

18/09/2026

St. Joseph's Catholic
Primary School & Nursery

NEWSLETTER

"Treat others as you would like to be treated" Matthew 7:12

Dear Families,

It has been another busy and enjoyable week in school, with lots of exciting learning and activities taking place across our school community.

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our Phonics Workshops this week. We really appreciate you taking the time to join us. Your involvement is so valuable in helping you to understand how we teach phonics in school and, most importantly, how you can support your child's reading at home. Working together makes such a positive difference to children's confidence and progress as readers.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind families that children should not bring toys from home into school. We understand that children may be keen to share their favourite toys with their friends, but unfortunately toys can easily become lost, damaged or broken during the school day. We would be grateful for your support in keeping special toys safely at home, where they can be enjoyed and looked after.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for working with us to ensure that our children have a happy, safe and successful time at school. We hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter and seeing some of the wonderful things our children have been getting up to.



Congratulations to our new School Council representatives. We are looking forward to working with them on some exciting initiatives this year.

Our first meeting takes place this afternoon, and we can't wait to hear their ideas for making St Joseph's an even better place to learn and grow!





A message from Mrs Urding..... What does RE look like in EYFS and KS1?



This term children in
Reception, Year 1 and
Year 2 are focusing on
the theme Creation
and Covenant.

Children learn that God created the world and everything in it out of love. They discover that every person is precious to God and that we are called to care for creation and live as part of God's family

Reception

God made the wonderful
world and everything in it.

God loves us and we belong
to His family.

We should care for the
world God has given us.

In The Vine and the Branches:

Creation and Covenant, children in
Reception and Key Stage 1 learn that
God is the Creator of the world and
that everything God made is good.
They explore how God loves every
person, that we are part of God's
family, and that we have a
responsibility to care for creation.

Year 1

Everything comes from God, our
loving Creator. The Creation
story teaches us about God's
love and goodness.

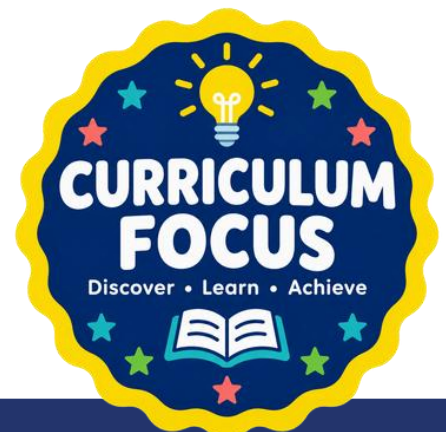
The Nicene Creed begins by
describing God as Creator. We
can see God's love through the
beauty of the world around us.

Year 2

Creation is God's gift and blessing.

Christians are called to be good stewards by caring for God's
world.

Noah's story teaches about God's covenant and faithful love.

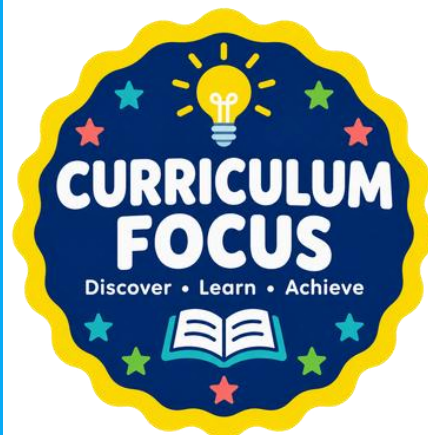




Reception enjoyed their very first Celebration of the Word together. We listened to the Creation Story and thought about the wonderful world God made for us. The children also talked about the significance of the lit candle, recognising it as a reminder that Jesus is the light and that God is always with us. It was a beautiful and special first experience of prayer and reflection for our Reception children.



Year 2 enjoyed role-playing the story of Noah's Ark to help them sequence the events in the correct order. By acting out the different parts of the story, the children developed their understanding of what happened and why. They also explored the story's message about faith, trust in God, and caring for God's creation.





Year 4 London Residential 2027

Letters have been sent home this week to parents and carers of our Year 4 children with details of our exciting London Residential, taking place in May 2027.

This promises to be a truly memorable experience, giving children the opportunity to explore our capital city and enjoy some fantastic cultural opportunities. Highlights of the trip include the immersive Paddington Bear Experience, where pupils will step into the world of everyone's favourite bear, followed by a visit to the West End to watch Paddington the Musical.

