16/10/2026

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

NEWSLETTER

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

Dear Families,

We started the week on such a wonderful note with our Harvest Festival! It was a lovely opportunity to come together as a school community, celebrate the season of harvest and reflect on the importance of kindness, generosity and helping others. A huge thank you to all our families for your generous donations to the local foodbank, which will make a real difference to those in need. Thank you, too, to everyone who joined us to celebrate, and to our amazing children for their beautiful singing and confident readings. We are incredibly proud of them all and grateful for the support and kindness that make our school community so special!

Thank you for the Harvest



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Let's COOK







The school was filled with the most wonderful smells this morning as Mr Smith and Year 6 got busy in the kitchen, making their very own Harvest soup! 🥕🍪

To accompany their delicious homemade soup, the children also made their own bread from scratch. What a fantastic way to celebrate Harvest, learn new skills and enjoy working together!

The aromas have certainly made everyone's mouths water, and the whole school smells amazing! Let's just hope the soup and bread taste as good as they smell! 🍲📦

Well done, Year 6, and thank you to Mr Smith for helping make this such a lovely Harvest activity.







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Experience

16/10/2026





Last Friday, our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children enjoyed a fantastic day at the Cheltenham Literature Festival. They took part in inspiring sessions with renowned authors and illustrators Nick Sharratt and Pippa Goodhart, where they explored the world of storytelling, unleashed their creativity through drawing and illustration, and were captivated by imaginative tales.

The excitement continued throughout the day, with plenty of laughter and memorable moments, including Mr Mason winning a competition by successfully balancing an impressive 10 bagels on his head! We were also delighted to bring back a signed picture from Nick Sharratt as a special souvenir of the day.

It was a truly wonderful experience that celebrated books, creativity and imagination, while inspiring a lifelong love of reading in our children. 📚✨











ST. JOSEPH'S RC
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VIRTUTE ET LABORE

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16/10/2026

RE Learning in Key Stage 2

Creation and Covenant

A message from Mrs Urding..

This term, Key Stage 2 pupils have been exploring the topic of Creation and Covenant through the Vine and the Branches programme. They have learned about God's relationship with His people through the stories of Creation, Abraham, Joseph and Moses, reflecting on faith, trust and God's promises. Pupils have explored how God's covenant guides our lives, considered Jesus' commandment to love one another, and reflected on our responsibility to care for God's creation. Older pupils have also examined the relationship between faith and science, developing a deeper appreciation of God's world and our role as stewards of creation.

We have been learning about creation and I've loved learning about our world and how important it is for us to be stewards of creation and recycle, not chop down trees and protect animals homes. We need to care for the environment that God created for us. Illy Year 3.

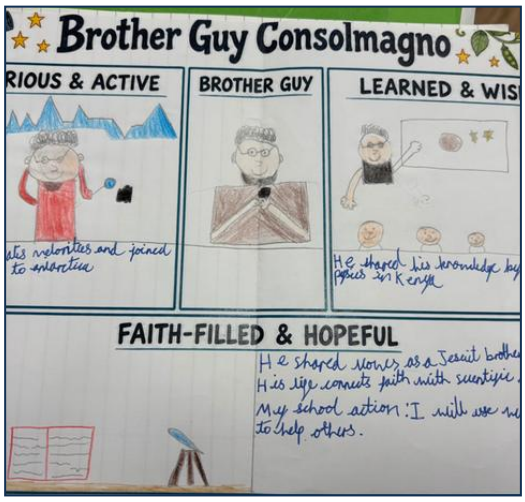
This term in RE, we have been learning about God's greatest commandment: to love one another as God loves us. We try to put this teaching into practice through our words, actions and friendships. We also learned about the Hebrews' escape from Egypt and how God guided and protected His people on their journey to freedom. We have learnt about God's love, faithfulness and the importance of trusting in Him.
Holly Class, Year 5

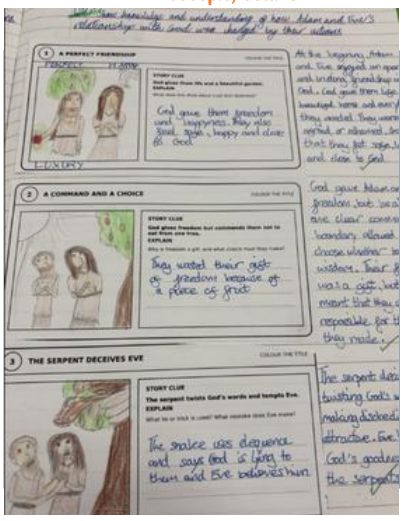
We have been learning how to protect the planet by following Jesus' footsteps. Jesus helped the poor and we try to be like him like in our Harvest festival we collected food for the food bank. God wants us to be kind, loving and helpful to all those around us. Buddy. Year 3

