

Mr. Hall writes ...

October 2024

Dear Parents and carers,

What a busy and thriving school St Joseph's is; this first half of term has certainly not lacked for distractions for me as I get to know the place! If I had to pick out a highlight from my first eight weeks at St Joseph's I think I'd have to say it was the Year 6 interviews that took place for leadership positions. I was inundated with 41 applications for would be Head and Deputy Head Girls and Boys – how to choose? I couldn't bear to shortlist, so ended up conducting five group interviews for all the applicants. I was bowled over by the passion and enthusiasm that they have for their school – for the new boy, it was so encouraging to hear how much they have enjoyed their time so far at St Joseph's and the ideas that they have for our school.

### **Head Boy, Head Girl and House Captains**



Thomas P & Lily N  
Head Boy & Head Girl



Oleia M & Sean P.K  
Deputy Head Boy & Deputy Head Girl



House Captains for St. John (Green)  
Leonie W and Eduardo A. G



House Captains for St. Luke (Red)  
Maggie S and Theodore D. I



House Captains for St. Matthews (Yellow)  
Jessica J and Fionnbar G



House Captains for St. Mark (Blue)  
Isabella E and Sebastian L.G

The interviewees received a letter which contained some top tips for interviews, one of which concerned appearance. Whenever we go for an interview, we want to look our best in the hope that our prospective employer sees this as an indication of our general high standards in all that we do. Moreover, taking pride in our appearance shows that we think what we are about to do is of great importance. What we send our children to school for everyday is very important; we want them to develop a love of learning and grow their gifts and talents in the light of God's love. With this in mind we would like there to be a real drive on appearance and correct school uniform after half term. Parents – we need your help with this. I am all too familiar with the battle of getting small children out of the house each morning, but as they approach the school gates, please do encourage them to tuck their shirts in! For clarification of our school uniform, please visit our [uniform page](#) on the website.

To be able to make the best possible progress in school, all children need to feel that they are welcome; that they belong here and that they feel safe. As a school we are in the process of reviewing our Behaviour Policy, and as part of this we have chosen to introduce three fundamental school rules that will help us to frame all of our conversations with children around our expectations.

**Ready:**

- Having all the equipment and books needed for the day.
- Having homework or reading completed prior to the lesson.
- Wearing the correct uniform, in the correct way.
- Being calm and able to enter the classroom and settle to learn.

**Respectful:**

- Speaking politely and appropriately to teachers and adults in the school.
- Speaking politely to peers as well as adults.
- Using kind respectful language.
- Understanding that we use different language in different situations.
- Respectful of the learning space, looking after school property, buildings, walls or floors.
- Respectful of the learning equipment, looking after books, devices or school equipment.
- Respecting each other's differences.

**Safe:**

- Enable others to feel loved and safe as part of the school community.
- Use kind gestures, words and actions to others.
- Use equipment and furniture appropriately and safely, presenting no risk to others.
- Ensure actions and words keep others safe both physically and emotionally.
- Do not use verbal or physical aggression towards others.

Parents' involvement is crucial in reinforcing these values and expectations. By working together, we can ensure a consistent approach to behaviour both at home and in school, fostering a positive and supportive environment for our children where respect, readiness, and safety are paramount.

We are firmly of the opinion that it is through working together with parents that we get the best for your children. At the start of term, we held Parent Partnership evenings for each year group. Please complete this [short feedback form](#) to help with our planning for the next academic year and enable more parents to attend. The week commencing 11 November is an opportunity for parents to attend a face-to-face meeting with your child's class teacher and hear about your child's progress and how you can support them. Please ensure that you have booked an appointment with your child's teacher.

This Saturday the clocks go backward we all gain an extra precious hour's rest (provided your children allow it). Rest is so key at this stage of the academic year – this is the longest of the three terms, but also a time when we can get so much done. I hope you and your children are able to find time to draw breath this half term so that we all have the necessary reserves of energy in the build up to Christmas.

## Great Athlete Event



On Tuesday 8th, Courtney Orange visited our school and it was a privilege to have him as he was a good inspiration to us. He was a former gymnast and dancer too. We had lots of fun and a great time with him doing exercises as a group.

“Firstly, we participated in some sporty exercises such as Spotty Dogs, Squat Jumps, Shoulder touches and Star jumps.

This is how each one is done:

Spotty dogs; You jog on the spot but keeping your arms and legs straight. Your legs can't be in line with the same side arm. This makes exercising so much fun and is not too difficult.

Squat Jumps; You go down in a squat position and jump back up. You do this continuously. Although this is a bit tricky, it's still great fun and you can still have great fun!

Shoulder taps; You go in a front support position and tap your shoulder. This is quite simple but you can get tired towards the end. It is still a great source of exercising.

