



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

Matthew 7:12

9/1/26

Happy New Year

Dear Families,

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year. It has been wonderful welcoming the children back to school and hearing all about their Christmas holidays.

During Monday's assembly, we shared our goals for the year ahead and reflected together on St John's Gospel: "In the beginning ... the Word was made flesh" (John 1:1, 14). This scripture reminds us that through Jesus, we know God is always close to us.

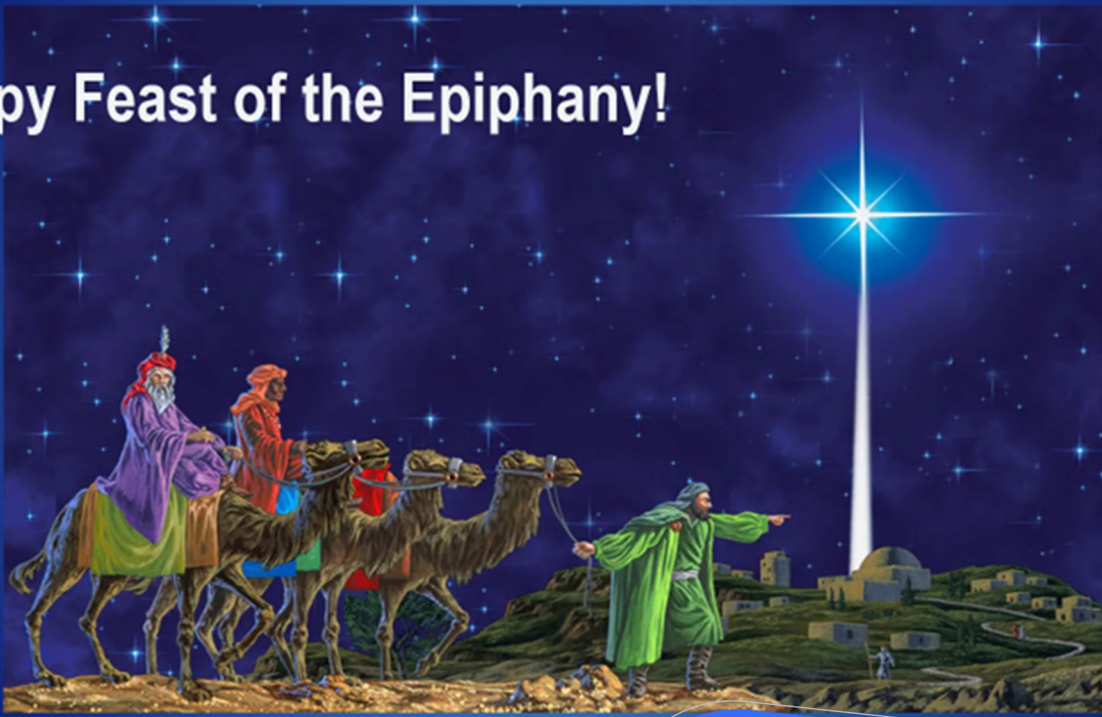
We are excited for the fresh beginnings this new year brings and for all the events and opportunities we have planned.

As the weather is turning much colder, please ensure that children come to school with warm coats, hats, scarves, and gloves so they can enjoy their time outdoors comfortably.

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

Matthew 7:12

Happy Feast of the Epiphany!



This week, our children joyfully celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany during our Celebration of the Word. Together, we reflected on the visit of the Magi and the message of God's light revealed to all nations. Through prayer and discussion, the children were reminded that, like the Wise Men, we are all called to seek Jesus and share His light with others. It was a meaningful and reverent time of worship and learning.