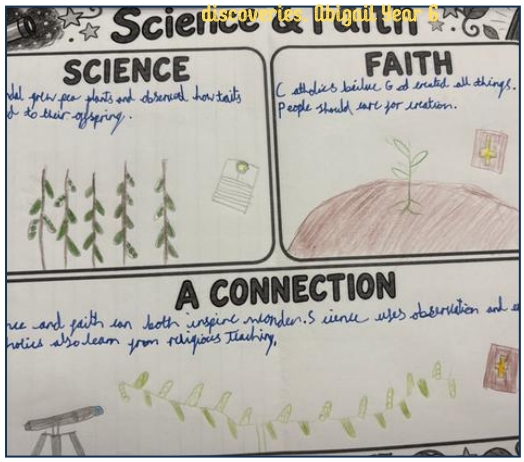
I really enjoyed learning about when God spoke to Moses through the burning bush and called him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses trusted God, even when he felt unsure, and God helped His people find freedom. I love RE because it helps us grow closer to God and deepens our understanding of who He is, His love for us, and how He guides us in our daily lives.
Freddie, Year 5

In RE, we have been learning about the relationship between science and religion. We learned about Brother Guy Consolmagno, a scientist, astronomer and religious brother, whose work shows that faith and science can actually work together. We explored how scientific discoveries help us understand more about the world God created. I found it interesting to learn how Brother Guy Consolmagno connects his faith with his scientific work and shows that believing in God and studying science can go together.
Joseph, Year 6

We also studied Gregor Mendel, whose experiments with pea plants led to the discovery of genetics and helped us understand how characteristics are passed from one generation to the next. As Catholics, we believe that God created the world and gave us the gift of intelligence and curiosity. We learned that scientific discoveries can help us appreciate God's creation more deeply, and that God encourages us to use our talents to explore, learn and make new discoveries. Abigail Year 6







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16/10/2026









Looking for Moths!

Our Fizz PopScientists went on a scavneger hunt to find 10 black and 10 camoflauge moths.

They also played evolution bingo to cross off animal parts that make a strange beast.

Earthquake steady! The children finally built houses on plates to see if they could last an earthquake!





Poppies will be on sale in the school office from Monday. We invite families to support the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal and help us remember those who have served and sacrificed for others.

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ART CLUB





Our talented artists at St Joseph's have been busy showcasing their fantastic models, which they have worked incredibly hard on over the past few weeks. It was wonderful to see their creativity, imagination and dedication shine through in their finished masterpieces!

The children also enjoyed experimenting with air-dry clay, creating a wonderful variety of scenes, from magnificent mountains to beautiful flowers. They added pasta shapes to introduce interesting textures and patterns, giving their artwork an extra creative touch. What a fantastic display of artistic talent and enthusiasm!





COOKING CLUB











This week at Cooking Club, the children enjoyed making and decorating delicious biscuits. They carefully mixed the butter, flour and eggs to create the biscuit dough before choosing their favourite autumn-themed cutter, including a pumpkin, acorn or hedgehog shape. Once the biscuits were baked, the children had great fun decorating them with colourful icing and showing off their creative designs. A wonderful afternoon of baking, creativity and teamwork! 🎃 🦔 🍂

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`16/10/2026

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery



Our Parent Voice Committee met last Thursday for our first meeting of the academic year, and it was a highly productive and positive session. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the parents who attended and took the time to share their views, ideas and feedback. Your contributions play a vital role in helping us strengthen our school community and continue to provide the very best experience for our children. Please follow the link below to read the meeting summary and find out more about the topics discussed, the feedback received and the actions we will be taking moving forward. We look forward to working together throughout the year.

https://stjosephshereford.ovw8.juniperwebsites.co.uk/page/?title=Parent+Voice&pid=96



Can you help us bring our school library to life?

We have a lovely school library but we are in great need of a librarian! We need someone who could volunteer for one day (or two half days) per week, to allow the children to visit the library in class groups and borrow/return books. This person could also add our new books to the library system and make sure that everything runs smoothly, so that all of our children can benefit from regular access to our wonderful books.

No previous experience is necessary – we just need someone with enthusiasm for helping our children to love books and reading!

If you are interested in finding out more, please email the school office to let me know. I am sure that there must be a parent or grandparent or other member of our community who would be perfect for this job!



