

'Treat others the way you want to be treated.'

Matthew 7:12

3/10/25

Dear Family,

We've enjoyed a wonderful week of learning at school, with the children fully engaged and embracing the curriculum. Visiting classrooms throughout the week has been a real joy, witnessing the positive energy as students collaborate, focus, and strive to do their best.



We're eagerly anticipating our Parents' Evenings on 11th and 12th November. During these meetings, teachers will update you on how your child is settling into their new year group, sharing their progress, highlighting successes, and identifying areas to support further growth.

Thank you for your continued support with home learning. The homework set complements classroom lessons and plays a vital role in helping children consolidate new knowledge and develop independence in applying it.

This term, we will be offering a series of parent workshops focused on SPAG (spelling, punctuation, and grammar) and Maths. As the curriculum advances, some topics become more challenging, and we want to make sure parents feel well-equipped to support their children.

Dates for these workshops will be shared with you in the coming weeks.

As you know, our Catholic School Inspection took place last week. The inspection focused on three key areas:

- Catholic Life and the mission of the school
- Religious Education
- Collective Worship



It was a positive experience for everyone involved and we would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the parent questionnaire.

Once we receive the final report, we look forward to sharing this with you.

Curriculum

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

abc

CURRICULUM

A message from Miss Steiner

This week, I met with the Curriculum Ambassadors to discuss SPaG! SPaG stands for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar and these are the discrete lessons in which we provide children with the toolkit that they need to produce independent writing that is technically accurate; the children learn patterns and rules for spelling words correctly, about a wide range of punctuation, and how to use it different ways to structure sentences in a grammatically precise way. The children were all very enthusiastic about their SPaG lessons and told me that they enjoy them. They were keen to chat to me about their learning and share some of what they have already covered so far this term. It was especially exciting to see the great progression being made in SPaG learning across years 2-6. I asked several questions about their grammar understanding and the children were all able to give me great

answers, the depth of understanding clearly developing as they moved up through the school. Thank you again to our fabulous Curriculum Ambassadors for the important work they are doing in our school!





A message from Mrs Urding....

This week, the Cooking Club rolled up their sleeves and got hands-on with a classic British treat—scones! The room was filled with the warm, buttery aroma of freshly baked scones as the children mixed the ingredients, shaped, and baked.

Well done everyone!

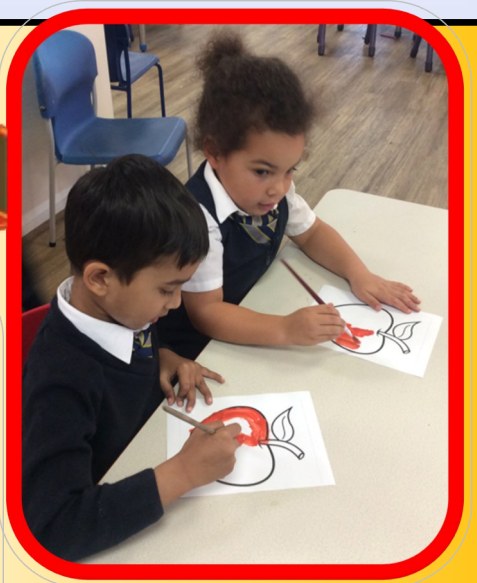
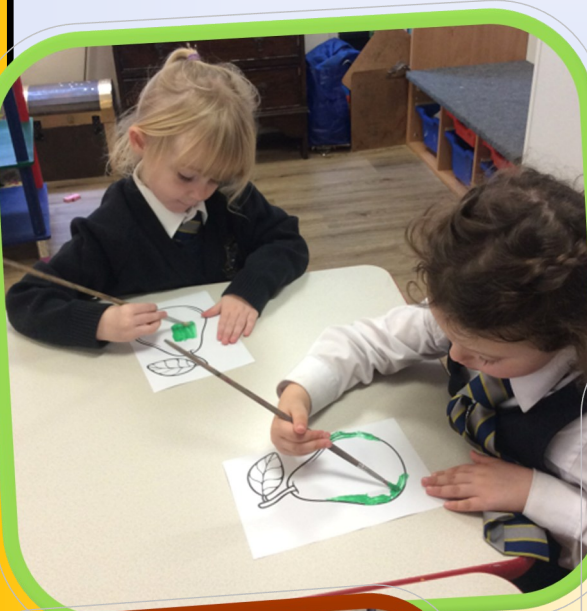


Harvest preparation in Reception

with Miss Sadler...

