

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

Matthew 7:12

24/10/25

Dear Families,

We're thrilled to announce that St Joseph's has been awarded the 'Artsmark Gold Award' by Arts Council England!

This prestigious recognition celebrates our dedication to embedding creativity throughout the curriculum — from visual arts and music to drama, storytelling, and more.

We're incredibly proud of our children, who consistently embrace every opportunity to express themselves and let their imaginations soar. Their enthusiasm and creativity are at the heart of everything we do.

A heartfelt congratulations to our wonderful pupils and the entire St Joseph's team for making the arts such a vibrant and essential part of school life!



# Cookery Club

*A message from Mrs Vernon...*

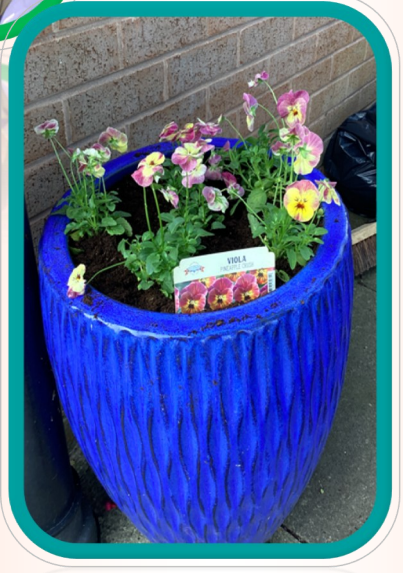
This week Cooking Club had a great time making sausage meat pies and sweet strawberry rolls! To give the pies a seasonal twist, the children used Autumn-themed pastry cutters – choosing from pumpkins, acorns and hedgehogs! They did a great job working with pastry and each pie looked delicious.



# Gardening Club

We had such a busy time today in gardening club! We went up in to our nursery garden to pay a lot of attention to our new fruit garden. We first helped Roy plant our first apple tree. We love that the name is called tickled pink! We look forward to eating apples next autumn. Then we planted strawberries to enjoy picking next spring! We also planted some beautiful sweet William flowers to adorn our plants into the school office, some violas to enjoy near our year 4 classroom too. We then sowed some grass seed to fill in and around our freshly planted fruit. At the very end we harvested

our lettuce to take home and enjoy with our families!



Dates for  
the Diary:

# Parent Workshops

Our years 5 and 6 parent workshops will be taking place on the following dates:

**Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar—Monday 17th November @ 3:30pm in the year 5 classroom**

**Maths Calculations—Tuesday 25th November @ 3:30pm in the year 6 classroom.**

Can parents wishing to attend please contact the school office and so we can account for numbers attending. Year 5 and 6 children are welcome to attend.

*A message from Mrs Urding...*

## **Rosary Club – A Special Reflection**

*This week in Rosary Club, the children spent time learning about the importance of Mary, the mother of Jesus.*

*They discovered that Mary is not only a central figure in Jesus' life, but also someone who is always there for us—offering comfort, guidance, and love.*

*Together, they reflected on Mary's special qualities: her purity of heart, kindness, humility, and deep love. They recalled the moment when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and invited her to become the mother of Jesus—and how she said "yes" with faith and trust in God.*

*The children also explored the meaning of the Rosary and how praying it helps us grow closer to God by following Mary's example of devotion. To end the session, each child prayed a Hail Mary for someone special in their heart.*





Reception and Nursery joined together this week for some

wonderful autumn adventures at Forest School!

The children went on a pumpkin hunt and explored the insides of pumpkins, discovering all the textures and seeds inside. They also spent time noticing the changing colours, falling leaves, and signs of the new season all around them.

A perfect way to learn about God's beautiful world and celebrate the joy of autumn!





# Welcome to our Nursery



## *A MESSAGE FROM MRS LEREGO...*

This week the Seedlings loved exploring the texture of the sticky gloop - emptying and filling little containers and getting messy!

The Acorns enjoyed listening to lots of stories and playing in the role play areas - they love their new wooden balance bikes!

The Oakleaves have been focusing on capacity, numerals and matching the correct number of objects to the numerals.

Star of the week: Mason for building good sentences and using his imagination.





