

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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

Matthew 7:12

13/12/24

**Dear Family,
This week during Assembly,
we lit our second Advent
candle.**

**The second purple candle
on the Advent wreath is lit
as a symbol of Faith in God.
This candle is referred to as
the "Bethlehem Candle" to
remind us of the journey of
the Holy Family.**

**As we get closer to Christmas we continue to prepare
our hearts and minds for the birth of Jesus. Next**

**Thursday morning we will be cele-
brating Mass, here in school with
Father Nick at 10:00am. All families
are warmly welcome to join us for
this end of term celebration.**

"Advent is a time of waiting
for our Lord, who will visit
us all in our own hearts.
The Lord is coming!
Let us wait for him!"

POPE FRANCIS



'Treat others as you would like to be treated.'

Let's Go Caroling

Year 5 and 6 walked to Aspire Living in town on Tuesday morning to bring a little festive cheer to some of the residents there by singing a few songs from the Christmas Concert they are busy preparing for. Renditions of classics like 'It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas' and 'Carol Of The Bells' were very well-received and even brought a tear to a few eyes!

We received this lovely message after our visit:

"I just wanted to say a massive thank you for organising this event. The children were absolutely amazing and should be very proud of themselves. The people we support really enjoyed it, as did the staff. It put us all in the Christmas spirit. Merry Christmas to you all."



As an Artist, I am learning to:

Wednesday 11th December 2024

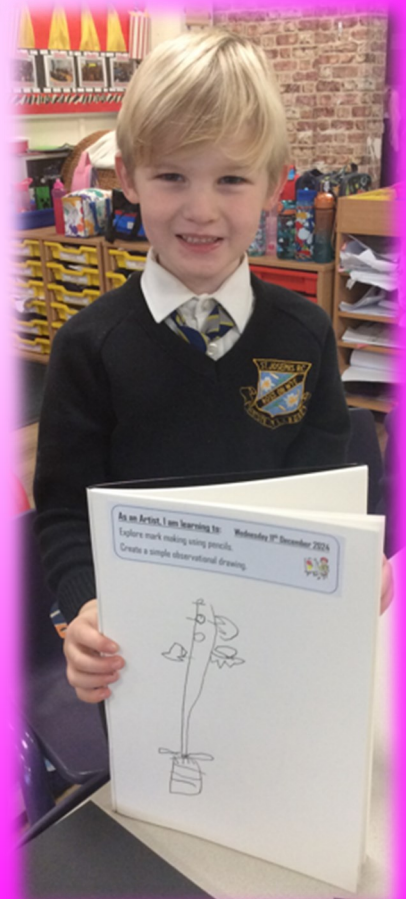
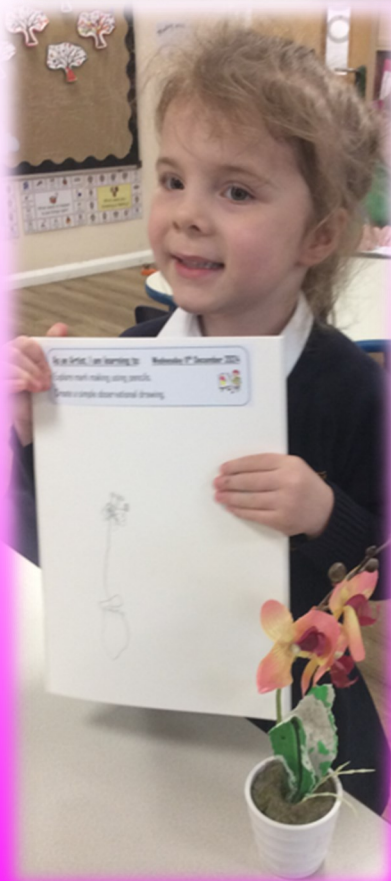
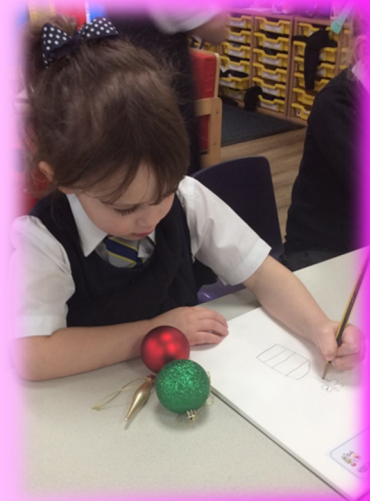
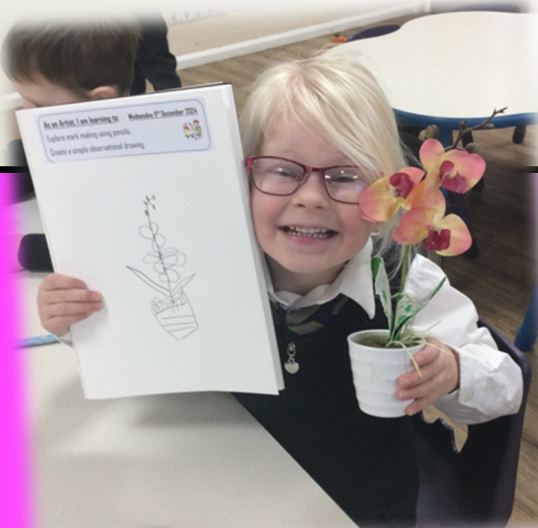
Explore mark making using pencils.

