

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

Matthew 7:12

Dear Families,

We have now come to the close of our Autumn term, and it has been a wonderful success! Our Reception children have settled beautifully into life here at St Joseph's, embracing the many exciting learning experiences along the way. As we look ahead, we eagerly anticipate a well deserved break with our families, preparing to welcome the joy of Christmas and all the beautiful traditions it brings.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our families for their ongoing support and for working in partnership with us to ensure our children receive the very best education throughout their primary years.

On behalf of everyone at St Joseph's, we wish you a joyful and blessed Christmas, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the spring term, which promises many more exciting events ahead.

Thank you to Father Nick and fellow parishioners of St Frances of Rome, celebrating Mass together at school on Thursday was a beautiful way to end our term and prepare us for the coming of Christmas.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 5th January 2026!

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

Matthew 7:12

THE FROG PRINCE



On Tuesday afternoon our Year 1 and 2 children ventured to the Sherman Theatre in Cardiff to watch a performance of The Frog Prince. They all had a fabulous time and it was a wonderful way to get into the Christmas spirit with all of their friends!

Fun Times





MAKING
Christmas
Memories.

CHRISTMAS *Production*

On Thursday, our Key Stage 2 children delighted us with their Christmas story performance. It was a truly beautiful occasion, and we couldn't be prouder of every single one of them! The singing was outstanding, filling the hall with festive joy, and our young actors brought the story of the birth of Christ to life with great talent and heart.

A huge thank you to Miss Steiner and all the Key Stage 2 staff for their dedication and hard work in creating such a memorable and meaningful celebration.



Come let us
Adore
Him





Welcome to our Nursery

This week our Nursery children had a fantastic time with Sarah from Art Studio Ross, enjoying their 'Messy Art' morning with lots of exploration of colours and different materials!

The children had great fun spray painting, dab painting and doing some big messy floor art!

They are really excited about their Christmas party today– a great way to end such a fantastic term! We look forward to seeing everybody back in January!





*Thank You
for Your Support!*

We raised **£93** for St. Josephs School.

The winners are:

1. Dave, Yellow Ticket Number 46-50

2. Mr. Harber, Pink Ticket Number 91-95

Merry Christmas from
Co-op Ross on Wye

As part of the children's kindness award, Amazon class had a wonderful visit to West Bank Residential Home this afternoon. The children sang 'Away in the Manger' and 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' and handed out the cards they made to the residents. Whilst there, they had a lovely surprise visit from Father Christmas and his elves and even received a present from him! Thank you to the residents and staff for making us feel so welcome and we hope to be back again soon.



★ MERRY
Christmas



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Last Friday, our school was filled with festive cheer as children enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch together. The day became even more special with a surprise magic show in the afternoon, sparking wonder and delight across the room. It was truly a day to remember! Thank you to everyone who helped make this celebration so memorable for our children!

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



Sweet Christmas MEMORIES



ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



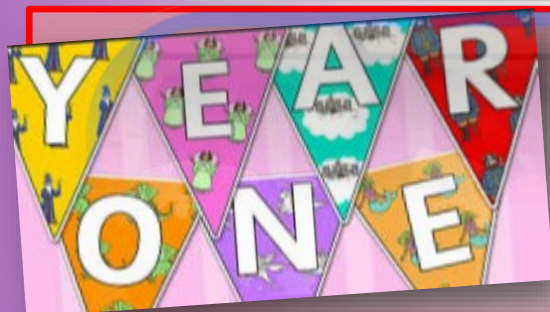
This Week in...

Y
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Over the past few weeks, Year 6 have been hard at work in their design technology lessons, creating their very own bags. Along the way, they've developed a wide range of new skills—from designing and cutting their own patterns to confidently using a sewing machine and perfecting hand stitching techniques. The children thoroughly enjoyed this project and were rightly proud of their finished pieces, which look fantastic! Well done, Year 6!





Amazon class had a wonderful visit to Ross-on-Wye Library on Monday. They thoroughly enjoyed looking at the amazing selection of books and then chose two books each to take home. Finally they listened to two stories before returning to school.