Star jumps; You get into a star position and then jump with your legs together. This is a entertaining way to exercise. This was a really fun way of entertaining ourselves and exercising. It was a fun activity to start of the day!”

“Secondly, we had an assembly about Courtney Orange, his early life, his adulthood and his several gymnastics competitions. He showed us some cartwheels and some dancing moves that he learnt when he was a child. When he was younger his teacher Mrs. Smith told him he would be a very good gymnast. He wasn't so sure but she told him YOU CAN DO IT! After that whenever he was faced with trouble, he told himself I CAN DO IT!

He showed us a video about him falling off the bar and told himself I CAN DO IT!!

It was an inspiring and fun assembly that we will remember for a long time.”

By Lily, Beatrice and Lu'Lu in 6S

### Year 3 Stone Age Day

On Stone Age Day we took part in a variety of activities to further explore the lives of people who lived during the Stone Age. We wrote a set of instructions using our knowledge of the Stone Age to inform someone how to survive and we made our own 'cave paintings'. Then, we designed hill forts which we then created down in Forest School. We were also lucky enough to study some real Stone Age artefacts from a museum! A fantastic day enjoyed by everyone.



### Cultural Day

On Cultural Day, some children came dressed in their cultural clothes and some dressed in the colours of their special country's flag.



## Catholic Life at St Joseph's

This year, we have seen many changes at St Joseph's and our Catholic Life has been no exception.

As Mrs McGrath went on to her next adventure as head of another school, Mr Aldridge took on the role of RE lead, supported by our fantastic lay chaplain - Mrs Barnes, and new Catholic Life coordinator, Mrs Tackie. We're also now part of the Catholic Trust, Xavier, which continues to support us in our formation and growth.

We ask for your prayers for all of those involved as we begin this next phase of our faith journey.



### **Formation.**

As the staff came together at the start of September, we reflected on the mission entrusted to us - our vocation to educate the young in the Christian faith. This led us to reflect on the wisdom of St. John Baptiste de La Salle, the patron saint of those who work in education. His words held great meaning to us and are something that we will revisit later on in the academic year.

***“Do your part to help build up the kingdom of God in the hearts of your students”***

- St John Baptiste de La Salle

## RE Curriculum

2024-2025 sees our school take another step into our new RE curriculum: 'To know you more Clearly' outlined by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, with EYSF, Years 1, 2 and 5, 6 now following the scheme. Years 3 and 4 are set to join next academic year.

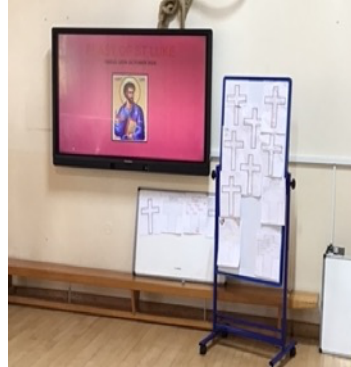
This half term, we have been studying under the branch: 'Creation and Covenant'

***“The heavens are telling the glory of God”*** - Psalm 19:1.

*Learning and laughing together in the light of God's love.*



On Tuesday 24th October we celebrated The Feast of St Luke. The House Captains and others in year 6 from St Luke's House presented the facts that they had researched about the life of St Luke. They asked each member of St Luke's House to sign a cross from their class which was then presented at the assembly. They also gave out a St Luke's Prayer card that could be shared with the other children in each of the classes



### **Faith Leaders**

This year we made the decision to move our Faith Leaders to Year 5. This big step wasn't easy, but we know that doing this means that after this year, we still have faith-filled and well formed pupils who can be called on the following year to lead our early liturgies and pass on their skills and experience to the next cohort of faith leaders next year.

This year's twelve have been decided, and will be commissioned at the start of next half term before starting their training under the wonderful guidance of Mrs Barnes.

Watch this space for further updates!

### **Sports Updates**

#### **Girls St. Joseph's Vs Sandcross Football Match**

"When we arrived at Sandcross, we all made our way to the pitch where the other girls were warming up. We did our stretches (which I led), and Mr. Kavanagh gave us an encouraging talk and a confident booster.

The striker (Katie) won rock, paper, scissors, so we could start the football match. As quick as a flash, the Sandcross girls came sprinting towards us.

Near the end of the first half, Sandcross managed to get the ball of us and they definitely made some great passes and unfortunately score.

After the first half, we made sure not all hope was lost. We made our way back onto the pitch and I had a good feeling in my heart.

We had a few seconds left, and Carla scored. We, thought she scored (it was disallowed). But then she speedily passed to me and the ball went into the back of the net. Score Drew 1-1"

Written by Oleia (6W)



### **Boys St. Joseph's Vs Sandcross Football Match**

"First Half – Our first opportunity was when Sebastian crossed the ball and Adam had a free shot on goal but he missed.

