

28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Caring for God's  
World**

Our faith calls us to love God and to love our neighbours in every situation; especially, our sisters and brothers living in poverty. This half term, we are focusing on Care of Creation. As Christians, we are called to be good stewards of creation. That means we are meant to look after the world that God created for us. We are teaching the children that we must all work together to leave our world better for the people who come after us.

'Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all.' (Pope Francis Laudato Si.)

### **Mission Statement, Aims & Values**

Our mission statement is 'Love and Learn in the footsteps of Christ.' We live this out in everything we do at school and it is underpinned by our core aims, which are for the pupils to be:

- Disciples of Christ
- Ready to learn
- Secondary Ready

### **Democracy**

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we believe in celebrating our community's increasingly diverse cultural backgrounds whilst promoting and holding true to what we recognise as British Values.

Democracy is at the heart of our values. The children have been following Christ's teachings by making decisions about their learning and behaviour towards each other.

Pupils are taught to listen carefully, with concern for each other, respecting the rights of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Last week, pupils were given the opportunity to vote for House Captains, Eco Council and Sports Council representatives. Next week, the pupils are voting for their School Council representatives.

All school elections are based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action.

The pupils will then be given the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council and regular questionnaires.

Congratulations to our newly appointed Head Boy, Head girls, Head Apostle, House Captains, Class



*Love and Learn in the footsteps of Christ*

Apostles, Caritas Ambassadors and Eco Warriors who make up our Chaplaincy Team.

Our Head Boy and Girls are pupils who live out our vision statement 'to love and learn in the footsteps of Christ.' They are exemplary role models for the younger children by being a disciple of Christ. The Head Boy and Head Girls carry out a range of important tasks, including speaking with prospective parents when they tour the school, judging competitions, speaking at events or in presentations, meeting and greeting visitors and attending meetings with the Senior Leadership Team to discuss important issues and ways to improve the school.



**House Captains**



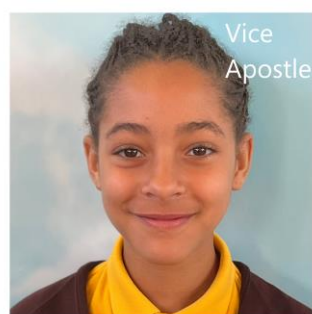
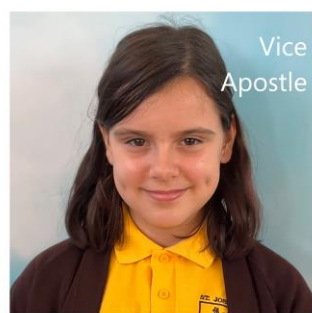
House captains are pupils responsible for overseeing and coordinating activities within their respective houses. House captains are chosen through a selection process involving application, interviews and a pupil elections process.

Class apostles refer to pupils who are chosen or appointed to serve as a representative or leader within their class in matters related to faith and spirituality. The role of a class apostle is responsible for fostering a sense of unity, promoting spiritual growth, and encouraging their classmates to live out their Catholic faith.

Class apostles may engage in various activities, such as organising prayer

services or reflections, leading class discussions on religious topics, encouraging participation in religious events or retreats, and liaising between their classmates and staff.

Class apostles are selected by the pupils based on qualities such as leadership, maturity, and a strong commitment to their faith. Our Class Apostles are expected to be role models for their peers, embodying Catholic values and promoting a sense of community within their class.





## Class Apostles



### Year 5 Caritas Ambassadors

At St Joseph's, we strive to ensure that all our children recognise their important role in continuing Christ's mission by promoting Social Justice and Service. Our Year 5 Pupils are our Caritas Ambassadors. They are the leaders of social action in our school and are involved in charitable acts and service projects.

We teach our children to think of what they can do to make a positive difference to others. This term, our Year 5 Caritas Ambassadors would like to raise some money for Breast Cancer Research this term. This charity is close to our hearts as many staff members have been affected by this terrible disease, including our very own Mrs Tannian. You will be delighted to know Mrs Tannian is back with us, working in school. Thanks be to God and thanks to the care she received from the amazing NHS. Therefore, on Friday, 13th October, there will be a non-uniform day to raise money for Breast Cancer Research. All children may wear pink or red clothes. We are asking for a 50p or £1 voluntary contribution. Please do support this worthwhile cause.

On Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> September, our Matthew House Caritas Ambassadors have organised a Macmillan Coffee morning for the Foundation Stage parents.

*Love and Learn in the footsteps of Christ*

## Year 5 Caritas Ambassadors



### Eco Council

It is the Eco Warriors' role to protect God's world by following Pope Frances' Laudato Si message for us to care for our earth. The Eco Warriors encourage others to live a sustainable lifestyle. The Eco Warriors nominate themselves for this position because they want to make a difference and help care for God's world.