WELCOME TO RECEPTION

This week, our Reception children have continued to engage with activities that draw attention to the purpose of counting – to find out ‘how many’ objects there are. The children have revisited the concept of 1:1 correspondence by making sure that they match collections of objects to their representations. They have also developed their understanding of the concept of cardinality – that the last number in the count tells us ‘how many’ things there are altogether. They have also been matching numbers to quantities using their fingers!



Fiddler on the Roof JR.



Our next show (after Peter Pan) for Key Stage 2 children will be ***'Fiddler on the Roof Jr'*** - a beautiful, epic tale filled with moving songs and scenes that will be a joy to perform and to watch.

Rehearsals for 'Fiddler on the Roof Jr' will happen as a club on Tuesdays after school, between 3.30pm and 5pm each week. These rehearsals will begin on Tuesday 3rd March 2026.

Auditions for roles in 'Fiddler on the Roof Jr' will happen during the week beginning Monday 23rd February. All Key Stage 2 children can audition if they would like to and places in the club/cast will be given out based on these auditions. There are roles in the show to suit everybody – boys and girls, beginners and confident performers!

All children who would like to audition will need to learn by heart a short scene. Children who would like to audition for a solo singing role need to prepare either the song 'Matchmaker' or the song 'If I Were a Rich Man'. They need to be ready to audition in the week beginning Monday 23rd February.

If your child would like to audition for a role in 'Fiddler on the Roof Jr', please email me via the school office. I will then send the backing track and audition scripts out to you by email during the first week of term, allowing the children plenty of time to prepare for their audition. Competition for roles is always very high so please do remember that good preparation makes a huge difference!

'Fiddler on the Roof Jr' will be performed on stage at The Savoy Theatre in Monmouth in July 2026. This is an amazing opportunity to develop confidence and performance skills, whilst having lots of fun with friends. Performing on stage in a real theatre is super-exciting! I look forward to adding all of your wonderful, talented children to my audition list!

Miss Steiner

Bring on the NEW YEAR!



As part of our Healthy Schools and Early Years initiative, we have been reviewing our current approach to food and nutrition in school. This follows the new nutrition guidance from the Department for Education, published in May 2025, which now includes Nursery and Reception. We are required to meet these standards, and we believe it is important to adopt a whole-school approach to this, promoting healthy living as a whole school community and what better time to start than the new year.

To help us initiate this new regime we are delighted to welcome Victoria Major, Children's Health Improvement Coordinator

(Herefordshire Council), who will be visiting us to deliver a parent information session. Victoria will share practical ideas for healthy alternatives and will be available to answer any questions you may have.

We expect this to be a very informative session and would greatly appreciate it if as many parents and carers as possible could attend.

Date: Monday 12th January

Time: 3:30pm

Please confirm your attendance by emailing the school office and so we can account for numbers. Many thanks.