Reception have been diving into all things Harvest as we get ready for our big Harvest Festival! The children have loved learning about different crops and have already started practising our catchy Harvest song – you might even catch them singing it at home!

To bring our performance to life, the children got creative and painted some beautiful crop-themed props – we can't wait to show them off!





Welcome to our Nursery



A message from Mrs Lerego.....

This week in Nursery the Seedlings loved visiting forest school - having fun in the leaves and playing in the play house. They also loved exploring the squidgy texture of the red jelly!

The Acorns and Oakleaves enjoyed finding Zog at forest school and counting conkers in the water tray. We've had another great week!





Readathon

Half Term
Monday 27th – Friday
31st October



Join St Joseph's Readathon and dive into a world of stories! Don't just read, read to inspire, read to make a difference!

Read as much as you can during the Readathon—books, comics, audio books, magazines, or anything you enjoy!



Ask family and friends to sponsor you for your reading efforts!



We are excited to announce our upcoming Readathon! This is a wonderful opportunity for children to challenge themselves, explore new books, and foster a lifelong love of reading.

During the Readathon, children are invited to read as much as they can—books, comics, magazines, audiobooks, recipes, or anything else they enjoy. They can be sponsored by family and friends to support their reading efforts.

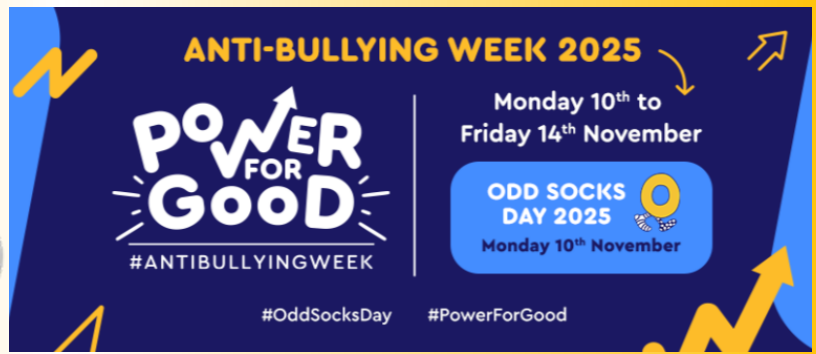
This year, all funds raised will go towards our 'Wellbeing Classroom', helping us provide a nurturing space that supports the social and emotional development of all our children.

The Readathon will take place over half term, from Monday 27th to Friday 31st October. We would love for you to get involved at home by encouraging your child to read and by helping them collect sponsorships.

As a special incentive, the child who reads the most will receive a prize – a gift card to a local bookstore and a cozy reading kit to enjoy their favourite books even more.

We'd love to see your Readathon adventures! Share photos of your child reading on our school Facebook page over half term – and tell us, where is your favourite spot to read?

Thank you for your support in making this event both fun and meaningful for the children!



This year, to further empower our children and develop their leadership skills, our School Council will be organising a wide variety of events during our Anti Bullying week here in school!

They have some super ideas, promoting anti-bullying, focusing on this year's theme- 'POWER FOR GOOD!'

In next week's newsletter they will be sharing their plans with our school community! We're really looking forward to this exciting themed week!



CHELTHENHAM Literature Festival

Reception, Year 1 & 2 will be visiting the '*Cheltenham Literature Festival*' on Friday 17th October. We will be leaving school at 9.30am and we will arrive back at school in time for normal pickup.

To enhance our children's reading for pleasure, we will have the opportunity to attend the Story Shack before making our way to the Garden Theatre at midday. Here we will attend a session with the author Michael Rosen who is one of the nation's best loved children's writers and performers. He will be sharing his much-loved stories and poems. We are really looking forward to this exciting event!

Community GARDEN

On Tuesday afternoon, the Year 3 children had a delightful time exploring Ross-on-Wye Community Garden under the bright autumn sun. They embarked on an Autumn Scavenger Hunt, keen to spot the seasonal changes unfolding around them.

With creativity in full bloom, the children crafted unique pieces of nature-inspired art and designed special envelopes to store seeds for the coming Spring. A big thank you goes to the dedicated volunteers at the Community Garden for making the afternoon so enjoyable and memorable! A message from Chris Ehmer who co-ordinates school visits:

"It was great to have your class in the community garden this afternoon and to see the enthusiasm and joy of the children. Just right!"





