



Mr Hall writes ...

July 2025

In the first Gospel Assembly of the academic year, way back in September 2024, we heard from Luke's Gospel how Jesus recruited His 12 disciples. In doing so He listed each of them by name. At the start of our academic year the name of each child's name was displayed on the screen as we gathered for the first time. It is part of our school mission to ensure that all members of the St Joseph's community - pupils, staff, parents, volunteers, governors are welcome and are treated as equals. It is of particular importance that all children are known and loved here at school. All the staff of St Joseph's have given their all this academic year in service of your children, and they make it their duty each day to ensure that your children are known and loved here at school. At this point in the year, I would like to thank all the staff for all that they have done over the course of the year.

I wrote recently about teachers who are leaving us at the end of this term: Mrs Gray, Mrs Kirwan, Mrs Pucek-Wellman and Mr Topson - within this newsletter you will see some lovely tributes to our departing teachers. We also say goodbye to some Learning Support Assistants: Miss Francis, Mr Innerarity, Miss O'Connor, Mrs Nica and Dr Rampeearie. These people have all impacted the lives of our children in countless ways each day. In the busyness of daily school life, it is easy to forget that we have been called to serve these children and help them grow; it truly is a great privilege. We thank them for their service.

Of course, we are also bidding farewell to our Year 6 leavers. In their Y6 production they sang a song about how proud they are of their school. I spoke to them after the performance about how, although they are leave primary school, and are moving on, St Joseph's will always be a part of the people that they become through what they have learned in their time here and all of those different social interactions. We are truly proud of our Year 6 children and all that they have achieved with us. We look forward to hearing of their successes in their next schools and beyond!

It would be impossible to summarise the highlights of an entire year here; the second half of the summer term always feels like a busy one with so many different events taking place. Thank you to the staff for organising and accompanying the children on numerous school trips to Wintershall; PGL; Tilgate Park; Chessington; Godstone Farm; Y3 local trip & science enrichment and of course the Parish Day, which was a wonderful opportunity to welcome previous staff and pupils to the school. It was a joy to see the many Year 4 children receive their First Holy Communion certificates; don't forget to tell Fr Tony when you've made your tenth Holy Communion! We also had our Sports Day which had to be adjusted because of the weather - congratulations to St Mark's House on their victory. Staying with the sporting

theme it was wonderful to hear of the success for our Athletes in District Sports the girls came third and the boys finished in first position (for the third year in a row) - a remarkable achievement.

We have also enjoyed some wonderful events organised by the St Joseph's Association (SJA) throughout the year - the big ones this term have been the School Fair and the End of Year Disco. These events not only raise important funds for the school, but they are also great fun and help build our school community. The parents who coordinate these events put in a huge amount of work to ensure that they are a success, but the group is small especially given the size of the school so please do get involved next year when the time comes. There is also a changing of the guard for our SJA volunteers - huge thanks to Mrs Nawaz (outgoing chair) and Mrs Wigginton (outgoing secretary) for all that they have done to galvanise the troops.

Looking ahead to September, please do take a look at the letter sent earlier containing information about Parent Partnership meetings changes to drop off and pick up timings and arrangements as well as the PE timetable and a note about uniform - trainers only to be worn with PE kit please.

We look forward to welcoming our new Reception children - our Early Years team have hosted stay and plays as well as a Teddy Bears' picnic for our new starters. In September we look forward to starting our own Wraparound Care; we expect there to be a smooth transition from YMCA, not least because I am happy to be able to announce that Donna and Catherine will be joining our team and leading the provision for us. I am also almost drooling at the prospect of school lunches next year as we welcome our new caterers Innovate.

This is of course the first year of St Joseph's joining the Xavier Catholic Education Trust. It has been wonderful to be part of a larger community of Catholic schools in Surrey. We have benefited from expert advice and guidance from Xavier colleagues on learning & teaching, finance, safeguarding, SEND and much more - all with the same goal in mind of striving for excellence for our children. There has also been significant investment in improvements to the fabric of our school through the Xavier conditioning allocation, some which have already taken place and others will be happening over the summer, these include: a complete refurbishment of a Y3 classroom; refurbishment of large area in the rear section of the school - new flooring and painting; drainage survey and subsequent drainage works to improve safety; rear pupils toilets complete refurbishment; front entrance indoor area refurbishment; removal of obsolete Jungle Trail. The Governors have also released funds to contribute to capital investments to improve our school environment with a new shutter for the dining hall; replacement fencing for the Forest School; a new boiler and flue works.

It wouldn't be the summer term if we didn't have to put up with a few days of blistering heat in sweltering classrooms. How typical it is that there are raindrops on the forecast for the first Saturday of the holidays! I hope that you all have a wonderful break over the summer. Please ensure that you continue to read to your children each day so that we can hit the ground running in September. Have a wonderful break and we look forward to welcoming you and your children back in the Autumn Term.



Pilgrims of Hope

This half term, we embarked on our most ambitious event of the year, our Pilgrims of Hope Day! This day saw our entire school community off of timetable and on the move, embarking on a journey around the school to find different teachers who taught us all about various Catholic Teaching Virtues.