Many thanks
Miss Steiner





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16/10/2026

Year 3 at the Community Gardens



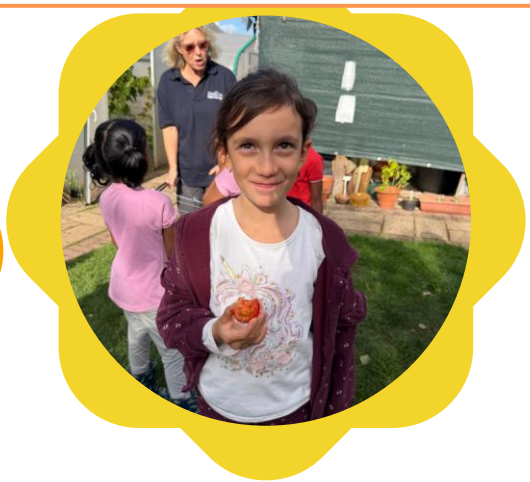






Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic visit to the community gardens this week! The children began their morning with a fun mini pumpkin hunt before having the opportunity to taste some freshly grown tomatoes. They then rolled up their sleeves and got stuck into planting their very own daffodil bulbs to take home and care for. The children also helped plant bulbs in the gardens, which will hopefully bring a beautiful splash of colour in the spring. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to enjoy the outdoors, develop their gardening skills and learn more about caring for our environment. A big thank you to everyone at the community gardens for such a lovely experience!







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Design the Mayor's Christmas Card

Calling all young artists aged under 16!

Design the official Mayor's Christmas Card this year

Closing Date: 12 noon, 10th November
Winner Judged By: The Mayor on 11th November
How to Enter:
Send your entry by email to community@rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk
or by post to:
Town Hall, Cantilupe Road HR9 7AN
Include your name, age, address, and phone number with your entry.

Your design could be featured on Christmas cards sold throughout November and December, with all profits going to St. Michael's Hospice



Last year's Christmas card compeition winner: Beatrix Clarke

YEAR 5 & YEAR 6

16/10/2026

John Kyrle Visit

On Thursday morning, the Headteacher of John Kyrle High School, Dr Moseley, visited our school alongside two of our former Year 6 pupils, Lily and Jak, to speak with our Year 5 and Year 6 children about the exciting next stage of their education.

During the visit, the children learned about life at secondary school, including the range of new subjects they will study, different daily routines, and the many opportunities available to them. Lily and Jak shared their own experiences of the transition, helping to give pupils a real insight into what to expect.

It was a valuable and informative visit that helped our pupils feel more confident, prepared, and excited about their move from primary to secondary school.









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Year 6 Secondary School Applications – Deadline Reminder

A reminder to all Year 6 parents and carers that the deadline for applying for your child's secondary school place is **31 October 2026.**

If you have not yet submitted your application, please ensure that you do so before the deadline. Applications are made online through your local authority's website.

We encourage all parents and carers to submit their applications on time and to carefully consider their preferred schools before completing the form.

If you have any questions or need support with the application process, please contact your local authority for further guidance.

Thank you for your support in ensuring a smooth transition for our Year 6 pupils as they prepare for the next exciting stage of their education.

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Calendar Dates...

16/10/2026

Wednesday 21st October	FSJ Pumpkin Party
Friday 23rd October	NON – UNFORM DAY! (Bottle donations for Christmas Fayre)
Monday 9th November	Parents Evening
Tuesday 10th November	Year 5 @ Community Gardens PM
Tuesday 10th November	Parents Evening
Monday 16th – Friday 20th November	Anti- Bullying Week and NSPCC Speak out Stay Safe
Tuesday 17th November	Year 6 @ Community Gardens
Friday 20th November	Children in Need
Friday 20th November	Pyjama Day and Movie Night
Tuesday 24th November	Nursery – Community Garden Visit - PM
Thursday 26th November	Parent Voice Meeting at 2pm
Thursday 3rd December	Nursery Nativity at 2:30pm
Monday 7th December	KS2 Visit – Christmas at the Castle
Tuesday 8th December	Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity @ 5pm
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 11th December	Christmas Fayre
Monday 14th December	Key Stage 2 Christmas Performance @ 5:30pm
Tuesday 15th December	KS1 Visit to The Bacon Theatre – Santa's Best Ever Christmas'
Thursday 17th December	End of Term Mass
Friday18th December	Nursery Christmas Party
Friday 18th December	End of Autumn Term Christmas Holidays

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

16/10/2026



PUMPKIN PARTY!

We are excited to announce that our annual Pumpkin Party will be taking place on Wednesday 21st October! 🎃

On this day, all children should come to school as normal wearing their school uniform. Children attending the Pumpkin Party can bring their costume in a bag, ready to change into after school.

Please ensure that the bag and costume are clearly labelled with your child's name.