Create a simple observational drawing.



On Wednesday Reception Class carefully observed a plant from every angle. They used a simple pencil to do a sketch of our orchid, taking care to look at the shapes and sizes of the leaves, petals and pot.

Great job everyone!



santa fun run

***On Thursday morning we had a great time, taking part in a whole school Santa Fun Run!
This was a great event, bringing the school community together! A big thank you to our parent helpers who came along and joined us for the festive fun too!***





Gardening Club

A message from Mrs Hodges

This week in gardening club we talked about what might happen if we planted an acorn or a conker we had picked from a tree, then we planted some acorns and conkers to see if our theory would be right once they germinate! We also planted a few different varieties of tulip and daffodil bulb, then finished up by sowing some pots of wildflower seeds ready for some spring colour. We made sure our bird feeders were all full today and talked about the next coming weeks being the most important time to help our birds when the temperature drops, we all loved to see our little robin sat watching us while we worked in the greenhouse.



Let's get COOKING



A message from Miss Sadler....

This week at Cooking Club we had two festive bakes - Gingerbread and Mince Pies! We first filled our puff pastry cases with the mincemeat and talked about all the different ingredients that are actually in mincemeat. We then got to making our dough for the gingerbread. We rubbed together butter, flour and ginger until we had a breadcrumb consistency. We then added our sugar and egg and combined until we formed a dough. The children then each got a piece of dough to knead and roll out. We then cut stars and circles out of our dough before putting them into the oven to bake.



**...COMING
NEXT WEEK!**

Christmas
Dates for your
diary



Next Monday 16th December, our Reception children will be visiting Clearwell Caves.

This will be an amazing experience for the children and a perfect way of getting into the spirit of Christmas, with our school friends. During this magical tour, the children will be visiting Santa and receiving a gift, then stopping off at Beechenhurst, for a picnic and some outdoor games on the way home.



Next Tuesday, 17th December, Years 1 and 2 will be venturing on a safari through the park, getting close up to all of the animals, as well as visiting Santa and receiving a gift! They will stay for cookies and milk before heading back to school.



Next Tuesday 17th December, our Key stage 2 children will be stepping into the magical winter wonderland and beating heart of the home of Welsh rugby at the Principality Stadium. We are super excited and have an action-packed day for the children!

