

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

28/11/25

Matthew 7:12

Dear Families,

This week in school, we have been completing assessments. These provide teachers with valuable insight into the progress children have made over the term, while also highlighting any objectives that may need to be revisited.

It is equally important for the children to demonstrate what they have learned and to apply their knowledge independently. We are incredibly proud of all our children and deeply grateful to our families for supporting them with their home learning—it truly makes a significant difference.

We would like to give a special mention to our Year 6 children, who have been working exceptionally hard. They are attending early morning learning sessions four times a week with Mr Brain and Miss Steiner, showing real commitment and determination.

Their confidence is growing, their progress is remarkable, and it is wonderful to see them developing the skills they'll need for the next stage of their education. By the summer term, they will be more than ready to take on the challenges of high school!

This coming Sunday marks the start of our Advent journey, and during Monday's Assembly we will be marking this special time with prayer, reflection, and the lighting of the Advent wreath as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ.



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Matthew 7:12



St. Joseph's RC
Primary School

Our Advent Tree of Promises

and our story of
The First Christmas

We are delighted to have been invited once again to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church this year.

Our children have created beautiful illustrations and shared their Advent promises, which are proudly displayed on our tree.

You are warmly invited to come along and see our tree from 29th November – 2nd December.

It's a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate this special season.





Christmas Tree Festival

St Mary's Church, Ross-on-Wye

Saturday 29 November - Tuesday 2 December

Friday 28 November, 7pm - Pre festival concert
"Midwinter" with the **Orchestra of the Swan**

The **Phoenix Youth Theatre** bring you Christmas snippets on Saturday morning at 10.15, 11.15 and 12.15.

Following the Christmas Lights Switch On in town on Sunday, come and experience the magic of the illuminated trees


"Michael Lunts goes ... Christmas Crackers", a satirical view of Christmas in words and music on Monday 1 December, 1.30pm

Viewing £3, accompanied children free
Saturday/Tuesday 10am - 4.30pm

Sunday 11am- 5.30pm Monday 10am - 1.30pm

Homemade cakes and soup available daily

Grand Draw with cash prizes



<https://rossparishes.uk/news/christmas-tree-festival-2025/>

Welcome to our Nursery



As the focus for the Oakleaves this week has been changes in the natural world, they have spent lots of time at forest school looking at and talking about the environment and taking photo's of thing they have observed.