The party times are:

- Reception, Year 1 & Year 2: 3:30pm – 4:30pm
- Years 3, 4, 5 & 6: 5:00pm – 6:00pm

🎃 The cost is £5 per child, which includes a goody bag containing sweets, crisps and a toy, as well as a drink. Consent and payment will be set up on parent pay. Please email the school office to book your child a place.

We are looking forward to seeing all the fantastic costumes and having lots of spooky fun!

🎃

Story time





Next Wednesday, 21st October, our Year 1 and Year 2 children will be visiting Ross Library to take part in a storytelling session alongside children from other local schools.

This will be a lovely opportunity for the children to develop their love of reading, use their imaginations and enjoy sharing stories with others. It will also be a great chance to connect with children from other schools in our local community and celebrate the joy of storytelling together.

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St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery





Seedlings 🚀

Our rhyme of the week has been 'Zoom, Zoom, Zoom'! We have loved exploring our space-themed treasure basket and getting creative by decorating our very own rockets. We have had lots of fun learning through space-themed activities!

Acorns 🐄

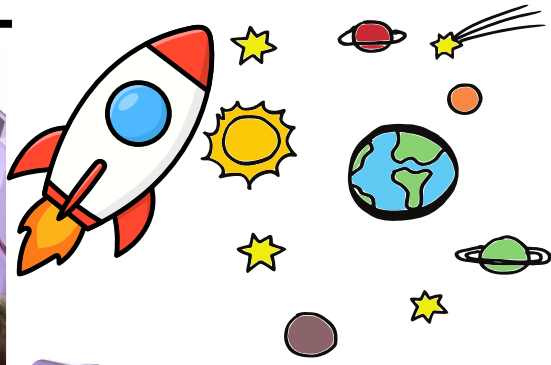
Our focus this week has been on naming animals. We have enjoyed exploring the farm sensory tray, playing Kim's Game with farm animals and having great fun rolling conkers. These activities have encouraged us to develop our language skills and explore through our senses.

Oakleaves 🌎

In R.E. this week, we have been learning about how God created the world. We explored our 'Creation' sensory tray and got creative by making beautiful collage planets. We have enjoyed discovering more about our wonderful world through sensory play and creative activities.













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COMING UP SOON!

Parents Evening

We are pleased to invite parents and carers to our upcoming Parents' Evenings on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th November, from 3:30pm to 6:00pm.
You will receive an email next week with a link to book your appointment time. This will be an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and achievements with their teacher.
We look forward to seeing you there!

next week

Next Friday- 23rd October is non-uniform day. On this day we are asking for bottle donations for our Christmas Fayre. If you are able to donate, please can they be brought to the school office. Many thanks.



Celebrating a Special Occasion

We are delighted to share some wonderful news from the St Joseph's community. Last weekend, Abigail Kingsmill Parsons and her dad, Mr Parsons, were confirmed by the Archbishop of Canterbury in Ludlow. This is a very special milestone in their faith journey, and we would like to congratulate them both on this important occasion. We are incredibly proud of Abigail and send our warmest wishes to the Kingsmill Parsons family as they celebrate this memorable achievement.
Congratulations, Abigail and Mr Parsons! ✝️🎉



Reception Admissions – September 2027

It's time for all our Oakleaves who are due to start Reception in September 2027 to apply for their school place!

If your child is starting school next September, please complete your application online via Herefordshire Council using the link below.

If you live in another county, such as Monmouthshire or Gloucestershire, you will need to apply through your own local council's website under School Admissions.

Please make sure you apply in good time and before the closing date of 15th January 2027 to ensure your application is submitted on time.

If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the school team, who will be happy to help.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/schools-and-education/primary-school-admissions/apply-for-a-primary-school-place-for-september-2027/



Hundred Acre Wood	***94.80%***
Lighthouse	***98.57%***
Faraway Tree	***97.80%***
Neverland	***99.09%***
Narnia	***99.09%***
Hogwarts	***99.26%***
The Shire	***96.80%***

Daily attendance is vital to your child's learning, progress and wellbeing. Every day in school counts,and missed days can impact achievement. Please arrange family holidays during school breaks, as term-time holiday requests will not be authorised.

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child attends school every day.

Our Weekend Prayer

Loving Father,
Thank You for the many blessings You have given us this week; for our school family, for the learning we have shared, the friendships we have strengthened, and the moments of joy and laughter we have enjoyed together.
As we begin the weekend, please watch over our families and fill our homes with Your love, peace and happiness.
Help us to show kindness to everyone we meet, to care for one another, and to follow the example of Jesus in our words and actions each day.
Keep us safe in Your care, and bring us back together refreshed and ready for a new week of learning and growing in faith.
Amen.

Have a lovely weekend and God Bless

Mrs Francis & the Team

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