Having over 600 children on the move was a monumental feat, thankfully our Faith Leaders were there as usual to support us on our faith journey and show us the way when we lost our way.

We were also very lucky to have our local CAFOD representative, Vivienne, join us for the day and help explain how the charity helps put the CST principals into action. For this reason, we chose to use this day to help raise money for CAFOD. After all, what use is our faith if we aren't going to live it out? With your support, our children rose to the challenge and have raised an incredible £932.13.

Thank you for all your support with this endeavour, together we know we are making a huge difference to people all over the world. If you have not been able to donate yet, please feel free to use our JustGiving page which is available for online donations.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/sicps-cafod?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Overall, we couldn't be happier with this unique day and look forward to more opportunities to bring our school community closer as a living Church.





Jubilee Pledge & Good Shepherd Mass

As part of the Year of Hope, we were invited to make a pledge, committing ourselves to bringing ourselves closer to the Kingdom of God. Of course, who better to help us to decide this than our current Year 6's who, reflecting on their time at St. Joseph's were able to reflect and leave the school better than they joined it. Their ideas were collected and presented to Mr Aldridge and Mrs Barnes, who have included them as the priority for the 2025-2026 action plans. These actions are:

- To develop a year group charity including our local care homes and foodbanks.
- To integrate fundraising into our sports day activities.
- To remove differentiation from the school (one star, two star or three star activities).
- To have a greater push on supporting mental health.

These ideas are awesome and have been accepted by school leaders, and so, our head and deputy head pupils, along with Mrs Barnes and Mrs Heaney, presented our pledge at the Good Shepherd Celebration at Arundel Cathedral.

The presentation of this was based on a Holy Door theme for the Jubilee Year as there were Holy Doors dedicated throughout the world.

Our pupils took part in the procession of School Banners at the beginning of the service and later our pupils were again part of the procession of School Pledges that were taken up to Bishop Richard and formed a beautiful display in front of the Cathedral altar.

They enjoyed a picnic lunch in the sunshine before returning to school in the afternoon. These are some of the comments they wrote at the end of the day

"Today was amazing"!

"We were representing our school at the Cathedral".

"We got to meet with a lot of other schools in our Diocese, and we met the Bishop".

"There was a beautiful rose window behind the organ".

"We carried our school banner and our pledge and got to see other school's banners and pledges".



Year 5 Cricket Match



We had the pleasure of taking 8 Year 5 students to Merstham Cricket Club to compete in a tournament against other Surrey schools. Out of 8 schools, we came 5th and the children played incredibly well, whilst also showing amazing support towards each other and the other teams. Well done!

Year 1's Fantastic Farm Adventure!

Last week, Year 1 had an unforgettable trip to Godstone Farm, where learning came to life in the most hands-on way! The children were thrilled to explore the farm and meet a wide variety of animals, from an enormous tortoise to fluffy chicks.

One of the highlights of the day was learning about the diets of different farm animals. The children loved feeding goats, alpacas, and even pigs, discovering what each animal eats and how farmers take care of them. It was a brilliant way to connect classroom learning with real-world experiences.

The excitement didn't stop there! The children had the chance to get up close and personal with some of the farm's friendliest residents. They gently stroked ponies, held a bearded dragon, and cuddled a soft, fluffy chick—an experience that sparked awe and curiosity in equal measure.

And let's not forget Miss Ali and Mr Aldridge—who turned out to be the biggest kids on the trip! They couldn't resist the giant slide and had just as much fun as the children, proving that farm adventures are for everyone.

Inspired by their visit, Year 1 returned to school full of ideas and enthusiasm. They've written persuasive letters to Mr Hall, urging him to consider adopting a school pig! Their argument? A pig could help reduce food waste and become a much-loved member of our school community. The children have promised to take excellent care of it, of course!

What a wonderful day of learning, laughter, and sun hats!  



Maths Challenge

St Joseph's sent a team of children to the Worth's school's mathematics competition in Sussex on the 17th June.



Alexander, Nathan, Anisha and Davina proudly represented our school, competing in maths competitions with 11 other schools.

The children did St Joseph's proud and had a wonderful day - a massive well done to these four mathematicians, and all parents for bringing them on the day.

Year 6 PGL

The children had a wonderful time at PGL. They really enjoyed trying out all the team building and individual activities. We are so proud of all of our Year 6 children and it was a real joy seeing them relaxing and enjoying themselves.



Year 3 Trip

This half term Year 3 went on a treasure hunt! In groups we went on a mission to find items around Redhill, finishing with some fun surprises when we found our way to the park. We used maps to find our way around the local area and took part in a range of activities including yoga and rounders. We had a great time! Thank you to the parents who supported us.



Year 6 Forest School Update

I learnt early on that the Year 6's like to dig! During Forest School sessions, there were plenty of opportunities for gardening experiences. I decided to make it work for an additional purpose and several Year 6 children put their memories into our time capsule which we then have spent quite a long time earlier today filling in. Here are some of their memories and a few pictures of some of the gardeners at work. Special shout out to Thomas who stayed out the whole time filling in that hole!