Their first opportunity was when their number 7 dribbled through Adam and Henry and he shot and Morgan saved it.

Second Half – Their first goal was when their number 7 passed it to their number 10 from kick off and he shot from the half way line and he scored.

Their second goal was from a goal kick he passed to the defender. He passed it wide to the winger and he ran with it, then shot the ball in the back of the net.

Then Sebastian and Solomon did a one two then Solomon shot outside of the box and he scored.

Then their number 14 shot from outside of the box and scored. Then their number 7 crossed it to their number 10 and he scored. Score 4 -1"

Written by Harel (6W)

### **Boys St. Joseph's Vs Meath Green Football Match**

"I think it was a good game and I think we should have won. We were the better team and we had a lot more chances than them. Lots of people had chances such as Solomon, Fionnbar and Daren. I also had a chance. The first goal they scored was a just a mistake and it shouldn't have happened.

But we played well! Score 0 – 2"

Written by Adam (6T)

### **Food Allergies**

Given that there are numerous children in our school that have special dietary requirements, it is essential that children do not share or swap any of the contents of their lunches with their friends. This is something that we communicate to children and staff monitor during lunch, but please do you remind your children that their lunch is for them only.

### **Dinner Money**

Please can we remind all parents/carers to check their child's dinner money balance on SCOPAY and settle any outstanding debts as soon as possible. May we also remind you that dinner money must be paid in advance or weekly as we cannot allow any debts to accrue. The cost of a meal is £2.80. If your child chooses to have a school dinner, please ensure their SCOPay is active.



# November

- 7** SJA Preloved Christmas clothes sale after school
- 8** Rec - Bright Clothes Bags to school collection
- 11** Year 6 Remembrance - 2pm parents welcome.
- 12** Anti Bullying - Whole school to wear odd socks
- 12 & 14** Parents Evening - Booked appointments only
- 15** SJA Christmas Quiz 7pm - All parents welcome
- 25 - 28** Book Fayre - In the library after school
- 29** SJA Christmas Tree collection + gift shop



# DECEMBER

- 2** St Francis Xavier Day School Closed
- 6** Cinderella Pantomime During the school day
- 6** SJA Christmas Fayre After school - netball court
- 9** Year 2 Nativity Lower Hall
- 10 & 11** Rec + Year 1 - Nativity Lower Hall
- 12** Christmas Jumper, Lunch & Food Bank Donations
- 17** Year 3 & 4 - Carol Service St Joseph's Church
- 19** Year 5 & 6 - Carol Service St Joseph's Church
- 20** Break up for Christmas at 13:30



## Christmas at St Joseph's

- Reception**  
09:30 - Tuesday 10th December 2024  
13:30 - Wednesday 11th December 2024  
St Joseph's School, Upper Hall
- Year 1**  
13:30 - Tuesday 10th December 2024  
09:30 - Wednesday 11th December 2024  
St Joseph's School, Upper Hall
- Year 2**  
09:30 - Monday 9th December 2024  
13:30 - Monday 9th December 2024  
St Joseph's School, Upper Hall
- Year 3+4**  
19:00 - Tuesday 17th December 2024  
St Joseph's Church, RH1 1LF
- Year 5+6**  
19:00 - Thursday 19th December 2024  
St Joseph's Church, RH1 1LF



### St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Redhill



#### Dates for the academic Year 2024/2025

Autumn Term	
INSET Training Days – School Closed	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2024
Return to School	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024
INSET Training Days – School Closed	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Break up for Half Term	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Return to School	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
St Francis Xavier Day – School Closed	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2024
Break up for end of term at 13:30	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Spring Term	
Return to School	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Break up for Half Term	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
INSET Training Days – School Closed	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Return to School	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
INSET Training Days – School Closed	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Break up for end of term at 13:30	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
Summer Term	
Return to School	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025
Bank Holiday – School Closed	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Break up for Half Term	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
INSET Training Days – School Closed	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025
Return to School	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025
Break up for end of term at 13:30	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025





## **BE-A-CHORISTER-FOR-THE-DAY**

St John's Church, Redhill RH1 6QA

**Saturday 23 November, 2pm - 5pm**

The Choir of St John's invites boys and girls (7+) to come along and join our own junior choristers to experience singing in a fantastic choir!

The choristers of St John's learn how to sing, read and understand music, and discover a rich cultural heritage, while having lots of fun!

No prior choral or musical experience is needed, nor is membership of a church or particular faith a requirement. Everyone is welcome!

*We welcome all youngsters to come along and join us for a fun afternoon of singing, including some of your favourite Christmas carols!*

**Space is limited, so early booking essential.**

Email [music@stjohnsredhill.org.uk](mailto:music@stjohnsredhill.org.uk) to book your place

St John's Redhill is committed to safeguarding, and all adults present are fully DBS-compliant.