**KEY STAGE 2 ST JOSEPH'S CHRISTMAS
EXTRAVAGANZA 2024**

**Monmouth Girls School Theatre
Friday 20th December @ 3:00pm**

SPRING TERM

Monday 6 th January	Return to school
Thursday 16 th January	New Term Mass
Friday 17 th January	Year 5 Assembly
Friday 24 th January	Year 4 Assembly
Wednesday 29 th January	St Joseph's Got Talent
Thursday 30 th January	Young Voices
Monday 3 rd February	Children's Mental Health Day
Friday 7 th February	NSPCC Number Day
Friday 7 th February	Year 2 Assembly
Tuesday 11 th February	Frozen Performance – Monmouth Savoy
Wednesday 12 th February	Year 1 Assembly
Thursday 13 th February	Parent Voice
Friday 14 th February	FSJ Valentines Disco
Friday 14 th February	End of first half term
Monday 17 th Friday 21 st February	Half term
Monday 3 rd March	Parent's Evening
Tuesday 4 th March	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 4 th March	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday 5 th March	Ash Wednesday Mass @ 10am
Thursday 6 th March	BIG LENT WALK
Friday 7 th March	World Book Day
Monday 10 th March	Science Week
Friday 15 th March	Year 3 Assembly
Monday 17 th March	St Patrick's Day
Wednesday 19 th March	St Joseph's Feast Day
Monday 24 th March	Shakespeare Week
Thursday 27 th March	Romeo and Juliet Performance
Friday 28 th March	Reception Class Assembly
Thursday 3 rd April	Years 3 and 4 Golf Experience Day
Friday 4 th April	Years 5 and 6 Golf Experience Day
Monday 7 th April	Flat Stan First Aid Day
Thursday 10 th April	End of Term Mass
Friday 11 th April	FSJ Bounceathon
Friday 11 th April	End of Spring term

Learning in action this week.....

During their Geography lessons, Year 2 have been using an atlas to find the equator and countries that are near to it. They enjoyed discussing their knowledge of what the climate is like in these countries and whether or not we would like to live there.



As part of their Science topic on 'Animals' the children have been learning about the role of a vet, the reasons why they might have to visit a vet and the different ways animals are cared for. Well done children on some super role-play and learning!





RECEPTIONS ADMISSIONS

September 2025

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.

Do you have a child born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021

If so you will need to apply for a school place by 15th Jan 25 (to commence Sept 25)



01989 564655



admin@st-josephs.hereford.sch.uk

FSJ NEWS.....



A big thank you to Sainsbury's in Ross for donating 120 Christmas crackers for our Christmas dinner day today! Thank you to Tilly-Rose's mum, Mrs Weale for helping us with this.

WELL BEING WARRIORS

We're your
**WELLBEING
WARRIORS**

We have been thinking of lots of ideas to support the 5 ways to well-being- Connect, Be active, Learn, Give and Take notice for next term and the children jotted down lots of great ideas. It was wonderful to listen to the discussions being had and the ideas being shared.



**THINK
BEFORE YOU
PARK!**



Can we please remind families to park considerately at drop off and collection times.

Families are welcome to use the Prince of Wales pub car park for free. Some parents pay for an annual parking permit at the Conservative Club.

- Please do not double park, as this causes congestion on the Avenue.
- No stopping, dropping or parking on the School Keep Clear yellow zig zags
- No parking on corners or junctions especially near the school entrance
- Please do not block driveways

Thank you in advance for your support in this matter in helping to keep everyone safe.

STAY SAFE ONLINE

This week in the news there have been details about a court case where a man was sentenced for contacting children using Roblox. Please see the information sheet below to make sure you are fully aware of what you can do to keep your children safe online. Many thanks.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ROBLOX

PEGI RATING
7+

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as scam links or general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODER is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter Oders. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, while it's possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If your child has some genuine friends to play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.

MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with other people online safely.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



NOS
National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

NURSERY NEWS THIS WEEK...

What a wonderful festive week we have had here at Nursery! We have been making cards, angels and calendars and decorating gingerbread biscuits!

The children put on a wonderful Christmas nativity and we are very proud of them - They are all our stars of the week this week!







Last Friday, we had a great morning at The Hub Ross on Wye, celebrating Roy's fantastic achievement of receiving his well deserved High Sheriff's Award. His loyal following of mini gardeners were there to support him and be part of this special occasion. Congratulations to Roy, our amazing school gardener who always goes above and beyond, not just for St Joseph's, but for the wider community of Ross on Wye! Well done Roy!!!!

GREAT Attendance

SWIFTIES	96.9%
ABBA	97.1%
FANTASIA	95%
ZIMMER	98%
ALISHA	96.1%
MIRANDA	98.3%
SHEERIOS	99%



Royal Writers CERTIFICATE

This certificate is awarded to



A great big
THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Christmas fayre last Friday, it was truly amazing! The festive spirit was alive and well, and we loved seeing so many happy faces enjoying the stalls, activities and all the fun.

A special thank you to the incredible FSJ team for their hard work in organising such a fantastic event. We managed to raise £2052.57!!!

Enjoy your weekend

God Bless

Mrs Francis