## **Samaritan's Christmas Shoebox Appeal**

**This Christmas, we are supporting the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal, helping to bring joy to children around the world who may not otherwise receive a gift.**

**Would you consider sending a shoebox gift to bless just one child in need this festive season?**

**We're inviting our families to fill a shoebox with small gifts such as toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and treats. Each box is a wonderful way to share kindness, hope, and a smile with a child in need.**

**We have now sent out details of great gift ideas and step-by-step instructions for packing an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift.**

**Thank you so much to those families who have already brought theirs in.**

**If you'd like to take part, please bring your filled shoebox to school by**

**Friday 7th November.**

**Together, we can make a big difference — one shoebox at a time!**



*Get ready to dive into a world of stories this half term with our School Readathon!*

Whether you're curled up on the sofa, reading under a tree, or perched in a truly unusual place — we want to see it!

Raise money through sponsorship as you read, and you could win amazing prizes for:

The Most Interesting Reading Spot

The Most Sponsorship Raised

Every page you turn helps support our school — and celebrates the joy of reading!

So, grab a book, find your favourite (or most creative!) reading spot, and get reading!

**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!

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON...

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Important Update



# SCHOOL COUNCIL

From Monday 10th November until Friday 14th November, we will be celebrating Anti-Bullying Week, and this year's theme is "Power for Good!"

Throughout the week, all our classes will take part in fun and meaningful activities that help us learn how to use our Power for Good — by speaking up, supporting others, and spreading kindness.

Our school council have been busy planning some exciting themed days:

## Monday – Odd Sock Day—MONDAY 10th NOVEMBER

Let's start the week by celebrating what makes each of us unique! Come to school wearing odd socks to show that being different is something to be proud of.

## Wednesday – Back to Front Day—WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER!

Wear your clothes back to front! This fun activity helps us think about things from another person's point of view.

## Friday – Superhero Day FRIDAY 14th NOVEMBER!

To finish the week, come dressed as your favourite superhero — or create your very own! Think about what special power you would have to use your Power for Good!

As part of our Superhero Day, the children will also have the chance to try out their superhero powers on our very own climbing wall — a fun way to test their strength, bravery, and teamwork!



Let's make this a week full of kindness, courage, and fun!

After half term we will be offering a new after school club every Friday. 'MINECRAFT ESCAPE ROOM' will be led by Jam Coding, our expert computing specialists that come in each week to deliver the computing curriculum to our year 5 and 6 children. Please follow the link to book your place if you are interested. [portal.jamcoding.franscape.io/class-overview/5172](https://portal.jamcoding.franscape.io/class-overview/5172)

**{JAM} CODING**  
COMPUTING WORKSHOPS

# MINECRAFT ESCAPE ROOM

Afterschool Club



Get ready for an epic adventure where your coding skills will be put to the ultimate test! Using visual code, you'll tackle exciting escape room challenges inside Minecraft. Build bridges, solve mind-bending puzzles, and use your coding knowledge to unlock the secrets of the castle. And for the grand finale, team up with your friends to take on an adrenaline-pumping parkour challenge and escape the castle once and for all! Do you have what it takes to solve the puzzles, code your way to victory, and make it out in time? The adventure awaits - let's see if you can escape! And don't forget - the winning team will take home the ultimate prize: a trophy!

**"Every challenge is a clue, every line of code is a step closer to freedom!"**

## DATES

Fridays  
07/11/25 14/11/25  
21/11/25 28/11/25  
5/12/25

## TIME

15:30 to 16:30

## PRICE

5 weeks of fun for  
just £37.50!

**BOOK HERE :** <https://portal.jamcoding.franscape.io/class-overview/5172>



Click the link above to view course details OR visit our website and head to the booking tab. Enter your postcode in the locations field and click search to view courses. Then select the school or venue you require.

N.B. You can only attend courses held at the school that your child attends. You can also search by the school postcode.

worcestershire@jamcoding.co.uk | 07780900017

**WIN A FREE PLACE!**

Follow us on social media for the chance to win a free place.



