

Mrs Lawlor writes ...

December 2022

This Advent we have been embracing the Pope's message of 'Hope and Joy'. The children have been fulfilling the messages of Advent and actively lived out through the many activities that have taken place over this period. It has been joyous to welcome parents to the school for the respective Nativity plays. The children have sung their hearts out and looked wonderful in a great array of costumes. Our KS2 children sung phenomenally well at St Joseph's church on Tuesday and Thursday evening. I would like to thank Mrs Tackie for her musical direction of the singing. It was wonderful to be back in church celebrating our Advent service once again. Thank you once again to the families for making it a special occasion.

We have seen as always great amounts of generosity from our school community supporting the food banks and donating gifts and items for our own school fair. We appreciate there is a lot of pressure on families particularly this time of year and we are always overwhelmed with the generosity we see.

"... a thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices". We await the birth of our Lord, who brings the light of hope and salvation into the World.

Lord of light,

We rejoice and celebrate Your birth, a most humble birth in a stable. Help us to become beacons of light, of compassion. Help us to think of those less fortunate than ourselves this Christmas, to be filled with Your faith, Your love and Your humanity.

Amen



Congratulations to Mrs Millican and Mrs Pashley who will be expecting babies in the New Year. We are delighted for them both and wish them healthy pregnancies. Mrs Millican will be first to go on leave from February 2023. We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Cook who will be talking over from Mrs Millican 3ML. Mrs Pashley will be going on maternity leave in April, details of her cover will be confirmed and communicated nearer the time.

Mrs Maloney will be leaving us at the end of term after 6 years at school. Mrs Maloney enjoyed the Isle of Wight so much last year she went with both Year 4 and Year 5, thank you for your service to St Joseph's and may we wish you all the best in your next venture.

Thank you to Mr Wright for keeping us all safe in these icy conditions by clearing the paths for us all.

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



The SJA Christmas Fair was a great success and I wish to thank all involved for making it such a good community occasion. Thank you again for the donations we received; the tombolas were very well stocked with some great gifts and prizes.

Thank you to the SJA for gifting every child at school a Christmas present on Wednesday. The children all enjoyed receiving a lovely festive book.

We had a lovely Christmas dinner day celebration with each year group enjoying their Christmas dinner in the hall. We would like to thank the hard-working kitchen staff team and our midday supervisors – Mecca and Jan for once again rising to the occasion and providing us with a delicious Christmas meal.

Religious Education at St Joseph's

We have had a very busy and enjoyable few months, our faith leaders are growing in confidence and doing a great job supporting the Monday Gospel assemblies.

Year 6 led the entire school in a liturgy to mark Remembrance Day and the faith leaders led KS2 in the two minutes silence which ended with us praying together as a school community. The liturgy remembered family members who had served in the armed forces and made us thankful for their love and devotion.



Father Tony came to school on Tuesday 1st November and celebrated the feast of All Saints with the entire school community. Our faith leaders led us in a liturgy and each class then went back to reflect and celebrated their Year group Saint.

It has been fantastic to see so many of you attending your child's class assemblies and the children sharing what they have been learning about in RE and Bible readings. Each year the group has shared this with their buddy class who also attended. 5S celebrated the life of St Andrew in their class assembly and the whole school were able to attend to learn about one of the patron saints of the United Kingdom.

Our Nativities across the school were a joy to behold, the children and staff worked incredibly hard. Mrs Tackie did an amazing job leading the two KS2 productions and it was wonderful to be back in the church with you all on the two evenings, whilst celebrating the Christmas story and reminding ourselves of the true message of Christmas. A huge Thank you to you all for your immense generosity we raised a staggering £600.12 which will be split and sent to our two chosen charities- The children's trust, Tadworth and St Catherine's Hospice.



Our thanks must be offered to Fr Tony and Fr Binoy who came into school and were able to offer the children in Years 5 and 6 and staff the opportunity to attend Reconciliation.

We wish to extend our warmest wishes and congratulations to the children in Year 4 who will be making their First Reconciliation this weekend.

