23/10/2026

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

NEWSLETTER

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

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of the first half of the autumn term, we can look back on what has been a fantastic start to the school year at St Joseph's. The children have settled in brilliantly, embraced new challenges and made an excellent start to their learning. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved so far!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and carers for their continued support. Your partnership with us plays such an important role in helping our children thrive, and we are very grateful for everything you do. We look forward to welcoming you into school for parents' evening over the next few weeks, when we can share and celebrate the children's progress together.

We hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved half-term break, taking the opportunity to relax, recharge and spend quality time with family and friends. When we return, we will begin the exciting lead-up to the Christmas festivities, which is always such a special and magical time of year here at St Joseph's. With so much to look forward to and plenty of exciting activities planned, we can't wait to share all the fun with our school community!

admin@st-josephs.hereford.sch.uk 01989 564655

23/10/2026







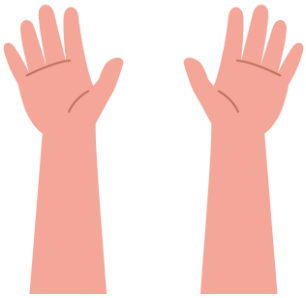


On Wednesday evening Mr. Mason and two brilliant ambassadors for our school celebrated the Platinum School Games Mark award at the School Games Mark Ceremony hosted by Stride Active and Whitecross Hereford High School.

After several years of hard work from our school community we finally had the chance to pin the platinum badge on our School Games banner.

Thank you to everyone involved for supporting us on this fantastic journey, including Stride Active who have been with us throughout to help guide us to this achievement.











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physical education

This week Mr. Mason has been asking children from different classes what they have been getting up to in PE. They have also been sharing some of their favourite sport memories they have exprienced here at St Joseph's.

"We have been doing tag rugby. I know how to get ready to catch the ball. My favourite memory is the boogie bounce, it was so much fun!" - Phoebe (Y3)

"We have been playing throwing and catching games. I need to keep my eyes on the ball and have my hands ready! I loved the boogie bounce" - Delilah T (Y1)

"We are going swimming and I feel so happy now because I have got better everytime I go. I love everything we do here in sport." - Andrea (Y4)

"We are doing tag rugby and we have been learning to have both hands on the ball and push from the side. I love going to the school games every year!" - Karla (Y6)





OUR YEAR 6 SPORT LEADERS



Our Year 6 Sport Leaders will be carrying out our first Sports Council meeting after half-term with the rest of the sport council representatives in the school. They have some great ideas to share with you all!

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Year 6 at forest school

23/10/2026

On Tuesday afternoon Year 6 enjoyed an exciting Forest School session, working together to build their own natural structures using materials they found in the outdoor environment.
After all their hard work, the children enjoyed a well-deserved hot chocolate to warm up and relax together.













admin@st-josephs.hereford.sch.uk 01989 564655

PUMPKIN PARTY!













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ART CLUB

23/10/2026

With Sarah, our usual Art Club teacher, away this week, the children explored artwork inspired by the Mexican tradition of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). They showcased their creativity by producing beautiful, colourful artwork and designing their own decorative masks. It was wonderful to see their imaginations come to life, with plenty of creativity, fun and laughter along the way.
A fantastic session enjoyed by everyone!







Cooking Club

This week, Cooking Club made sausage rolls and chocolate Rice Krispie cakes, making it a double delicious treat! The children carefully wrapped sausages in pastry to create tasty sausage rolls and mixed Rice Krispies with melted chocolate to make scrumptious cakes. They then added spooky Halloween sprinkles to give their creations a festive touch. Well done to everyone for their fantastic effort and teamwork! 🎃 🧁 🍫 🌭






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Year 4 at the Community Gardens









Narnia class had a great afternoon at the Community Gardens on Tuesday afternoon. Despite the rain, we enjoyed gathering objects to create our seasons artwork. The children also worked hard planting bulbs for everyone to enjoy in the Spring. A big thank you as always to Kris and the volunteers who helped to make it such an enjoyable visit.











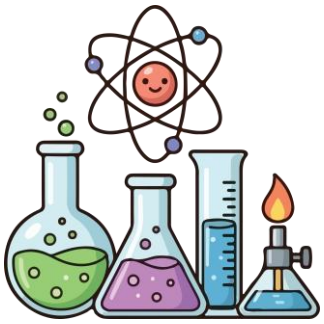


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A Fun-Filled Week in Year 3...