And, of course, no trip to London would be complete without a ride on the iconic London Eye, offering spectacular views across the city's famous landmarks.

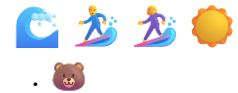
We are incredibly excited to share this opportunity with our pupils and look forward to creating lasting memories with them during what promises to be an unforgettable residential experience.





Year 5 and 6 Cornwall Residential 2027

Letters have been sent home this week to parents and carers of our Year 5 and 6 children with details of our exciting Cornwall Residential, taking place in June 2027. This unforgettable adventure will see pupils heading to the Cornish coast to take part in a range of thrilling water-based activities, including surfing and bodyboarding, while developing confidence, resilience and teamwork. Alongside the excitement of learning new skills in the sea, children will have the opportunity to create lasting memories with their friends in a stunning coastal setting. We can't wait to share this fantastic experience with our Year 5 and 6 pupils!



Good Times



We are delighted to announce that our Young Voices 2027 choir is now underway! Children have begun signing up for this exciting opportunity, and preparations will soon start for what promises to be an unforgettable experience.

The concert has been confirmed for Friday 29th January 2027 at the Resorts World Arena, Birmingham, where our pupils will join thousands of children from schools across the country in one of the world's largest school choir concerts.

Parents and carers who would like to attend and watch the performance are reminded to return their audience ticket order forms by **Thursday 24th September**. We are looking forward to seeing our talented singers take to the stage and represent St Joseph's at this spectacular event.





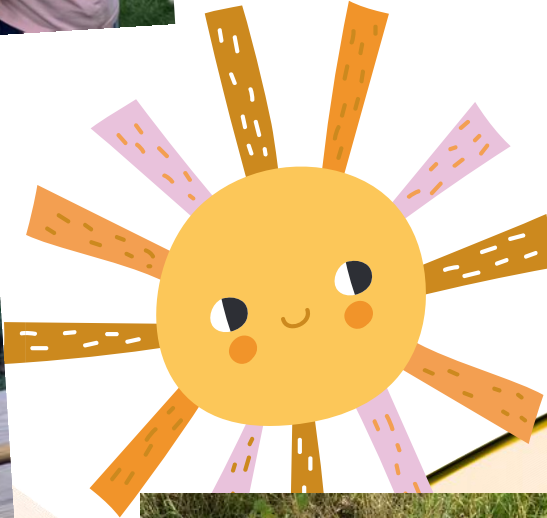
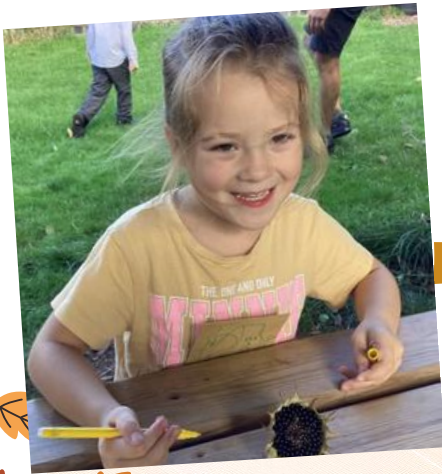
Year 2 had a fantastic time at Forest School on Tuesday afternoon. , developing their creativity and practical skills through a fun hammering activity. Using metal studs and wooden boards, the children carefully created their names, positive words and inspirational messages.



Community Gardens



Lighthouse Class had a fantastic afternoon at Haygrove Community Gardens on Tuesday. With the sun shining, the children enjoyed exploring the gardens, collecting seeds, creating seed packets, and harvesting fresh tomatoes, cucumbers and carrots. The highlight was tasting the delicious produce they had picked themselves! A huge thank you to Kris and John for a wonderful and memorable visit. ☀





Our young scientists had a fantastic time at Fizz Pop Science Club this week, creating their very own Planet Earth models! The children carefully built each layer of the Earth, starting with the core and adding the mantle and crust before finishing with the land and oceans.

Once complete, they cut their planets in half to reveal the different layers hidden inside. To round off the session, the children became geologists, using magnifying glasses to investigate a variety of fascinating rocks up close. It was a fun-filled afternoon of discovery, creativity and hands-on science!