Year 6 children during Forest School sessions are offered the opportunity to take part in earning themselves the 'Junior Forester Award' by taking part and completing 6 units. Today the following children were given their certificate: Sona, Shannon, Carlos, Ali, Eady, Hollie,

Lu'Lu, Sarah, Lily, Davina, Maggie, Amelia, Harel, Katie, Eduardo, Oleia, Amber, Sean, Maya, Marian, Olivia, Jessica, Thomas, Holly, Aneta, Maggie, Elsa and Laavanya. If you go onto the Royal Forestry Society website you would be welcome to buy a little wooden badge for £2 to also remember this achievement if you wish. Well done to you all – Mrs Stockwell

Staff Farewell

Mrs Kirwan - This term, we say goodbye and good luck to an elite member of our St Joseph's family. Mrs Kirwan has been with us for many years, serving as a mentor to so many, a voice for us all, and the most incredible colleague who's become a true friend to us all.

Her wisdom, support and kindness have left a lasting mark on us all- whether it was giving up her own gym clothes for a child who slipped in the pond or supplying us with an oven so we could whip up lovely dishes with the kids.

We'll miss her more than words can say, but we know she'll be just as wonderful at her new school.

We also wish her every happiness as she begins an exciting new chapter as nanny to her first grandchild — what a lucky little one to have her love, support and care!

Thank you, Mrs Kirwan, for everything and the best of luck with your future endeavours. You will always be part of St Joseph's and we will miss you so much! – Ms. Ali

Mrs Pucek-Wellman has devoted 19 years of her teaching career to St Joseph's. In her time here she has taught hundreds of children in various classes. Her passion is for Early Years; she has welcomed so many families to our school community and ensured that they had the best start to their time at St Joseph's. She has been a great colleague and has been an inspiration to Early Career Teachers joining the school. We thank her for all that she has given to our school over so many years. We wish her every success in her new school.

Mrs Gray joined St Joseph's in 2017 as a key stage 1 teacher. She moved to Reception as Early Years lead and introduced the legacy that is the hatching of some ducklings every year! Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Gray has been a supportive and valued colleague. Her kindness, calm presence, and willingness to lend a helping hand have made her a valued part of our school community. Whether mentoring new staff or offering a listening ear, she has always gone above and beyond. We thank Mrs Gray for her years of service, her compassion, and her unwavering commitment to our children. We wish her all the very best in this next chapter.

Mr Topson joined St Joseph's as a teaching assistant and made the decision to train to be a teacher here shortly after. He has taught in Years 5 and 6, finishing his time at St Joseph's teaching 6T. Well-loved by his class, Mr Topson is known by his pupils for being a fair and kind decision-maker, an entertaining and passionate educator, and most of all a teacher who really cares for the children in his class and wants the best for them. As a colleague, he has been an incredibly positive team-member, quick with a joke, but also ready with wise advice and support when needed. We will certainly miss him, both staff and children, but we wish him all the best at his new school in Coulsdon where he will be teaching Y5 and leading the subject of PE.

Mrs Shrestha - We say farewell to Mrs Shrestha who has been teaching 3BD this year. It has been great having her as part of the team and the children have enjoyed her creativity and fun learning in Art and DT.

We wish her the best of luck as she goes on her next adventure – Mrs Brown

Mrs McDonald - Thank you for all your hard work over the last few terms. 4MP will miss you. We wish you the best of luck on your new adventure! – Mrs Pashley

To the parents/guardians and children of St Joseph's – I just wanted to say a big thank you to all of you. It's been such a pleasure being part of this school and getting to know so many of you.

To the parents – thank you for your support, kind words and taking the children back at 3:15! And to the children—you've made me smile every single day. Your energy, creativity, and curiosity have made teaching such a joy. I've learned just as much from you, as you have from me! I'll always look back on my time here with happy memories. I'll never forget the special moments we've shared.

Thank you again for all your kindness and support. All the best for the future – Mr Topson

SJA
Update



BIG THANK YOU

Firstly, what a great year we've had. We have ran some amazing events and raised a great amount for our school. This wouldnt be possible without our amazing SJA team, parents & carers. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication towards the SJA.

Money raised

Jumper sales & costume rental £98
Film night £228
Pizza night £114
Xmas jumper sales £22
Quiz night £ £386.45
Clothes recycling £60
Xmas cards £118
Xmas gift shop £883
Xmas fayre £1788
Xmas tress £192.50
Cake sales from term 1 £402

These are our results of what we have raised for the current year ★★★

FUNDS SPENT

Reading books £2688
Xmas tree £39.50
SJA Xmas books for every child £1470
Xmas Pantomime £1999

WHATS NEXT

THE SJA TEAM & TRUSTEES ARE CURRENTLY DECIDING WITH OUR SCHOOL, WHERE WE WILL BE USING SOME MORE SJA FUNDS TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL.

Contact Us

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