



Mr Hall writes ...

May 2025

If you need a bit of joy in your life, then look no further than a class assembly - the children can always be relied upon to do us proud in the way that they act, read and sing with such energy and enthusiasm. I have just attended two Year 2 class assemblies about St Catherine of Sienna - she's somebody who listened to the Gospel and acted as a result. In this week's Gospel we hear of Jesus giving the disciples a new commandment: 'As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' Like Catherine of Sienna, we are called to put our faith into action by doing practical things that demonstrate our love for one another and in turn builds God's Kingdom.

This has been the shortest little burst of school that we've had this academic year - just five weeks with a couple of Bank Holidays thrown in for good measure. During that time, we have been obliged to squeeze in some statutory assessments for our Year 6 children in the form of SATs. I have been so impressed by the measured way that the children have approached the first of a few little academic hurdles that they will face over the next few years. I know that they have been well-prepared and have given their all this term in particular. I feel as though it's been a real team effort from both staff and parents to ensure that they aren't overawed by them - so well done to pupils, staff and parents.

A particular thanks must go to all those staff who accompanied the Year 4 children on their trip to the Isle of Wight. They were blessed with marvellous weather throughout and will have made some lifelong memories. Those trips are exhausting for all concerned - particular thanks to Miss Dogansoy for all that went into ensuring that the trip ran smoothly.

This morning, I find myself clambering onto a bicycle to join Year 6 for one of their Bikeability sessions. Miss Silva needs to be commended for the tremendous work she has done to promote travelling to school in a safe, healthy and environmentally friendly way - the growing number of bikes and scooters parked up outside the school each morning is testament to this.

As you can imagine, thoughts are now turning to our plans for next academic year; the next edition of this newsletter will detail any staff comings and goings. One person who we already know is heading on to new things is Mrs Eileen Sawyer who has worked in the office for almost ten years. She has been the St Joseph's Business Manager for many years, and this year has overseen the smooth running of two Xavier school offices as Operations Manager. We thank Eileen for all that she has done for the children of our school over the years, but particularly at a time when funding for schools is in short supply; Eileen has hunted down every last pound to ensure that the money our children get the very best deal.

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

We wish you all the very best in your next venture. We also say goodbye and thank you to Dr Rampeeree who leaves us as an LSA after half term to become a Teaching Assistant at the RAA.

ST JOSEPH'S - OUR VISION

As I approach the end of my first academic year at St Joseph's I would like to share with you some work that has been taking place with staff and governors in recent months. With St Joseph's having joined the Xavier CET in August of last year and with a relatively new Leadership Team at the helm it seems the right time to review our vision for the school. Ultimately all schools should be trying to achieve the best outcomes for the children in their care, but each place is different and so, of course, is each child. I'm really keen that our vision is something that can be understood by all members of our school community, including the most important ones - the children. To that end we have summarised the vision into three phrases that we hope can be both understood and remembered. For each phrase there's an awful lot more that goes into achieving these things on a daily basis for your children here at school.



WELCOMING ALL

"I can welcome others who are different, and value the unique contribution they have to make..." says Pope Francis in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. There is much written about how important it is that human beings feel a sense of belonging to a community or group in order to be successful. It's hard to focus on fronted adverbials if you're concerned about how you're different

from others. We want to be deliberate about the warm and inclusive welcome that we offer to all members of our school community; this is a responsibility that we feel is shared by pupils, staff and parents. We celebrate the broad range of faiths and backgrounds of the children and families in our school.

NURTURING BELIEF

At St Joseph's 'belief' covers various different things. Firstly, as a Catholic school it is our duty to assist the church in its mission to make Christ known to all people. We welcome families of all faiths and none and follow the principles of Catholic Social Teaching which guide us in how to build a more just and equitable society by promoting the dignity of the human person and the common good. Secondly, we have a belief in each child; that each and every one of them can achieve amazing things both inside and outside the classroom. It is that continued belief that ensures that all children are given the opportunity to succeed in all areas of school life. The staff and parents' belief in the children feeds each child's sense of self-belief, allowing them to grow in confidence as they learn.