Years 4-6 weather permitting will be attending 10am Mass for the feast of the Epiphany, Friday 06.01.23 at St Joseph's, Redhill. Again, to support us with this please could you let your child's class teacher know if you are able to walk to Mass with us on that date. A separate liturgy will take place in school for Reception to Year 3.

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

I will be sending details out early next term of all celebrations and liturgies over the Spring term and class teachers will notify you of the dates of class assemblies. As always please do feel free to speak to me on the gate or send a message in with any suggestions or queries you may have with regard to RE. With my very best wishes over the Christmas period, Mrs Fiona McGrath

Year 6 collaborative art project for PSHE week

'Butterflies represent change and a transition, which we will be going through as we prepare to move on to secondary school at the end of the academic year.'



Books, Books, Books.....

Mr Aldridge entered a competition on behalf of the school and won a variety of books with a focus on diversity for each year group.

We continue as a school to have a drive on children having a love of reading alongside the life skill that it is. The books certainly generated much excitement and have been hugely popular. Well done Mr Aldridge!



Noah Brooks and his Dad, Mrs Keohane and Leila also have very kindly donated some books to the school- these were shared in assembly and I have had a very long queue of children wanting to borrow them!

If you are having a clear out of books over Christmas or at any point, we would welcome these to enhance our class libraries they can be dropped into the office for the attention of Mrs Millican or Mrs McGrath.

Victorian Day – Year 6

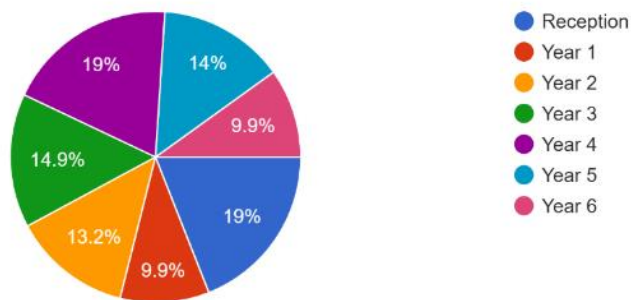
On Tuesday 13th December, Year 6 took a trip into the Victorian Era! They enjoyed a taste of Victorian Wassail punch, watched Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' and made Victorian Christmas tree decorations, as well as enjoying some traditional Victorian Christmas party games. The children all looked fantastic and we all thoroughly enjoyed our day!



I would like to record my thanks to the staff, senior leadership team and governing body of St Joseph's. The term is always punctuated with challenges and we are grateful to them all for their professionalism and dedication in putting the families of St Joseph's first. This time last year we were expecting OFSTED in the spring term. This spring we will be having a focus visit from the Diocese in preparation for our full Catholic School Inspection (CSI) in 2023/24. We shall report back on the findings once the visit has been completed. More recently we have a short review conducted by Surrey Alliance for Excellent on behalf of Surrey CC. This is something that all schools received as part of Surrey's quality assurance programme. The visit was extremely positive and we were commended for being a 'strong school'

Thank you to all who participated in our most recent parental survey. We had 121 responses in total. It is all important to us that our children are happy and safe in school – 71% strongly agreed and 27% agreed. We did have 8% of families who feel their child is not offered a health lunch. This is something that we are working on with Twelve15 and have revisited a few times this term. We aim to ensure a varied menu of food throughout the year. We had a range of comments many of which were positive with regard to the happy and friendly community that exists at St Joseph's. This is always good to hear. We naturally reflect on the less positive comments and aim to enhance some of the areas that were identified.

Please enter the Year Group your child is currently in
121 responses



We extend to you all warm wishes for the Christmas season and hope that the New Year brings health and happiness. Merry Christmas from us all and a very Happy New Year.

Thank you for the good wishes, cards and gifts we have received it is always appreciated.

Children's Christmas Carols and Nativity

Everyone is welcome to carols and a nativity at 4pm on 29th December at Holy Family. We invite children to dress up as part of the nativity to join in our retelling of the Christmas story.

Christmas Mass Times

Sat 24th Dec 6.00pm St Joseph's (Vigil Mass)

Sat 24th Dec Midnight Holy Family (Midnight Mass)

Sun 25th Dec 9.00am St Joseph's (Dawn Mass)

Sun 25th Dec 11.00am St Teresa's (Day Mass)