We're excitedly preparing for our whole school Harvest Assembly on Monday, 13th October. Each class is busy learning their own harvest songs to perform, while our Liturgy leaders have carefully selected meaningful gospel readings and crafted bidding prayers for the Celebration of the Word.

If you're able to contribute, we kindly invite donations of non-perishable food items for our harvest collection. These will help us support and give back to our local community. Please drop any items in at the school office.

Thank you, as always, for your generous support!



And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

NSPCC

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Speak out. Stay safe.
programme



After the half term break, we will be participating once again in the NSPCC's national programme, 'Speak Out Stay Safe,' which forms an integral part of our annual safeguarding curriculum. Further details will be shared with parents to encourage family involvement in this vital aspect of our children's learning.



We're busy finalising plans for the Year 5 and 6 residential trip to Disneyland Paris in June 2026. Please remember to keep up with the monthly installment payments to avoid a large balance building up by the summer term.

If your £40 deposit hasn't been received by Friday, 10th October, we will assume your child will not be attending, and their place will be released.

Also, a quick reminder that children will need valid passports for the trip. Please bring passports with you to the parent meeting in March (date to be confirmed nearer the time) and so we can check that they are ready for travel. If you need any assistance with applying for your child's passport, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Many thanks!

YEAR 4 LONDON RESIDENTIAL MAY 2026!

Can you please ensure that initial payments are made promptly to secure your child's place on our three day trip to London.

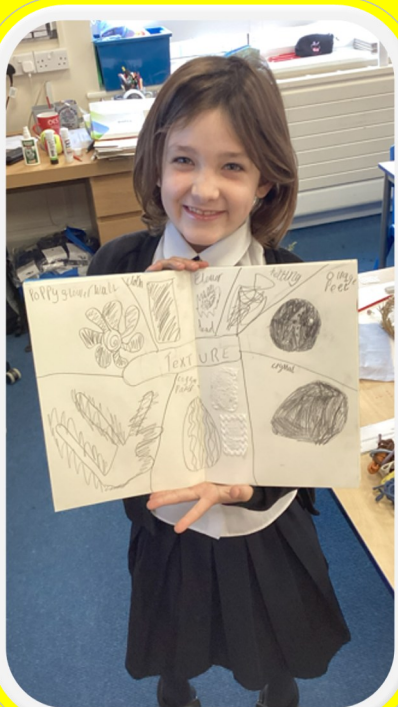
If we have not received the deposit by Friday, 10th October, we will assume your child will not be attending and their place will be released. Thank you very much for your cooperation.



ART



In Year 3's Art lesson this week they were focusing on 'texture'. 'What does it feel like?' Sarah explained how to draw various textures before the children practiced themselves. The children enjoyed drawing the following textures: Orange peel, crystals, a knitted poppy, pine needles, tissue, coffee paper, crinkly paper, flowers and netting. The children then incorporated the various textures created into self portraits!



Art Club



This week at Art Club, the children explored collagraphs – a form of relief printing made by gluing and layering textured materials onto a printing plate. Once their designs were complete, they used crayons to make rubbings, transferring the textured images onto paper and revealing all the wonderful detail in their work.

The theme for this session was self-portraits, and the children used a variety of textures to create imaginative and expressive representations of their faces. The results were fantastic – full of creativity and individuality.

Well done to everyone for their brilliant work!





Forest School

On Tuesday afternoon our Year 4 children enjoyed a wonderful session at Forest School with Mrs Bennett!

They crafted their own noughts and crosses grids, complete with counters, and played games surrounded by the beauty of nature.

The afternoon wrapped up perfectly with toasted marshmallows, the soothing sounds of birdsong, and the gentle crackle of the fire. A great time was had by all!



**...COMING
NEXT WEEK!**



On **Monday 6th October** our school photographer will be visiting to take the children's photos. If you have a sibling that attends another setting they are welcome to come in for a sibling photo from 8:30am to the sports hall. Please let the school office know, thank you.



On **Tuesday 7th October**, Year 5 will be visiting the Community Gardens in the afternoon.

