

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

5/12/25

Matthew 7:12



Dear Families,

This week has been as busy as ever, and we are in full swing preparing for our Nativities, the Christmas fayre, and our exciting Christmas outings. There is so much for us to look forward to in the coming weeks as we journey together towards the celebration of Christ's birth.

On Monday, we launched our Advent journey with a special assembly to mark the beginning of this holy season. As a school community, we gathered in prayer and reflection, and we lit the first candle on our Advent wreath—the Candle of Hope. We were reminded that Advent is a time of waiting, watching, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus. The children reflected beautifully on how they can bring Christ's light to others through kindness, patience, and love during this special season.

Family Advent Prayer

Heavenly Father, give us the grace to know and feel your infinite love for us.

Lord Jesus, open our hearts to prepare for your coming at Christmas and help us to recognize the amazing gift of your life and love.

O Holy Spirit, guide us in all that we do this Advent season, may it always bring us closer to you.

Amen.

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

Matthew 7:12

Christmas Wreath Workshop

This week, Sarah has been popping in to help us get ready for our Christmas Fayre on Friday. The children have been busy making crafts to sell at the fayre, and they've especially enjoyed taking part in the wreath-making workshops!



Some of our Year 6 children took charge of putting up the Christmas decorations this week, and they did a truly fantastic job! Watching them carefully hang each decoration was a heart-warming reminder that this will be their last Christmas with us here at St Joseph's. We're cherishing every moment with them during this magical festive season.





A message from Mr. Brain....

We are delighted to announce that our Year 6 pupils will be hosting a special Breakfast Sale on Thursday 18th December, with all proceeds going directly to support our local food banks.

Families, pupils, and staff are warmly invited to join us and enjoy a delicious start to the day. We will be selling freshly cooked:

Bacon sandwiches/rolls – £1.00

Sausage sandwiches/rolls – £1.50

The Breakfast Sale will open at 8:30am and will take place under the playground shelter.

This fundraiser is an important part of our Year 6 pupils' efforts to achieve the Super Kind Award, recognising their dedication to kindness, empathy, and positive action within the community.

Your support would mean so much to the children and will make a real difference to families in need.

We hope to see you there!

All of our children had a fabulous time visiting the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church!





This week the children have been busy writing their letters to Santa. They loved planning what to include and sharing their wonderful ideas with each other.

We'll be posting the letters today, with some classes sending theirs on Monday — a very exciting moment as we count down to Christmas!

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to our parents who kindly donated stamps, we are extremely grateful.





Welcome to our Nursery

A message from Mrs Lerego...

The Oakleaves and Acorns have been very busy writing their letters to Father Christmas this week and posting them in our letter box!

The Seedlings loved decorating their felt Christmas Tree!

Star of the week - Penelope for knowing and joining in with all the nativity songs and actions.



A message from Miss Sadler...

Our young artists in Art Club continued their festive wreath-making project this week, adding the finishing touches to the beautiful bases they created earlier. After completing their fabric-tied frames, the children carefully attached pine cones, bells, and other natural decorations to bring their wreaths to life. We are incredibly proud of the wonderful results and can't wait to share these handmade creations at our Christmas Fayre!