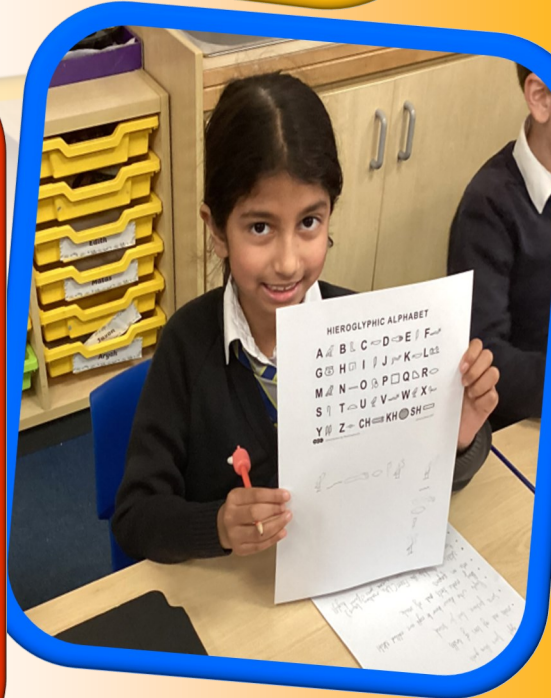
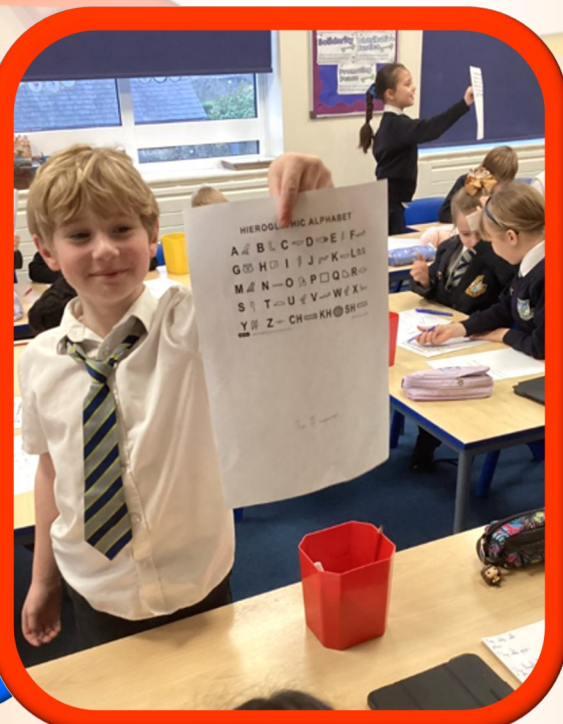
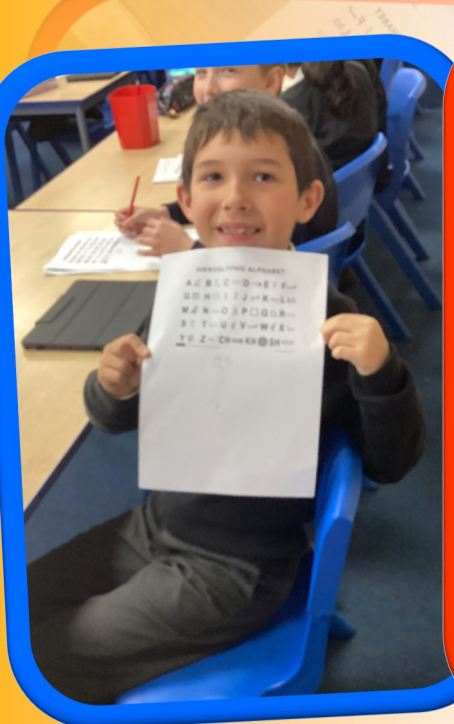
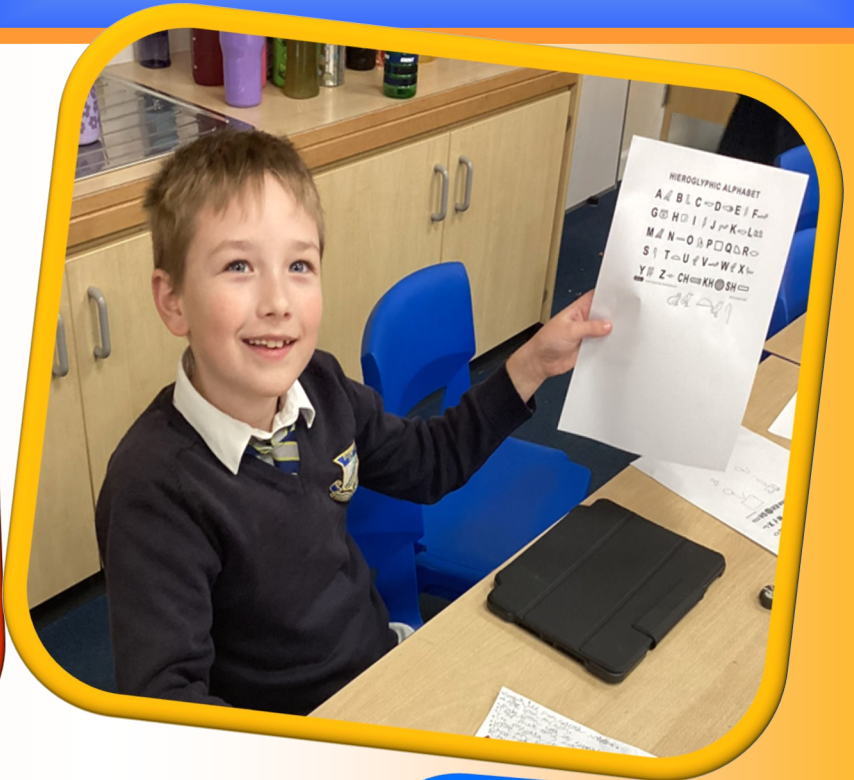
The Acorns and Seedlings have loved all their messy play outside - finding the number stones in the sand and exploring the shaving foam.

Star of the week: Elsie for learning all the songs and actions for the nativity.





In Art Year 3 learnt about the Hieroglyphic Alphabet used by the ancient Egyptians. The children created a 'Zine' (zeen) an old Egyptian small booklet. The zine included the children's name written using Hieroglyphics, drawing a picture for each letter of their name.





Abby KP spent some time at the weekend helping to raise money for the Ross on Wye HUB and the St Mary's church spire fund. She spent Friday evening helping to make raffle hampers and Saturday selling raffle tickets and performing at the concert. Well done Abby we are super proud of your efforts! Please do share any achievements that the children have completed at home and so we can celebrate these as a school community!



A message from Miss Steiner...

On Monday 15th December, I will be screening the National Theatre's production of Peter Pan in my classroom for a very special live theatre movie night! I will provide drinks and snacks and the children are very welcome to bring along a cushion or a cosy blanket if they would like.

