite all children (Nursery through to Year Six) to dress up as either a favourite book character, word, or punctuation mark.

Please see attached letter from Miss Curran and Mrs Rogers.

**Inclusion**

It is our aim to provide an education for children of all abilities. We believe children deserve an education that encourages and motivates them to achieve their full potential. The way the curriculum is delivered allows each pupil to learn at a pace that is appropriate for them.

Inclusion is paramount, and here at St Joseph's we want all children to succeed. To ensure this, we actively praise and nurture all of our children to ensure that they have the inner belief to succeed. Success is celebrated at all levels, which includes children, staff, families and the wider community.

We provide opportunities for all children to realise their potential, we ensure each child is challenged at a level accessible to them, whilst developing their resilience to be effective members of our community and wider world. Every classroom is an inclusive environment which is vital in ensuring that all children feel nurtured and included.

### **Chaplaincy Team:**



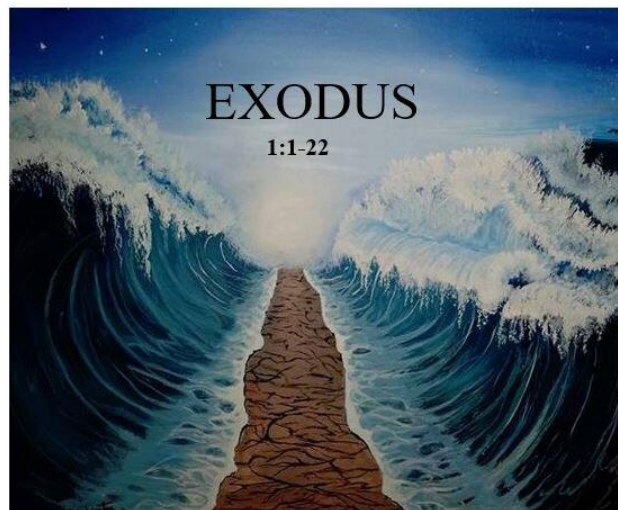
This half term has continued to be busy for us.

We have continued to lead short weekly prayer sessions in each class based on the Sunday Gospel. We have become much more confident in asking the children some challenging, reflective questions.

Our school was set a challenge by Mr Johnston (headteacher of St Mary's) to think about how we show respect to everyone in our school community as each one of us is a 'thumbprint of God'. We had the very challenging job of distributing and collecting the cards from each class that are now on display in St Mary's.

We led the readings for our whole-school Ash Wednesday liturgy and helped the children to understand how they can grow closer to Jesus during Lent.

### **R.E. learning this half term:**



*"Moses's mother wanted him to be safe, so she put him in the basket in the river. He grew up in the palace with the pharaoh. When Moses grew up, God talked to him through a burning bush. God told Moses to go back to Egypt and free all the Israelites from slavery. The pharaoh didn't listen, so God sent the ten plagues; the last plague was the 'angel of death'. The Israelites were*

*saved because they followed the instructions that God gave to Moses: the angel of death saw the lamb's blood on their doors and passed over their homes. Then God helped Moses to part the sea so that the Israelites could escape. When all the Israelites were through, the sea joined together again, and the Egyptian chariots all drowned. God's people were happy to be free from slavery."*

**Eliza – Fir Class (Year 2)**

The children have all been learning about the story of Exodus in their R.E. lessons this half term; there have been many lively discussions about how and why Moses freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Our younger children have been learning to identify the important characters from Exodus and retell the many events of the story in order. Our KS2 children have been focusing on linking the events from Exodus to the life of Jesus and our ultimate salvation.

"Jesus re-enacted the Passover on Maundy Thursday when he ate unleavened bread, just like the Israelites did. Jesus remembered the instructions that God gave to the Israelites through Moses."

**Josie – Hazel Class (Year 3)**

"Moses was scared when he saw the burning bush. God spoke to him and gave him a challenge to free his people from slavery. Moses said "yes," even though he was scared, because he knew God would be with him and protect him."

**Francois – Hazel Class (Year 3)**



I encourage you to ask your child about the pictures above; I'm sure you'll be impressed with the depth of their knowledge.

**Lent at St Joseph's**

We started our Lenten journey on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February with our Ash Wednesday Liturgy. Fr Marco told us that Lent is a time when we think carefully about how we can grow closer to Jesus by praying, fasting and giving. The 40 days of Lent are a perfect opportunity for us to 'spring-clean' our hearts. The ashes are an outward sign of our acceptance that we have made mistakes and our commitment to work hard to not repeat behaviour choices that have hurt others, but instead think about how we can bring more joy to those around us.



After half term, our Lenten journey will continue:

- Children who have made their First Reconciliation will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament from Fr Marco in school.

- The 'Monday Mission' delivered by the Chaplaincy Team will be on a Lenten theme: repentance, forgiveness and sacrifice.
- We will be leading 'Stations of the Cross' for KS1 and KS2 children as we draw closer to Good Friday during Holy Week.
- There will be more news to follow about our Lenten 'giving' project.

**Prayer:**

Time to make the desert journey  
and renew our way to life.

Time for testing and for changing.  
Time to trust the word of God.

Time to recognise holy presence  
and share Cyrene's work.

Time for forgiveness and for healing  
and to repent our broken lives.

Time to build God's dwelling with us  
and proclaim full life for all.

Time to watch and wait with Jesus  
and to prepare the upper room.

Time to turn our lives again to God  
and to transform our world with love.

Amen.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT PUPILS WILL RETURN BACK TO SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup>  
FEBRUARY AS MONDAY 26TH IS AN INSET DAY**