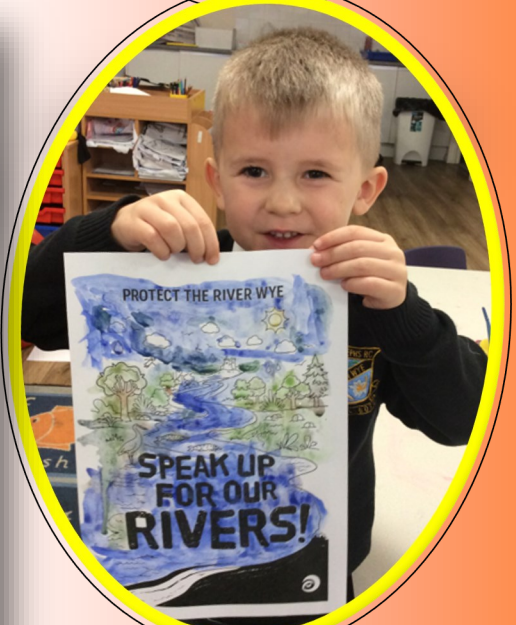
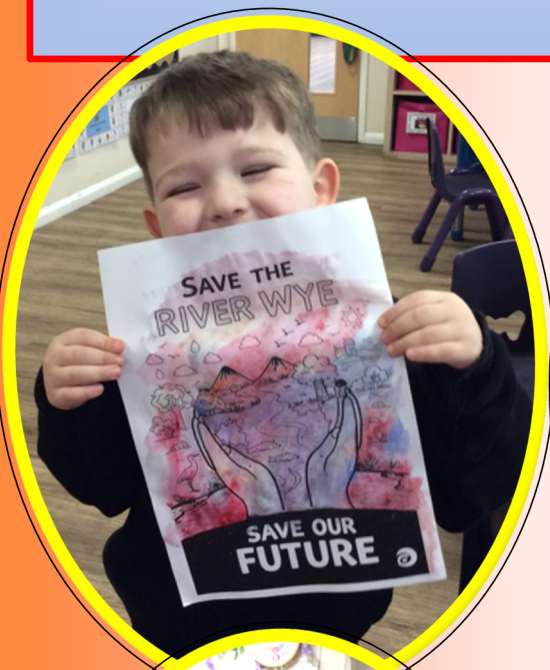




Our Reception children have been learning about the River Wye and why it is important to keep it clean and healthy. We discovered that the river is home to many animals and plants, and that pollution can make them poorly and damage their habitat.

As part of this learning, the children are creating colourful placards with messages such as “Save Our River Wye” and “Keep the River Clean”. Through stories, discussions and creative activities, they are exploring how small actions – like putting rubbish in the bin and caring for nature – can make a big difference.

The children are enjoying sharing their messages about looking after our local environment. We are so pleased with the way they are showing kindness, teamwork and a growing understanding of how we can all help to protect the world around us.



Curriculum

Curriculum information for this term can be accessed through our 'Evidence Me' learning platform and on the Curriculum page of our school website. These resources include Topic Webs outlining the objectives being taught across each subject, as well as Knowledge Organisers to support learning at home.

If you have any questions about your child's curriculum for the Spring term, please speak with your child's class teacher.



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



Welcome to our Nursery



A message from Mrs Lerego....

This week in Nursery, the Acorns and Oakleaves have loved going on lots of winter walks - looking for frozen spiders webs and feeling the crunchy frost under their feet.

The Seedlings have been exploring their 'snowman' treasure basket and using their fine motor skills to squirt coloured water onto cotton wool.





**LoVIN the
OutdOoRS**



Cooking Club



The children thoroughly enjoyed Cooking Club this week and mixed the ingredients to make some wonderful doughnut muffins! It was a fun, hands-on session filled with laughter, teamwork, and the wonderful aroma of freshly baked muffins. Well done, everyone!





On Wednesday afternoon, Key stage 1 and 2 children took part in their first Dance-Fit session with Mrs Burford. The class was fun, energising, and just what they needed after a full day of learning. It was wonderful to see children from different age groups coming together and enjoying the session so enthusiastically, they're already looking forward to next week!



NEXT WEEK



MONDAY

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, as this explains the changes we have introduced this term regarding healthy lunches from home and school.

Date: Monday 12th January

Time: 3:30pm

Location: Reception classroom

TUESDAY

A message from Mrs Murray....

Next Tuesday 13th January we will be running a year 2 parent workshop. During this time, we will share with you some of the number work your child is and will be learning in school. We will be sharing 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.**

THURSDAY



Next Thursday morning we will be celebrating whole school Mass, here in school at 10am, to mark the start of our new term. All families and parishioners are warmly welcome to join us for this special event.

Coming soon



MATH
Workshop
4 PARENTS

A message from Mrs Murray....

parent workshops for Reception & Year 1. 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 27th January - Year 1

Tuesday 3rd February - Reception

Get Ready

A graphic for 'St Joseph's Got Talent' featuring a red star with lights, a sign with the text 'ST JOSEPH'S GOT TALENT!' in yellow, and a red carpet. A small school crest is in the top right corner.

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 from next Monday 12th January. Everyone is welcome to take part if they would like to.

The cover of the book 'The BFG' by Roald Dahl, adapted by Tom Wells. The title 'The BFG' is written in large, colorful, liquid-like letters against a dark, starry background.

The
ROALD DAHL'S
BFG
ADAPTED BY TOM WELLS



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 experience 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.