Our Eco Warriors are an elected group (from Years 1-6) who help our school community become more eco-friendly, reduce energy consumption and waste, and also look at ways to promote sustainability. They meet regularly to research solutions, formulate plans and contribute to school assemblies to tell the school ways in which we can care for God's world.



*Love and Learn in the footsteps of Christ*



Last year, our Eco Warriors participated in a project with the Watford Football Club Trust. Many schools were involved and I am delighted to say that our school's ideas were chosen and will be introduced across the Watford area. To reduce plastic, our children came up with the idea of having a toy swap shop whereby children can swap toys with each other or give their unwanted toys to needy children.



### **Sports Council**

We want our pupils to get the best experience from their sports and PE lessons; therefore, our Sports Council make decision alongside the teachers to make our PE even better. We are currently discussing the after school clubs that we have in school.



## Curriculum Updates

### Spotlight on Religious Education

In RE, this week, the children have been learning the following new skills.

Year Group	RE
Foundation 1	The Lost Sheep.
Foundation 2	Learning about God's World. (Creation Story Old Testament)
Year 1	God's Great Plan. Looking after God's World. (Creation Story Old Testament)
Year 2	People chosen by God. Daniel and Abraham. (Old Testament)
Year 3	The Christian Family. Belonging to the family of the church.
Year 4	The Old Testament- To know the story of Abraham
Year 5	Catholic Social Teaching. Care of Creation
Year 6	Old Testament. Signs and Symbols. Jewish celebrations



*Love and Learn in the footsteps of Christ*



## Spotlight on Mathematics

In Mathematics, this week, the children have been learning the following:

Year Group	Mathematics
Foundation 1	Learning to count to 5
Foundation 2	Sorting and Matching objects by shape, colour, size, texture and orientation
Year 1	Counting, comparing, ordering numbers to 10.
Year 2	Adding and Subtracting 2-digit numbers
Year 3	Adding and Subtracting 3-digit numbers
Year 4	Rounding and estimating numbers 10, 100, and 1,000
Year 5	Rounding and estimating numbers to the nearest 10,000
Year 6	Comparing, ordering numbers to 10,000,000

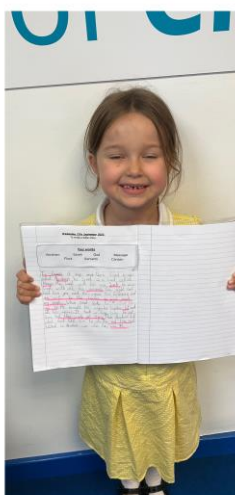
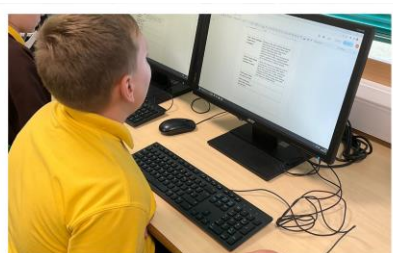


*Love and Learn in the footsteps of Christ*

## Spotlight on Computing

In Computing, this week, the children have been learning the following:

Year Group	Computing
Foundation 1	Unplugged activities: Following instructions
Foundation 2	General computing skills. How to use a touchscreen
Year 1	Online Safety: To log on safely. To know how to maintain secure passwords.
Year 2	Online Safety: Using search engines and safely online.
Year 3	Online Safety: Recognising fake websites. Children to understand that some information held on websites may not be accurate or true.
Year 4	Online Safety: understand how children can protect themselves from online identity theft.
Year 5	Online Safety: Children can use the SMART rules as a source of guidance when online.
Year 6	Online Safety: To review the meaning of a digital footprint and understand how and why people use their information and online presence to create a virtual image of themselves as a user.



## Headteacher's Award

The following children have received a Headteacher's Award for fantastic work.

*Love and Learn in the footsteps of Christ*



## **Wellbeing**

The emotional wellbeing of our children and their families continues to remain a high priority as we settle back into school life.

[www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters) is a website that Public Health England has released. The NHS endorses the website and offers practical advice for parents and children about wellbeing and emotional health concerns.

Please do not hesitate to speak to the school should you need any further information or require further support in this area.

## **Important Notices**

### **1. Secondary School Transfer Information For Year 6 Parents**

Secondary School admissions opened at the beginning of September and the closing date for all applications is 31st October 2023. We recommend that this form is completed by Thursday 19th October, so that any queries can be dealt with ahead of the deadline.

Year 6 parents must complete the online form at [www.hertsdirect.org/admissions](http://www.hertsdirect.org/admissions) and complete the school's Supplementary Information Form, which you can obtain from the school's website or during the school's Open Evenings.