INSPIRING FUTURES

Of course, we want to ensure that children leave our school with a vast range of choices and opportunities ahead of them - we achieve this by planning a broad and balanced curriculum in which every child sees themselves reflected. Academic rigour is prioritised with children

being taught skills of independence, resilience and problem solving to equip them for the challenges of the 21st century. Self-regulation and metacognition are taught explicitly, and children learn to be both digitally literate yet confident orators who have high aspirations for their own futures.

Catholic Life at St Joseph's

Despite being a short month, the Catholic life of the school has been as active as ever. Since returning from the Easter Holidays, we have seen the death of our dear Pope Francis, the first conclave our pupils will have ever seen, and the election of Pope Leo XIV. This has been a particularly interesting time for all of us - irrespective of faith, as people from all over the world looked to the Vatican and the future of the Church. We will have to wait and see how the Holy Spirit guides us over the coming months and years of Pope Leo's Papacy.

Faithful God,
You guide us on the path of life
and your goodness is our constant companion.

Be with our new Shepherd, Pope Leo XIV,
in his service of the Church.
Fill him with the power of your Spirit,
the peace of your presence
and the compassion of Christ.

May he walk with you,
in wisdom and humility,
and lead us, together with all God's people,
to embody your love for the world.
Amen.



In addition to following this global event, we have also been celebrating the month of May - the month of our Holy Mother Mary - and marked the occasion through our annual May Procession. In keeping with recent tradition, God blessed us with beautiful weather on the day, and we were able to bring together the entire school community in a time of joyful prayer and reflection. This was emphasised by the wonderful volunteers who lead us in a decade of the Rosary, a collection of pupils, teachers, support staff, parents and parishioners and Mr Hall, who symbolised the diverse groups of people who make our school what it is.

In this Year of Hope, we looked not just at our community but communities, both locally and globally, who we could share our joy and faith with. With this in mind, our wonderful Reception pupils brought in donations of cut flowers, which were later donated to the local care home, Wray Common, who were extremely grateful for the simple but beautiful act of kindness. For Years 1-6, pupils were invited to donate the cost of a bouquet to Mary's Meals.



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

“Congratulations to you all for raising a fantastic £1223.24! I would just like to say thank you so much to you and everyone who supported you. Because of your incredible generosity you have raised enough to feed 63 children for a full school year! Without dedicated supporters and volunteers like you, we would never be able to realise our vision; that every child receives one daily meal in

their place of education. It is because of your hard work that we now feed more than 2.6 million children every school day, across 16 countries. Thank you for walking this journey with us. I hope that even a small sense of the The RE Curriculum – ‘To the ends of the Earth’

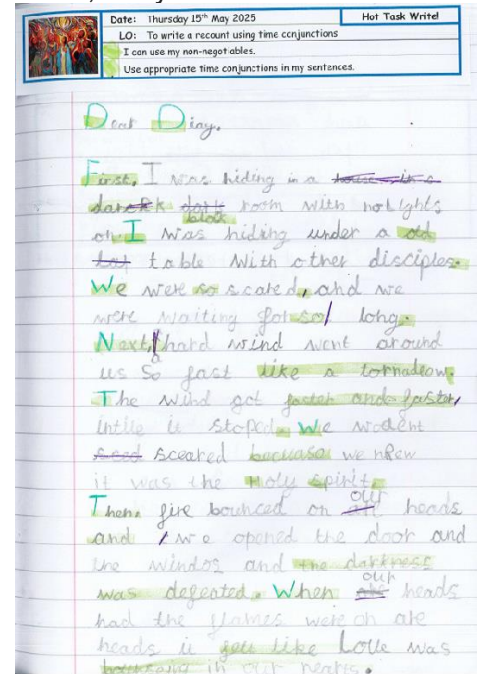
“Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19).

In this branch, pupils have been studying the events that flowed from the Resurrection and Ascension to the coming of the Holy Spirit and the work of the apostles and early Church. We’ve also learnt about the Catholic Church today as the apostolic church and how its liturgy and structures flow from the early Church. This latter area has been particularly prudent as we look to Pope Leo as the Successor of Peter.