We know this is the time of year when many families start planning trips- just a quick reminder: please make sure any holidays are booked within the school holidays. Government guidance is clear that term-time holidays can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised absences can lead to fines, and more importantly, missing school can really impact your child's learning and confidence. Before you confirm any bookings, please check our school term dates ([St Joseph's RC Primary School - Term Dates and School Times](#))

For further information please see our school attendance policy [download.asp](#) and this parent guide for attendance—[DfE external document template](#).

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION**

School trips play an important role in enriching our curriculum and providing pupils with valuable learning experiences beyond the classroom. Unfortunately, like many schools, our budget is currently extremely stretched and we are unable to subsidise the cost of educational visits.

As a result, school trips can only go ahead when sufficient parental contributions are received to cover essential costs such as transport, and entry fees. Where contributions are not made, regrettably the school may be unable to go ahead with the trip. This is not a decision taken lightly, but without full funding it's not feasible.

We fully understand that families' circumstances can vary. If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please contact me in confidence to discuss this further.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support in helping us provide these valuable opportunities for our pupils.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS THURSDAY 15TH JANUARY 2026



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

SPRING TERM

Friday 9th January	Young Voices—Postponed new date to be confirmed
Monday 12th January	Healthy Eating session with Herefordshire council representative @ 3:30pm
Thursday 15 th January	Beginning of Term Mass
Tuesday 20 th January	St Joseph's Got Talent
Wednesday 21 st January	Year 3 Assembly
Tuesday 27th January	Key Stage 2 Theatre trip to see the BFG
Wednesday 28 th January	Year 4 Assembly
Wednesday 4 th February	Year 2 Assembly
Monday 9th—Friday 13th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Wednesday 11 th February	Year 1 Assembly
Friday 13 th February	Valentines Disco
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February	Half Term
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day
Wednesday 11 th March	Reception Assembly
Tuesday 17 th March	Parents Evening
Wednesday 18 th March	Parents Evening
Tuesday 17 th March	St Patrick's Day
Wednesday 18 th March	Year 5 Assembly
Thursday 19 th March	St Joseph's Feast Day
Friday 20 th March	Big Lent Walk
Monday 23 rd March	Whole school Art Week
Thursday 26 th March	End of Term Mass
Friday 27 th March	FSJ Bounceathon End of Spring Term

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



HALF TERM HOLIDAY

16TH TO 20TH FEBRUARY

Club

 admin@st-josephs.hereford.sch.uk

 01989 564655



JOURNALISM CLUB



This week Miss Sprawson welcomed Abigail and Olivia to her new weekly Journalism Club.

My name is Abigail. I'm 9 years old and I'm very interested in acting, art and sport. I will be interested in reporting on clubs going on at school such as drama, basketball and on school trips as well.

My name is Olivia and I am 8 years old. I am in Year 3 and I like doing activities like art and acting. I will be interested reporting on school trips.

We look forward to sharing their news with you weekly.

Fiddler on the Roof JR.



A message from Miss Steiner...

After seeing the incredible production in Birmingham just before Christmas, I am SO excited to get started on our version of this beautiful show. Many thanks to all of the children who have signed up to audition for roles in the play. I will be sending out the audition materials next week so there is still time to squeeze yourself onto the list if you would like to be involved. Please email the school office if your child would like to audition for Fiddler on the Roof; it really is going to be an incredible experience to be involved with the



WYE	91.7%
AMAZON	97.1%
DANUBE	92.9%
TIBER	95%
THAMES	99%
AVON	97%
SEINE	97.8%

Well done to Bella in Year 3, who has taken the time to write thoughtful cards with special messages for all her friends and teachers. This is such a beautiful act of kindness, and it brought smiles to all of us.



A message from Miss Steiner...

A massive thank you to the wonderful Peter Pan cast for the huge amount of effort they have put in over the Christmas holidays! Our run-through of the first half of the show on Tuesday was a great success and there are some truly wonderful performances beginning to emerge! Next Tuesday, we will be running the second half of the play and I am looking forward to that being just as

positive!

This Saturday, we will be working on the fight choreography for the Brave Girls and the Pirates and I am sure that the children will really enjoy this chance to learn some stage combat skills.

Tickets for the performance of Peter Pan Jr will be available very soon...watch this space!



- RECEPTION PE DAY— Friday
- YEAR 1 PE DAY— Thursday
- YEAR 2 PE DAY— Thursday
- YEAR 3 PE DAY— Wednesday
- YEAR 4 PE DAY— Friday
- YEAR 5 PE DAY— Thursday
- YEAR 6 PE DAY— Wednesday

Please can you ensure the children have their kits in school on these days, thank you.

Enjoy your weekend

God Bless

Mrs Francis