Please note that all Catholic secondary schools require a Certificate of Catholic Practice, which can be obtained from your parish priest.

### **2. Pupil Premium Funding**

In certain circumstances, schools can claim approximately £1,600 of extra funding per child for pupils whose parents receive various benefits. This funding is available to all eligible children in school, from Nursery to Year 6.

If you are eligible to claim this extra money, please apply directly using the following website: [www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals). Once successfully applied for, this funding will remain in place each year that your child is with us. However, you will need to reapply for the funding when your child moves from Foundation Stage to Key Stage 1 or from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2. If you have any queries, please speak to the School Office in confidence.

### **3. First Holy Communion**

If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion next year, please see Father John after Mass.

### **4. Healthy Lunches!**

As a healthy eating school, we ask that your child has a healthy packed lunch. Children may have a daily treat, such as a chocolate biscuit. Crisps are only allowed on Fridays. Glass bottles or cans of fizzy drinks are not allowed. Fruit, dry fruit, water, squash and juice are also allowed at playtime.

### **5. Nut Allergies!**

May I remind you that nuts are prohibited in school because we have a few children with nut allergies. This is a life-threatening condition, so please ensure your child's lunch or break time snack does not contain nuts or nut products, e.g. peanut butter, Nutella and cereal bars. Thank you.



## ***Autumn Prayer***

*Love and Learn in the footsteps of Christ*



*O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. As we embrace these autumn months, May the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest. May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet remind us of the brevity of this earthly life. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us your breath of life. May the scurrying of the squirrels and the migration of the birds remind us that you call us to follow your will. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.*

Have a great week,

Linda Payne

### **Dates for the diary**

More than ever - please treat this calendar as a guide – I am sure as we progress through the year, there may be variations.

The acronym TBC means to be confirmed.

<b>September</b>																	
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Foundation 1 & 2 Meet the Teacher and Foundation Stage Macmillan Coffee Morning. Foundation Stage parents are welcome to attend. More information to follow. 9.15a.m.																
<b>October</b>																	
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Year 4 Multiplication Meeting for Parents. Starting at the following times: 2.30pm. or 5.00p.m.																
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 1 Phonics Meeting for Parents. Starting at the following times: 2.30pm. or 5.00p.m.																
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Welcome Mass in school at 11.00.a.m. TBC. All parents welcome.																
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Pink Non Uniform Day to support Breast Cancer Appeal (Children may wear pink). £1 voluntary donation																
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening																
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening																
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Assembly: All Parents are welcome to attend. Approximate start times for class performances: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Foundation 1</td><td>9.10a.m.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Foundation 2</td><td>9.15am.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Year 1</td><td>9.20a.m.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Year 2</td><td>9.25a.m.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Year 3</td><td>9.30a.m.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Year 4</td><td>9.35a.m.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Year 5</td><td>9.40a.m.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Year 6</td><td>9.45a.m.</td></tr> </table>	Foundation 1	9.10a.m.	Foundation 2	9.15am.	Year 1	9.20a.m.	Year 2	9.25a.m.	Year 3	9.30a.m.	Year 4	9.35a.m.	Year 5	9.40a.m.	Year 6	9.45a.m.
Foundation 1	9.10a.m.																
Foundation 2	9.15am.																
Year 1	9.20a.m.																
Year 2	9.25a.m.																
Year 3	9.30a.m.																
Year 4	9.35a.m.																
Year 5	9.40a.m.																
Year 6	9.45a.m.																
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.																

*Love and Learn in the footsteps of Christ*



Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	School Closed – Deanery Inset Day
23 <sup>rd</sup> October – 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Half Term Holiday – School Closed
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Start of term</b>

<b>November</b>	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	All Saints Day Mass 9.15am in Church
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m. (after assembly)
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	PFA Fireworks Night. Parent Volunteers needed to help at this great event. Gates open at 6.30p.m.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 Remembrance Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 5 parents are welcome to attend.
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 Refugee Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 4 parents are welcome to attend.
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Occasional Day – School Closed</b>
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Vaccination Session
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	St Andrew's Non Uniform day (children may wear blue, white or tartan).
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Advent Mass at 2.00p.m. Year 6 parents are welcome to attend.