This week in



king Club, the children made some delicious pizzas! They



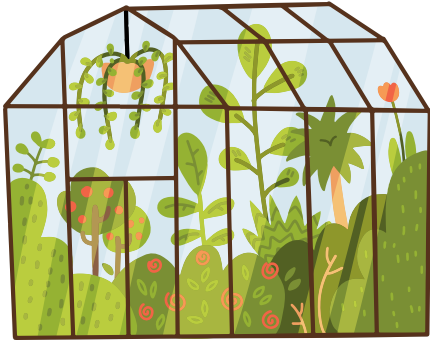
ous pizzas! They



This week in Cooking Club, the children made some delicious pizzas! They carefully chopped a variety of toppings, including peppers, ham, salami and tomatoes. They then spread a tasty tomato sauce over their pizza bases before adding their chosen ingredients. Finally, they sprinkled cheese on top and were very proud of their finished creations. The pizzas looked fantastic and tasted delicious!



HELP NEEDED



We are getting ready to set up our new greenhouse and need to create a small paved area to provide a suitable, level base for it.

We are wondering if any of our parents or carers have experience or expertise in laying paving, preparing ground, or similar building/DIY work, and would be willing to offer some advice or possibly lend a hand.

If this is something you have experience with and might be able to help with, we would be very grateful. Please get in touch with us and let us know what you might be able to offer.

Thank you for your support — we really appreciate the skills and expertise within our school community!



Our talented Art Club children have been busy getting creative again this week!

The children continued building the bases of their papier-mâché models, carefully developing their shapes and designs ready for the exciting painting stage next week.

They also had great fun creating quirky characters using pumpkin stalks! 🎃 The children showed fantastic creative flair and imagination, transforming simple natural materials into wonderfully unique characters.



BE CREATIVE



Hola! Spanish Fun with Our Buddies ^{ES}

Our Year 6 children had a fantastic time working with their Reception V Buddies in a fun Spanish session with Mrs Dick.

The children played games together, practising simple Spanish words and phrases while supporting and encouraging their younger buddies. It was wonderful to see our Year 6 pupils taking on such positive role-models and helping Reception develop their confidence in Spanish. There were lots of smiles, laughter and learning along the way!

¡HOLA!



¿CÓMO?



GRACIAS



Our Reception children are getting off to a flying start with their daily phonics lessons! 🌟 They are already showing fantastic enthusiasm and confidence as they learn new sounds, practise blending and begin to apply their phonics skills. It has been wonderful to see how eagerly they join in and how proud they are of their achievements. We are so impressed with their hard work and positive attitudes — keep it up, Reception! 📚





The Oakleaves have been learning about 'People Who Help Us' this week. The children enjoyed talking about the emergency services and the many people in our everyday lives who help and care for us. They loved exploring the emergency services-themed tuff tray and were captivated by our story of the week, Zog and the Flying Doctors.

The Acorns focused on 'My Favourite Things'. After listening to What Is a Crocodile's Favourite Thing?, the children created wonderful collages using pictures from magazines to showcase the things they love most. They also made beautiful stained-glass windows as part of their RE learning on Belonging to the Church Family.

The Seedlings have been enjoying the rhyme Humpty Dumpty. They had lots of fun exploring a Humpty Dumpty-themed tuff tray, investigating the different textures of Weetabix and oats. The children especially enjoyed breaking down and exploring the "wall", providing a fantastic hands-on sensory experience linked to their learning.

It has been another busy and exciting week in Nursery, with lots of learning through play, creativity and exploration! ☀️



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery



Our annual Harvest Festival will take place on **Monday 12th October**, and the children are already busy preparing their songs, readings and prayers for this special celebration. We look forward to coming together as a school community to give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy and to reflect on the importance of helping those in need.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend.

Reception and Key Stage 1 will celebrate at 9:30am, and **Key Stage 2 will celebrate at 11:00am**. Both celebrations will take place in the Sports Hall.

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we will be collecting donations for our local food bank. From **Monday 21st September**, we would be grateful for donations of non-perishable food items, such as tinned goods, pasta, rice, cereal and long-life products. Your generosity will help support local families and make a real difference within our community.

Thank you in advance for your kindness and support. 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷



Hundred Acre Wood	96.40%
Lighthouse	100.00%
Faraway Tree	96.84%
Neverland	100.00%
Narnia	97.80%
Hogwarts	99.26%
The Shire	98.40%



Have a lovely weekend and
God Bless

Mrs Francis & the Team