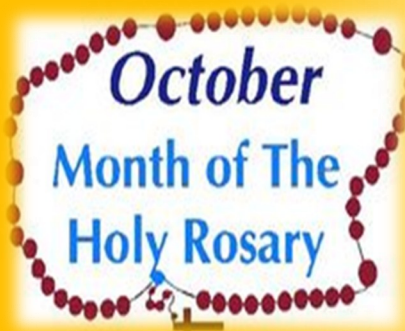
Please can they remember to bring in suitable clothing and footwear for this session.



On **Tuesday 7th October**, Year 3 will be enjoying an afternoon down at Forest school with Mrs Bennett. Please can they remember to bring in suitable clothing and footwear for this session.



On **Thursday 9th October at 2:00pm**, we will be holding our first Parent Voice meeting of the academic year. We look forward to welcoming our new and existing members to this event.



Next **Thursday 9th October** we will be starting our Rosary Lunchtime club. All children are warmly welcome to attend this club with myself and fellow Parishioners throughout the month of October—which is dedicated to the Holy Rosary.



Next **Thursday 9th October** some our children will be representing St Joseph's at a local football tournament at Ashfield Park Primary School, with Mr Mason. They will leave school at 3:15pm and kick off is at 3:30pm. The children will return to school at 4:45pm.

Autumn Term

Monday 6th October	School Photos
Thursday 9th October	Parent Voice @ 2:00pm
Monday 13 th October	Harvest Festival @ 9:15am
Tuesday 14 th October	Year 5 @ Community Gardens pm
Friday 17th October	Reception and Key Stage 1 @ Cheltenham Literacy Festival
Tuesday 21 st October	Reception @ Community Gardens pm
Friday 24 th October	FSJ Pumpkin Party
Friday 24 th October	Break up for half term
Monday 27th—Friday 31st October	HALF TERM READATHON!
Monday 3rd November	Return to school
Monday 3rd—Friday 7th November	NSPCC 'Speak out Stay Safe' Week
Tuesday 4 th November	Year 6 @ Community Gardens pm
Monday 10 th —Friday 14th November	Anti- Bullying Week– Super Hero Day on Friday 14th November!
Tuesday 11 th November	Parents Evening 3:30pm—6:00pm
Wednesday 12 th November	Parents Evening 3:30pm—6:00pm
Friday 21 st November	Children in Need
Friday 21 st November	Pyjama Day and Movie Night
Thursday 4 th December	End of term Mass
Friday 5 th December	Christmas Fayre
Tuesday 9 th December	Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity @ 5:30pm
Wednesday 10 th December	Nursery Nativity @ 2:00pm
Thursday 11 th December	Whole School Victorian Christmas Day and KS2 workshops
Thursday 11th December	Parent Voice @ 2:00pm
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Dinner Day and afternoon celebrations!
Tuesday 16 th December	KS1 Christmas Theatre Trip
Thursday 18 th December	KS2 Christmas Production 5:30pm
Friday 19 th December	Nursery Christmas Party
Friday 19 th December	End of Autumn Term Christmas Holidays



FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER

We will be hosting our annual 'PUMPKIN PARTY' in the sports hall. Please bring costume/party wear in a bag for the children to change into if you would like, this is optional.

Please be considerate of any 'props' children may like to bring as part of their costumes.

£5 per child, includes a snack bag (bookable through parent pay)

Entertainment and disco!

Reception and KS1: 3:30pm – 4:30pm

KS2: 5pm – 6pm



WYE	93.59%
AMAZON	95.26%
DANUBE	95%
TIBER	93.71%
THAMES	95.71%
AVON	99.13%
SEINE	98.33%

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

HALF TERM
HOLIDAY
Club

MONDAY 27TH OCT TO
FRIDAY 31ST OCT

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



RECEPTIONS ADMISSIONS

September 2026

Do you have a child born between the 1st of September 2021 and 31st of August 2022?

If so, you will need to apply for a school place by the 15th of Jan 26 (to commence Sept 2026)

St Joseph's Primary School is a thriving and happy primary school, providing a broad and balanced curriculum.

To arrange a visit, please contact us on the details below.



01989 564655



admin@st-josephs.hereford.sch.uk



BE A
RAINBOW
IN SOMEONE
ELSE'S
CLOUD.

Enjoy your weekend!

God Bless

Mrs

Francis



Wishing you
a weekend full of
pleasure, laughter
and bliss.

Happy Weekend!