There are limited spaces available, so please contact the office immediately to confirm your space. Priority will be given to the cast of Peter Pan Jnr but if your child is not in the show, you can still reply to this email and be put on the reserve list!

You will be notified about whether or not we have a space for you within a couple of days.

Tickets are £5 each.

YOU ARE AWESOME!



On Thursday lunchtime, our Table of Awesomeness was in full swing — and what an amazing celebration it was!

Our lunchtime teachers invited children from across the school to attend this very special event, recognising their outstanding behaviour and brilliant attitudes throughout the term.

A huge WELL DONE to all the children who were invited! We hope you loved every moment of this fantastic experience, and we can't wait to welcome even more superstar pupils next half-term!



Awesome!

**...COMING
NEXT WEEK!**

Monday

Our Advent Season begins here in school on Monday. During assembly we will light our first Advent candle and prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ, asking God to fill us with faith, hope and charity as we journey through Advent.

Friday

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Next Friday is our Christmas Fayre, starting at 1:30pm. Please collect your child from their classroom doors as normal at 1:30pm. If you're unable to get here for that time they can stay with their teachers until the end of the school day at 3:30pm.

Year 6 will be helping to run stalls with the FSJ.

**Coming
soon**

Victorian Christmas



Victorian Christmas Celebration –

Thursday 11th December

Step back in time with us as we celebrate a Victorian Christmas at school! On this special day, all pupils are warmly invited to come dressed in Victorian-style attire to help bring the festive spirit of the era to life.

We're thrilled to welcome a visiting drama company who will be leading immersive workshops for our Key Stage Two children. Through these interactive sessions, pupils will experience what life was like for a Victorian child—learning through role play, storytelling, and hands-on activities.

ART CLUB



This week in Art Club, the children embraced both creativity and sustainability by making festive wreaths using recycled materials. They worked carefully, tying strips of fabric in knots around circular frames—an activity that required great concentration and helped develop their fine motor skills.

With Christmas music playing in the background, the room was full of festive cheer as the wreaths began to take shape - we can't wait to finish them next week!





CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

RECEPTION AND KEY STAGE 1 NATIVITY

Tuesday 9th December - Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity

There will be two performances at 10:00am and 5:30pm. To allow us to reach a wider audience please only attend one performance. The morning performance would be an ideal one for grandparents and parents with very young children to attend.

NURSERY NATIVITY

Wednesday 10th December - Nursery Nativity

The Nursery will be performing their Nativity play at 2:00pm followed by refreshments in the hall. We look forward to welcoming our families to this special event!

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday 11th December - Victorian Christmas

On this special day, all pupils are warmly invited to come dressed in Victorian-style attire to help bring the festive spirit of the era to life.

We're thrilled to welcome a visiting drama company who will be leading immersive workshops for our Key Stage Two children.





RECEPTION TRIP TO CLEARWELL CAVES!

Thursday 11th December - Reception children will be visiting Clearwell Caves as part of our school's Christmas celebrations. This promises to be a magical experience for the children and a wonderful way to get into the festive spirit with their friends. During the tour, the children will meet Santa and receive a special gift. On our journey home, we will stop at Beechenhurst for a picnic lunch and some outdoor games.

CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY AND AFTERNOON CELEBRATIONS!

Friday 12th December - Christmas Dinner Day and celebrations
We'll be gathering in the school hall at lunchtime to enjoy our Christmas dinner together—a cherished tradition that brings us all together in celebration! After our meal, we'll transform the hall in preparation for a magical surprise show in the afternoon. This joyful event is lovingly organized each year by the FSJ, and it's always a wonderful way to kick off the festive season!

YEAR 1 AND 2 CHRISTMAS OUTING!

Tuesday 16th December - our Year 1 and 2 children will be visiting the Sherman Theatre in Cardiff to watch 'The Frog Prince' as part of our school's Christmas celebrations. This promises to be a magical experience for the children and a wonderful way to get into the festive spirit with their friends.



**COMING
SOON**

**Spring
Term**

After Christmas we have some super after school activities for the children to sign up to!

***On Mondays, in addition to our popular football club with Mr Mason, Mr Brain and Mr Harber, we will also be introducing—
'Showstoppers!'***

Showstoppers Club will be a low stakes, high energy club for children who want to have a great time learning songs and dances from some brilliant shows! We'll have fun with all of the best bits from lots of different musicals! If you missed out on Frozen, Matilda or Shrek (or just want more of them!), we'll touch on all of those, but we'll also look at some absolute bangers from loads of other musicals too!

Every Monday in the Spring Term. 3.30-4.30pm in the Year 5 classroom.