A great example of this has come from Evie in Year 1.

difference you are making in the lives of desperately hungry children resonates deeply.”

- Marie Doyle
Executive Director, Mary’s Meals UK.



St Mark's Assembly

We celebrated the last of our House Group Assemblies at the end of April.

The House Group Captains chose 2 others from St Mark's and prepared an assembly that they presented to all the pupils in St Mark's on Friday 25th April.

They shared some interesting facts about St Mark on his Feast Day and had written their own prayer which they also shared with their fellow house group members.

Saint Mark, patron saint of Italy, prisoners and lawyers, guide us in our journeys of life as pilgrims of Hope.

Protect us and look after us. Stay in our hearts throughout our lives and intercede for us and give us strength.

By Isabella & Emilia



Netball Tournament @ Regiate Grammar School

On the 19th March, 7 children were selected to take part in the annual district netball tournament at Reigate Grammar School. We were so blessed with the weather all afternoon and the sun was shining for us! 14 schools were split into two different groups and so we had to play 6 different games. We ended up winning 3 out of the 6 games. The children played brilliantly and used everything that they had learnt, in training, on the court. They had fantastic footwork, great communication and good game awareness. We came 4th in our group, achieving 12 points. The first-place school, only got 15 points so it was very close!



We then got put into one big group and we had one final game against Wray Common. This was by far our best game yet as we won 5-1, resulting in us coming 8th out of the 14 schools. Even if we didn't come away with a medal, I am so proud of every individual child who played and it was truly an afternoon full of spectacular netball!

Netball Club

On a separate note, a massive well done to all the children who were part of Netball Club this season. Their skills have improved greatly and they were a delight to teach/coach. Trials for the next academic year will be held in September so any aspiring netball players, get practising!

Cricket tournament at MCC



We took 8 Year 5 girls to a cricket tournament at Merstham Cricket Club where they competed against 5 different schools. Considering they had only an hour of practise, they played so well and we were very proud of them!

Football Camp

The BW Football Academy will be running a camp once again in the summer holidays. The camp is run by Mr Willicombe (Year 3) and Mr Topson (Year 6) and is for children in years 2-6. If you are interested in signing up for the football camp, then please click the link below or email benwfootballacademy@gmail.com

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1JIFEBU8yPBTaf3kQiaWxNQqIYN6XtlvV4pAqT-IR-iE/edit#response=ACYDBNjyrQ_NiYeui-iO2IJ9wFITSUCyZQ4nfoQk1wnMAqRDAIK4QytfnX4tmOzSCuYWHA

Year 3 Art



This half term, year 3 have been studying the human form by sketching, sculpting and studying the work of L.S. Lowry. We have been learning how to create different tones using different types of pencils as well as using techniques such as cross-hatching and stippling. To end the topic, we have created our own artwork focused on the human form, inspired by Lowry. We are very impressed by them!



Xavier Musician of the Year



Last night, Thursday 22nd May, two talented children from St Joseph's had the exciting opportunity of representing our school in a musical competition for the very first time. Raphael and Carla took part in the Xavier Musician of the Year competition, which was held in Cardinal Newman Primary School.

Raphael Aubert, who played the trumpet, gave a lively performance of "Rondino" by Philip Sparke and Carla captivated the audience, with her beautiful voice while singing "Almost Nearly Perfect" from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

It was a proud moment for both of them and to see them showcase their musical talents in front of the audience was inspiring.

Well done Raphael and Carla!

Year 6 SATs Breakfast



Year 6 Fun Day



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 currently £2.80.

Athletix Kidz Sports Day – Flyer attached.

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

June

2
INSET
School
Closed

19
Pilgrims of
Hope Day +
Fun Run

20
Year 6
Wintershall

20-23
Year 6
PGL

24
Year 2
Tilgate Park

25
KS2 District
Sports

25
Year 6 Good
Shepherd
Celebration

27
Year 5
Chessington

28
Summer Fair
12-3

30
Whole
School
Sports Day