[www.jamcoding.co.uk](http://www.jamcoding.co.uk)

# ACHIEVEMENT

**The School Games Mark Award ceremony 2025!**

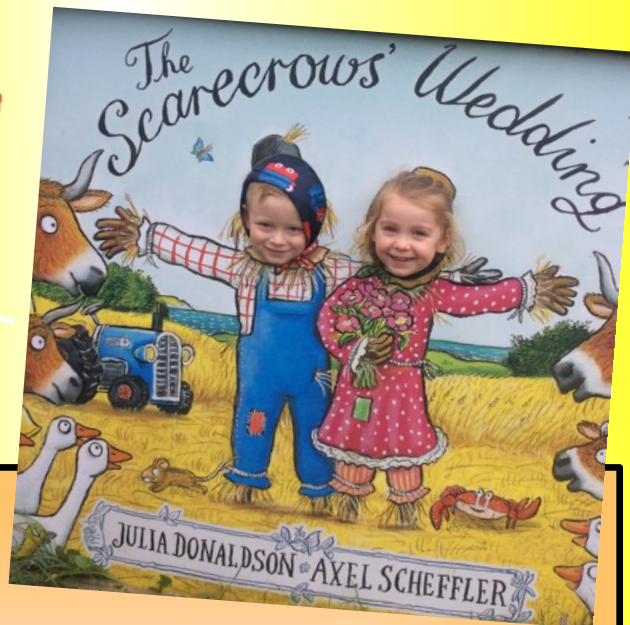
**Mr. Mason and two of our brilliant sport ambassadors– Otto and Sofia, received our fourth GOLD mark award at Whitecross High School on Tuesday afternoon.**

**Thank you to everyone who helped guide St Joseph's to this great milestone. We look forward to continuing our journey to the Platinum Mark!**



HEREFORDSHIRE  
**SCHOOL GAMES**

# Community GARDEN



On Tuesday afternoon, our Reception children had a wonderful time exploring the Community Gardens. They took part in an autumn scavenger hunt, planted some daffodil bulbs ready for spring, and even made bird feeders from the apples they had picked!





# CHELTHENHAM

## Literature Festival

**Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 embarked on a magical literary journey at the Cheltenham Literature Festival last Friday.**

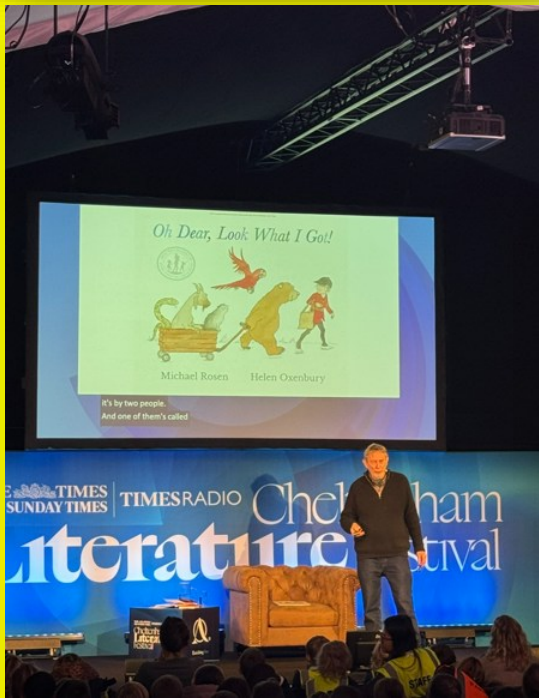
**Our budding bookworms were immersed in a world of stories, imagination, and creativity as they explored the festival's vibrant offerings.**

**One of the standout moments was a lively workshop led by the legendary Michael Rosen. The children were captivated by his playful poems and storytelling, bringing language to life through rhythm, rhyme, and performance.**

**Meanwhile, Year 2 enjoyed a hands-on illustration session with the brilliant Adam Stower, where they honed their artistic talents and discovered how pictures can weave tales just as powerfully as words.**

**The day was bursting with inspiration, laughter, and learning — sparking a lifelong passion for reading, writing, and creative expression!**



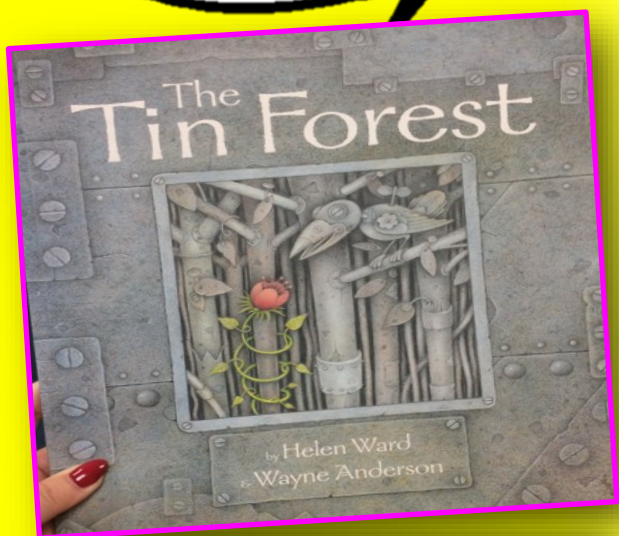




*This week in Art Club, our young artists took inspiration from The Tin Forest to create their very own image transfers!*