Herefordshire
Council



Healthy
Schools

Provided by Herefordshire Council

YOUNG VOICES

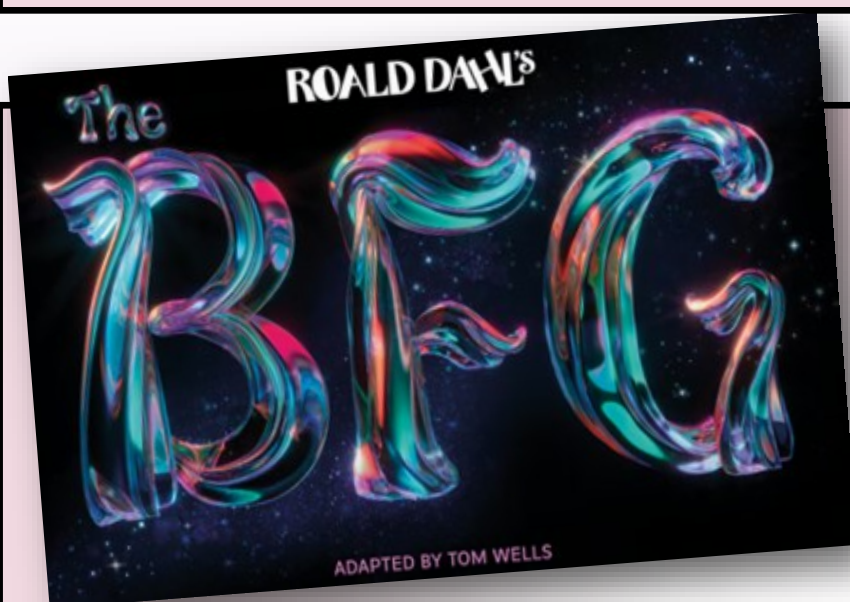


Some of our Key Stage 2 children are very excited to be attending the Young Voices Concert in Birmingham on **9th January 2026!** They have been working hard with Mrs Murray since September to prepare for this amazing event. It is always an unforgettable experience for our children, and we can't wait to share their thoughts and feedback with you.

A large, illuminated sign with a red border and a red star at the top. The sign reads "ST JOSEPH'S GOT TALENT!" in yellow capital letters. It is set against a background of a red carpet and stage lights. A small crest is visible in the top right corner of the sign.

**ST JOSEPH'S
GOT TALENT!**

We will be hosting our annual event of 'St Joseph's Got Talent' on **Tuesday 20th January 2026**. Class auditions will take place the week before, starting from Monday 12th January. Everyone is welcome to take part. Make sure you get practising and so you're ready to perform when we return for the Spring Term! Please note, this year Key Stage 1 will take place in the morning and Key Stage 2 in the afternoon and so it's not so long for our children.



Our KS2 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 experi-

ence that can spark children's imaginations, inspire them as writers, and nurtures 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



Important Notice: Holidays During Term Time

We would like to remind parents and carers that holidays taken during term time are not allowed to be authorized by the school. Regular attendance is essential for pupils' learning and progress, and the Department for Education expects pupils to attend school every day. Where a pupil is absent due to an unauthorised holiday, the school is required to notify the Local Authority. This may result in the issue of a Penalty Notice fine.

Please be aware that once a Penalty Notice has been issued, any further unauthorised absences may lead to additional fines or legal action, including prosecution. Each case is considered individually by the Local Authority in line with national guidance.

We strongly encourage families to plan holidays outside of term time to avoid fines and to support their child's education. We have altered our term dates, meaning in the summer term we break up a week earlier than other settings, to support this, although we appreciate this is only helpful if all of your children attend St Joseph's.

COMING SOON

School CLUBS

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

We have a wide selection of clubs on offer for next term. Can we ask that all this term's payments are settled as soon as possible please and so parentpay accounts do not build up. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

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
Thursday 26th March	Year 3 Easter performance
Friday 27th March	FSJ Bounceathon End of Spring Term



A HUGE thank you to our amazing FSJ members!
Your hard work and dedication have raised a phenomenal amount of money for our school community, and we are so grateful for everything you do.
Since April 2025, FSJ fundraising has enabled the purchase of:
Basketball hoops – £287.43

Testbase (online learning platform) – £299.00

Art and Design Technology resources – £487.55

Coaches for the Science Festival – £1,000.00

Contributions towards school trips – £350.00

Mr Bamboozle magic show – £320.00

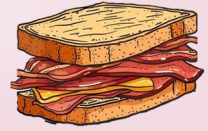
Christmas crackers – £71.00

Total spent for the benefit of our children: £2,814.98

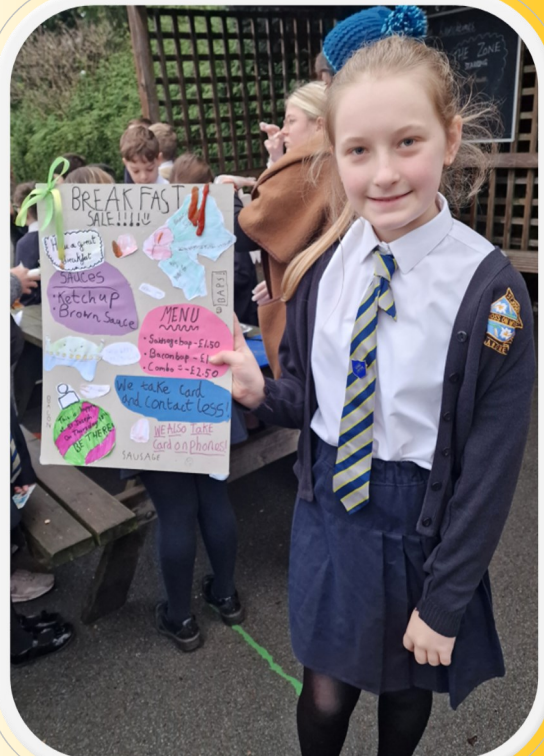
Thank you for making such a meaningful difference to our children's learning and experiences — we truly couldn't do it without you!