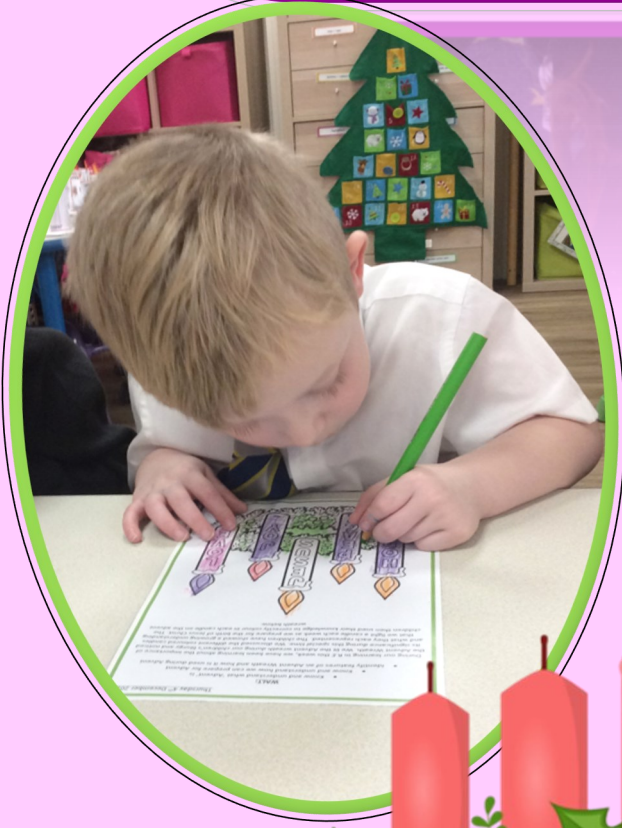


Advent



During RE this week, Reception have been learning all about the season of Advent. After lighting our first candle in assembly on Monday, Reception revisited this in class and looked closely at the Advent wreath. They learnt all about what the different coloured candles represented—Joy, Hope, Peace and Love. We then talked about the special white candle in the middle which is lit on Christmas Day to represent Jesus. The children then decorated their own Advent Wreath, making sure to colour each candle the correct colour.





FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**...COMING
NEXT WEEK!**



On **Wednesday 10th December**, a group of children, parents, and staff will be venturing to The Alexandra theatre in Birmingham to watch a production of '*Fiddler on the Roof*'.

We will be leaving school promptly at 4:30pm to allow for traffic into Birmingham. This trip will be especially valuable as Miss Steiner will be directing the junior version of Fiddler on the Roof in the summer. Attending this performance will help the children become familiar with the storyline and provide inspiration as they begin to think about auditioning for roles in the coming months.

We are very much looking forward to this exciting event!

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all our families who have kindly donated toys, games, and stationery for our After School Club provision. We are extremely grateful for your generosity, and the children are thoroughly enjoying the wonderful variety now available to them.

Your support makes a real difference — thank you again, it is very much appreciated!

ATTENDANCE

To help your child make the most of their learning, we cannot authorise holidays during term time. Please follow the link below to access term dates for this academic year and the following one.

[St Joseph's RC Primary School - Term Dates and School Times](#)

Victorian Christmas

On **Thursday 11th December** Years 1—6 will be celebrating **Victorian Christmas Day!** The children are invited to dress up appropriately, if they would like. There is absolutely no need to buy or create elaborate costumes. Please consider some of the following simple ideas:



- School grey shorts, white shirt, long socks, flat cap (optional waistcoat or necktie)
- Black trousers and long-sleeved top, waistcoat, dark smudges on face (chimney sweep!)
- Old trousers and shirt - cut/torn to be rags
- Black dress and a white apron (maid)

Reception will be on their trip to Clearwell Caves on this day and so they will not be taking part in the experience day.



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.



In cooking club this week, the children made some delicious chocolate brownie tarts. They whisked together the ingredients very carefully and especially enjoyed using pastry cutters to cut the circles and stars out of the rolled out pastry. Finally, they carefully filled the pastry baskets with the chocolate mixture, topped with a pastry star, ready to be baked. Well done everyone for some fabulous cooking.





For Boys
and Girls

BEAVERS

Ages
6 and 7 Years

**For fun, friendship and activities
that get you thinking
as well as doing.**


Scouts
Ross on Wye

Exciting News!

Scouts Ross on Wye are launching Beavers in the new year!

Would you like your young person to be

- Having lots of fun and going on adventures?
- Being curious about the world around them?
- Mastering new skills and trying new things?
- Helping others and making a difference?

We also need volunteers!

We're looking for enthusiastic adults (18+) to join the team. Scouts volunteering is flexible, provides full training, doesn't require any experience, and is free, fun, and rewarding. Any help you can offer will make a huge difference—and we'd love to hear from you.

**Please get in touch to register your interest or to volunteer
on 07774 667074 or heretohelp@scoutshw.org.uk**

NEXT WEEK



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.



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 organised each year by the FSJ, and it's always a wonderful way to kick off the festive season!



Coming soon

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.