Open to all KS2 children.

Limited number of spaces available so book in quickly through the school office!

We are delighted to welcome Dancefit Kids with Tasha (Lahna's mum) each Wednesday.

This engaging programme provides children with a fun and enjoyable way to keep fit while sharing an afternoon of dance with their friends.

Mr Mason is excited to be leading a basket ball club in the sports hall on Fridays after school . The children have enjoyed their lessons so much this term we would like to keep this momentum going!

DAY	CLUB	AGE GROUP	START TIME & DATE
Monday	KS1 Football Club	Years R, 1 & 2	3.30-4.30pm –5 th January 2026— 9th February
Monday	KS2 Football Club	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	3.30-4.30pm –5 th January 2026— 9th February
Monday	Homework Club with Mrs Murray	All year groups (KS1 and KS2)	3.30-4.15pm – 5 th January 2026– 9th February
Monday	Show stoppers!	All year groups (KS1 and KS2)	3;30 pm – 4.30pm – 5 th January—9th February
Tuesday	Drama Club – Peter Pan	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	3.30pm – 5.00pm 6 th January 2026– 10th February
Wednesday	DanceFit kids	All year groups (KS1 and 5 KS2)	3.30pm – 4.30pm 8th January 2026– 11th February
Wednesday LUNCH	Gardening Club	All year groups (Maximum number 5 KS1 and 5 KS2)	12.00pm – 1.00pm – KS1 12.30pm – 1.00pm - KS2
Thursday	KS1 – Multisport Club	Years R, 1 & 2	3.30pm—4.15pm 8th January 2026– 12th February
Thursday	KS2 – Journalism Club	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	3.30pm—4.30pm 8th January 2026– 12th February
Thursday	Art Club	All year groups (KS1 and 5 KS2)	3.30pm – 4.30pm 8th January 2026– 12th February
Friday	KS2 Basketball	Years 3,4,5 & 6	3.30pm—4.30pm—9th January—6th February (no club on 13th February—Valentines Disco)

Autumn Term

Friday 5 th December	Christmas Fayre @ 1:30pm
Tuesday 9 th December	Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity @ 5:30pm
Wednesday 10 th December	Nursery Nativity @ 2:00pm
Thursday 11 th December	Reception Class Christmas outing!
Thursday 11 th December	Whole School Victorian Christmas Day and KS2 workshops
Thursday 11 th 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	End of Term Mass
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 begin!

Change of date:

End of term Mass will now take place on Thursday 18th December at 10am in school.

SPRING TERM

Monday 5th January	Children return to school
Wednesday 7th January	Year 3 swimming
Friday 9th January	Young Voices
Thursday 15th January	Beginning of Term Mass
Tuesday 20th January	St Joseph's Got Talent
Wednesday 21st January	Year 3 Assembly
Tuesday 27th January	Key Stage 2 Theatre trip to see the BFG
Wednesday 28th January	Year 4 Assembly
Wednesday 4th February	Year 2 Assembly
Wednesday 11th February	Year 1 Assembly
Friday 13th February	Valentines Disco
Monday 16th – Friday 20th February	Half Term
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day
Wednesday 11th March	Reception Assembly
Tuesday 17th March	Parents Evening
Wednesday 18th March	Parents Evening
Tuesday 17th March	St Patrick's Day
Wednesday 18th March	Year 5 Assembly
Thursday 19th March	St Joseph's Feast Day
Friday 20th March	Big Lent Walk
Monday 23rd March	Whole school Art Week
Thursday 26th March	End of Term Mass
Friday 27th March	FSJ Bounceathon End of Spring Term

CELEBRATING NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

We're sending warm wishes to all the amazing children celebrating their birthdays this month. May your special day be filled with joy, laughter, and wonderful memories, shared with family and friends!



PARENT VOICE

GREAT Attendance

WYE	94.58%
AMAZON	94.5%
DANUBE	99%
TIBER	99.12%
THAMES	100%
AVON	95.42%
SEINE	98.33%

We're looking forward to our next Parent Voice meeting on Thursday 11th December.

This is a great opportunity to share new ideas and suggestions that can help us resolve challenges and make school life even better for our children.

If you have something you'd like to raise:

- **Please let your parent representative know, or**
- **Email the school office so we can add it to the agenda.**



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

APPLY NOW



Spread the Joy this Christmas!

Take part in our

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

All proceeds go to

St. Joseph's School Ross On Wye



£1 per strip | Draw: 15th December 2025

With love and festive cheer
from Co-op Ross On Wye



I Can Do
ALL THINGS
through
Christ
who
Strengthens Me
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Enjoy your weekend

God Bless

Mrs Francis