Breakfast

As part of their Super Kind Award challenge this month, our Year 6 children held a breakfast sale in the playground on Thursday morning and it was a huge success! They managed to raise £168.72 which will towards our local foodbank, helping others in need at this time of year. Well done to everyone who helped and supported this event!



CHOOSE kindness





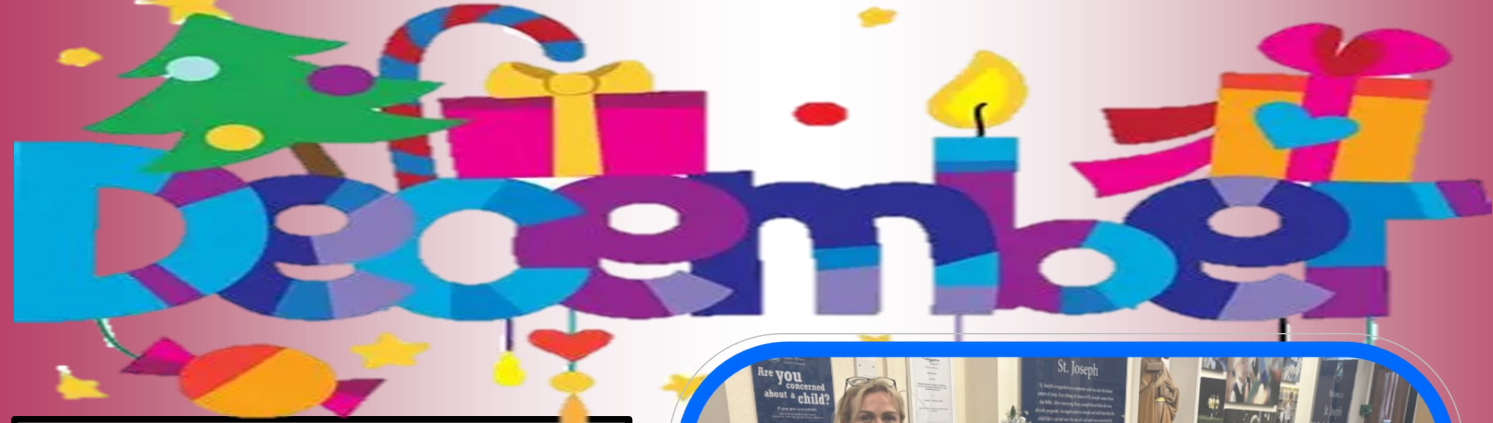
*Making
Difference
in the Lives
of Others*



This festive season, we're proud to celebrate the wonderful efforts of Dexter in Year 4. Together with his mum and family, Dexter has been travelling to neighbouring towns on their Christmas float, delivering presents to local families.

GREAT WORK Dexter!





Wishing all our December babies a very Happy Birthday!
We hope you enjoy your special day surrounded by family and friends.



Well done to Sofia for helping at breakfast with Santa, to raise money for Great Ormond street.
She did a fantastic job and we're super proud of you!



WYE	95.42%
AMAZON	93.5%
DANUBE	98.33%
TIBER	97.6%
THAMES	95.36%
AVON	96.25%
SEINE	94.17%





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

**Wishing all our families a very Happy Christmas and a
New Year filled
with God's
blessings.**

Warm wishes

Mrs Francis

A HOLY CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May the joy of the Holy Night bring peace
to your home, faith to your heart,
and love to your family.

With love from all of us at St. Joseph's



*Wishing you a
blessed and holy
Christmas.*