<b>December</b>	<b>Advent</b>
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Foundation Stage, Key stage 1 & 2 Christmas PFA Disco Parent volunteers needed for this event to go ahead.
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play (dress rehearsal- parents and toddlers welcome). Starts at 9.30a.m
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 & Foundation Stage Play. Starts at 9.30a.m. All parents welcome to attend.
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Feast of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass in church at 9.15a.m.
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Last swimming for Year 3 and Year 4
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime Trip, Watersmeet Theatre
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day (children may wear a Christmas jumper/teeshirt).
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Advent Service. Starts at 1.30p.m. at church
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Christmas Quiz & Foundation Stage Party
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Mass in church 9.15a.m. All parents welcome to attend. <b>End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	Christmas Holiday – School Closed

<b>January 2024</b>	
<b>Spring Term</b>	
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Start of term</b>
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Epiphany Mass in Church (No Celebration Assembly)TBC</b>

<b>February</b>	<b>Lent</b>
-----------------	-------------

*Love and Learn in the footsteps of Christ*

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Parents' Forum at 5pm
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Consultations
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Consultations
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Mass in Church at 9.15a.m.</b>
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	<b>Half Term holiday – School Closed</b>
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Start of Term</b>

<b>March</b>	<b>Lent</b>
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	St David's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green, red, white or yellow).
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day – Book Character Non Uniform day. <b>All parents are welcome to attend the World Book Day Assembly</b> This is a non-uniform day. Children may dress up as their favourite book character.
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Mother's Day Assembly starts at 9.00a.m. <b>All F1 – F2 mothers/carers welcome to attend.</b> More information to follow.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	St Patrick's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear green or white).
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	St Joseph's Day Mass – <b>9.15am in Church</b> <b>All parents welcome to attend</b>
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Week Liturgies Lenten Cake Competition (all children may enter by baking a cake). Cake sale.
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Lenten Toy Sale (please donate old toys).
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Easter Bonnet Parade (F1 – Y6 classes) (F1-Y6) <b>All parents welcome to attend the Easter Bonnet Parade.</b> Children to make the bonnets at home and bring them into school. All children may participate in this event. <b>End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.</b>

<b>April</b>	Eastertide
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Start of Term</b>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	St George's Non-Uniform Day (Children may wear red, white or blue).

<b>May</b>	Month of Mary
------------	---------------

*Love and Learn in the footsteps of Christ*



<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday. School closed.</b>
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Ascension Mass at 9.15am in church <b>All parents welcome to attend</b>
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Parents' Forum at 9.45a.m.
1 <sup>st</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> May	KS1- Year 2 Assessment
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>KS2 SATs – Year 6 Tests (free breakfast club for Year 6 pupils all week, starting at 8.00a.m.)</b>
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>KS 2 Spelling, punctuation and Grammar Paper 1 &amp; 2 tests</b>
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>KS2 Reading Test</b>
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>KS2 Maths Paper 1 &amp; 2 Test</b>
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>KS2 Maths Paper 3 Test</b>
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 Secondary School Transfer Meeting at 2.30p.m. <b>(All Year 5 parents are welcome to attend)</b>
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Walk to School Week
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	KS2 Sports Day at 9.30a.m. <b>KS2 parents may attend.</b>
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	KS1 Sports Day at 1.20p.m. <b>KS1 parents may attend.</b>
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>End of term. School closes at 3.15p.m.</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> May – 31 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>Half Term Holiday – School Closed</b>

<b>June</b>	
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	<b>Inset Day – school closed.</b>
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Start of Term</b>
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonic tests commence Year 4 Multiplication tests commence
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Class Photographs
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	KS2 Reserve Sports Day at 9.30p.m. <b>KS2 parents may attend.</b>
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	KS1 Reserve Sports Day at 1.15p.m. <b>KS1 parents may attend.</b>
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. <b>F1 &amp; F2 parents welcome to attend.</b>
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Year 6 Trip to Bournemouth</b>
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>St Peter and St Paul Mass in school TBC</b>

<b>July</b>	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	F1 new children and parents visits 1.30p.m.
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Reserve date: Foundation Stage Sports Day at 9.30a.m. <b>F1 &amp; F2 parents welcome to attend.</b>
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 2 to Year 3 Transition Meeting at 2.30p.m. <b>(All Year 2 parents are welcome to attend)</b>
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	New to Year 2 Transition Meeting at 2.30pm <b>(All Year 1 parents are welcome to attend)</b>
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	New to Year 1 Transition Meeting at 2.30pm <b>(All Foundation 2 parents are welcome to attend)</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	F1 new children and parents meeting 1.30p.m.
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition Day for all pupils Secondary School Transition day New to F2 Parents' Meeting at 9.15a.m. <b>(Current F1 parents</b>

*Love and Learn in the footsteps of Christ*

	to attend).
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass in school at 11.00a.m. Whole School Picnic starting at 12.30p.m. (weather permitting)
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 a.m. KS2 parents and toddlers are welcome to attend.
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Play at 6.00p.m. KS2 parents are welcome to attend. Year 3,4,5 and 6 pupils must be back in school at 5.40pm
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Leavers' Assembly at 9.00 a.m. (F1 – Y6) All parents are welcome to attend the Mass End of Term Year 6 lunch <b>End of term. School closes at 1.30p.m.</b>