*They layered up their pictures, added beautiful details with pencils and oil pastels, and finished off their work with a touch of their own artistic flair. The results were imaginative, colourful, and completely unique — just like our talented pupils!*

*We're so proud of their creativity and enthusiasm each week.*



## **WHY IS SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SO IMPORTANT?**

**EVERY  
SCHOOL DAY  
COUNTS**

*At St Joseph's, we believe that consistent school attendance is key to giving every child the strongest possible start in life. Being present each day helps children thrive academically, build lasting friendships, develop essential social skills, and establish positive habits that will serve them well into adulthood.*

*Education is the cornerstone of a child's future, and research continues to show a clear connection between regular attendance and academic achievement. That's why we are deeply committed to working hand-in-hand with our families to ensure every child has full and equal access to the rich learning experiences and opportunities our school provides.*

*Thank you for your continued support in helping us make education a success for all our children.*

*Together, we're shaping bright futures!*



*We are now selling poppies and a selection of other items at the school office.*

*Our year 5 and 6 children are also busy preparing for the annual Remembrance service at the Prospect on 6th November at 11:45am. All families are warmly welcome to join us for this special event.*



Speak out. Stay safe.  
**programme**



On Monday 3rd—Friday 7th November, we will be participating in the 'Speak Out Stay Safe' programme, together with the NSPCC. This forms an integral part of our annual safeguarding curriculum. A letter has been shared with parents and carers regarding this event, encour-



On Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th November, years 5 and 6 will be having their parents evenings with Miss Steiner and Mr Brain. The rest of the classes will take place the following week.



On Tuesday 4th November, Year 6 will be visiting the Community Gardens in the afternoon. Please can they remember to bring in suitable clothing and footwear for this session.



On Wednesday 5th November, our year 4 children will be starting their weekly swimming lessons, for the second half of the Autumn term. A letter has been shared with year 4 families, including further information.



On Friday 7th November, we will be having a non uniform day. And are asking for chocolate donations for towards our Christmas Fayre! Many thanks in advance.



# Autumn Term

<b>Monday 3rd November</b>	<b>Return to school</b>
<b>Monday 3rd—Friday 7th November</b>	<b>NSPCC ‘Speak out Stay Safe’ Week</b>
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Year 6 @ Community Gardens pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 5th November</b>	<b>Year 4 swimming lessons start—in school for 8:40am prompt</b>
<b>Friday 7th November</b>	<b>Non uniform Day—Chocolate donations for the Christmas Fayre</b>
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup>—Friday 14th November</b>	<b>Anti- Bullying Week– Super Hero Day on Friday 14th November!</b>
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Parents Evening 3:30pm—6:00pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Parents Evening 3:30pm—6:00pm</b>
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b>	<b>Children in Need</b>
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b>	<b>Pyjama Day and Movie Night</b>
<b>Friday 28th November</b>	<b>Non uniform Day—Chocolate donations for the Christmas Fayre</b>
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>End of term Mass</b>
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Fayre</b>
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity @ 5:30pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Nursery Nativity @ 2:00pm</b>
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Reception Class Christmas outing!</b>
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Whole School Victorian Christmas Day and KS2 work-shops</b>
<b>Thursday 11th December</b>	<b>Parent Voice @ 2:00pm</b>
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Dinner Day and afternoon celebrations!</b>
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>KS1 Christmas Theatre Trip</b>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>KS2 Christmas Production 5:30pm</b>
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Nursery Christmas Party</b>
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>End of Autumn Term Christmas Holidays begin!</b>

# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday to all our children who are celebrating their birthdays during

October!

We hope you all have a very special day!



## YEAR 6

WYE	96.25%
AMAZON	100%
DANUBE	99.37%
TIBER	94.41%
THAMES	94.64%
AVON	93.91%
SEINE	95.83%

Just to remind our Year parents that the closing date for Secondary Admissions is **Friday 31st October**. Please can you ensure you have submitted your applications by this date on to your Council's portal.

Many thanks



# 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](mailto:admin@st-josephs.hereford.sch.uk)

Enjoy your half term break.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 3rd November.**

God Bless

Mrs Francis