Year 3 have had a fantastic week filled with exciting activities! The children enjoyed making their own natural soap by shaking conkers in warm water, discovering how a substance called saponin creates a soapy mixture. To make the week even better, Year 3 won the POMPOMs Award! As a reward, the children chose to have a special Show and Tell afternoon, bringing in their favourite items from home and explaining why they were special to them. It was wonderful to see everyone sharing their stories and listening to one another. Well done, Year 3!











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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

Swimming lessons for Year 3 will commence on Wednesday 4th November. Letters have been sent home to families with further details.

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Calendar Dates...

23/10/2026

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

Please note, new payment items for after school clubs have been added to Parent pay today, as clubs will roll on until the penultimate week of the Autumn term. Wrap around care will continue until the final week of the Autumn term.

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Seedlings

This week, our Seedlings have been exploring our pumpkin treasure basket, full of exciting textures such as laminated pumpkins, soft cotton wool and spider webs! The children loved using their senses to investigate each item. We also enjoyed playing with cinnamon-scented playdough, practising our rolling skills while exploring the lovely autumnal smell.

Acorns

Our Acorns have been busy developing their scissor skills by snipping and cutting Autumn-themed green and orange spaghetti! We also explored our habitat tray, discovering a variety of animals from the Arctic, the ocean and the savannah. The children enjoyed investigating the different animals and learning about the environments they live in.

Oakleaves

This week, our Oakleaves have been exploring the world around them and noticing the changes that Autumn brings. During our Forest School adventures, we used our senses to smell, see and feel the natural environment. The children also used the iPads to take photographs of the changes they spotted, helping us capture and share our wonderful discoveries!

Our Star of the Week is Ronnie! Well done Ronnie, you've worked so hard.

We hope you all have a lovely, well-deserved half-term break filled with rest, fun and special moments with your little ones. We can't wait to welcome everyone back and hear all about your adventures!

💐 A special goodbye to Mrs Lerego 💐

Today is Mrs Lerego's last day, and she would like to say a huge thank you to all our wonderful families for your support over the last seven years. She will miss you all very much, but don't worry, she'll be popping back to see how everyone is getting on! We wish her lots of happiness in this exciting new chapter.







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Make THE WORLD a better place

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

This Christmas, we are proud to be supporting the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal, helping to bring joy, hope and practical gifts to children around the world who may otherwise receive very little this festive season.

We would love our school families to consider filling a shoebox for a child in need. A simple box filled with thoughtful gifts can make a huge difference and remind a child that they are cared for and valued.

Shoeboxes can be packed with small items such as:

Toys and games

School supplies

Hygiene items

Hats, gloves and scarves

Small treats and gifts

In the coming weeks, we will send home more information, including gift suggestions and step-by-step guidance on how to pack your Operation Christmas Child shoebox.

If you would like to take part, please send your completed shoebox into school by **Thursday 12th November.**

Together, we can share kindness, spread hope and make a real difference, one shoebox at a time.

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COMING UP SOON!

23/10/2026

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!

OUR COSY CABIN..

We are delighted to introduce our new Cosy Cabin at St Joseph's! This special space provides a calm, safe and welcoming environment where children can take time to regulate their emotions, find a moment of peace and feel ready to return to learning.

At St Joseph's, we understand that every child is unique and sometimes needs a little extra support. Our Cosy Cabin will help nurture emotional wellbeing, build confidence and remind every child that they are loved and valued.

A heartfelt thank you to Marilyn Taylor for her generous donation in helping us bring this wonderful space to life. Your kindness will make a real difference to our children! 🧡





Goodbye & Good Luck





Today, we said 'Goodbye and Good Luck', to our wonderful Mrs Lerego, who is leaving after seven years leading our Nursery, to take up an exciting new position. During her time as manager the Nursery has gone from strength to strength and we are all going to miss her very much.
Thank you Mrs Lerego, we wish you every happiness in your new role!

Our Half Term Prayer

Loving Jesus,
Thank You for our school family and for all the love, learning and joy we have shared.
As we begin our half-term break, please watch over our children, families and staff. Keep us safe, fill our hearts with peace, and help us to share Your love and kindness wherever we go.
May Mary, our Mother, keep us in her loving care, and may we return refreshed, happy and ready for new beginnings.
Stay with us, Lord, today and always.
Amen.

GREAT ATTENDANCE

Hundred Acre Wood	**97.00%**
Lighthouse	**100.00%**
Faraway Tree	**96.84%**
Neverland	**98.71%**
Narnia	**97.20%**
Hogwarts	**96.67%**
The Shire	**94.80%**

Have a fantastic half term and God Bless
Mrs Francis & the Team

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