The show begins at 1:30pm so we will return to school at approximately 4:00pm.



KEY STAGE 2 CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION!

Thursday 18th December - Our KS2 Christmas production will take place at 5.30pm on Thursday 18th December, in our school sports hall.

On this day, all KS2 children will stay at school at the end of the day to prepare for the performance, and families will be invited to arrive at 5.15pm to take their seats in the hall and watch the show. Please could all the children bring an extra snack to eat after school on this day as they may be waiting longer than usual for their dinner! The performance is likely to last around 45 minutes and so children will be ready to leave at around 6.20pm.

END OF TERM MASS

Thursday 18th December - We will be celebrating our End of Term Mass with Father Nick and our parish community here in school on Thursday 18th December at 10am. All families are warmly welcome to join us for this special time of worship as we come together to reflect on our Advent journey and prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas.

NURSERY CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Friday 19th December - Our Nursery children will be having their Christmas party at 11am on this day. All Nursery families are warmly welcome to join us for this special occasion.



Return
to
School



The ROALD DAHL'S
BFG

ADAPTED BY TOM WELLS

Our BFG Theatre trip is fast approaching— **27th January**, and it will be something exciting for the children to look forward to when we return in the new year. Parental Consent and payment have now been set up on ParentPay. Watching live theatre is a wonderful experience that can spark children's imaginations, inspire them as writers, and nurture their creativity. Seeing actors bring a story to life on stage also encourages children to get involved in our own school productions, helping to build their confidence and self-esteem in a truly meaningful way.

Dates for
the Diary:

MATH Workshop 4 PARENTS

A message from Mrs Murray....

During the Spring term, we will be running parent workshops for Reception, Year 1 & Year 2. During this time, we will share with you some of the number work your child will be learning in school, and share games and activities for use at home. We would love everyone to attend the workshop, during which, your child will come and work with you. *The workshop will run from 9:00 until 10:30 am. We look forward to welcoming you to these.*

Tuesday 13th January - Year 2

Tuesday 27th January - Year 1

Tuesday 3rd February - Reception



We welcome all our parents to come along to our information session on Healthy Eating in Nursery and School, following new guidance from the Department for Education. We are delighted to welcome Victoria Major, Children's Health Improvement Coordinator (Early Years – Herefordshire Council), who will be leading this informative session. Victoria will share practical ideas for healthy alternatives and will be available to answer any questions you may have.

We would greatly appreciate it if as many parents and carers as possible could attend,

Date: Monday 12th January

Time: 3:30pm

Location: Reception classroom

We look forward to welcoming you.

COMING SOON

Spring Term

| 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 –5th 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! | Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 | 3;30 pm – 4.30pm – 5 th January—9th February |
| Tuesday | Cooking Club | All year groups (KS1 and KS2) | 3.30pm – 4.030pm 6th January 2026– 10th February |
| Tuesday | Drama Club – Peter Pan | Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 | 3.30pm – 5.00pm 6 th January 2026– 10th February |
| Wednesday | Dance Fit kids | All year groups (KS1 and 5 KS2) | 3.30pm – 4.30pm 7th 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) |
| Friday | Cooking Club with Mr. Smith | All year groups (KS1 and KS2) | 3.30pm—4.30pm 9th January—6th February |

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 |
| Friday 9th January | Young Voices |
| Monday 12th January | Healthy Eating session with Herefordshire council representative @ 3:30pm |
| 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 |



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



| | |
|--------|--------|
| WYE | 95% |
| AMAZON | 93% |
| DANUBE | 99.33% |
| TIBER | 97.3% |
| THAMES | 97.8% |
| AVON | 98.33% |
| SEINE | 92.92% |

APPLY NOW



Our Reception Admissions window closes on 15th January 2026. If you have friends or family members who might like to visit the school with a view to applying for a Reception place, please do spread the word. Many thanks.

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

The Beautiful Task Of Advent

"It is the beautiful
task of Advent to
awaken in all of us
memories of
goodness and thus to
open the doors of
hope." - Pope
Emeritus Benedict XVI

Enjoy your weekend

God Bless

Mrs Francis

Happy 2nd week of Advent!

