



31st March 2023

Mrs Lawlor writes

The end of the spring term is upon us and I am sure we are all ready for some brighter days! 3A put on a wonderful assembly to celebrate St Patrick's Day which was enhanced by our Irish dancers who have all made great progress since their debut performance last year.

We had a fabulous day in school on Monday 20th March celebrating St Joseph's Day. We had liturgies for KS1 and KS2 led by our amazing Faith leaders, ably assisted by Mrs Barnes. At lunch time the kitchen staff continued the celebration with biscuits baked in the shape of tools of a carpenter. For tradition, the SJA had also purchased each child an ice lolly to continue celebrating our school saint.



Thank you to the teaching staff and parents for making the recent parents' evenings productive and successful. It was lovely to see families over the two evening and I hope you found the information useful. We had 95% attendance on Tuesday and 97% on Thursday, these are good rates of attendance and again wish to thank you for your positive engagement.

I would like to extend warm congratulations to Mrs Millican on the arrival of her baby boy - Henry, both mother and baby are doing well and we are looking forward to meeting him very soon.

Thank you to the Year 4 children for leading us so reverently in the stations of the cross as we prepare in school for Holy Week and the celebration of Easter.

The SJA organised a wonderful present room for Mother's Day! There was a great response and a wonderful selection of gifts. I hope Mother's Day was enjoyed by all the families.

I am sure we will all be grateful of a bit of down time over the Easter weekend and break. I wish you and your families a happy, holy and restful Easter, rejoicing in the joy of the risen Lord. I feel we are blessed to be in our community of St Joseph's and I look forward to an enjoyable and peaceful summer term.

Book Week

Book week was a wonderful occasion and thoroughly enjoyed by all! Thank you to Mrs Kirwan for leading the activities and for the participation of all involved!



Religious Education and Catholic Life at St Joseph's

We welcomed the new calendar year with the whole school observing and celebrating the feast of the Epiphany. Years 4, 5 and 6 went to mass at St Joseph's church, whilst Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3 had a liturgy led in school by our Faith leaders with Father Tony.

We had our school interim focus visit from the Diocese led by Anna Flood, the Primary schools advisor who came in and observed a wonderful collective worship session led by our Faith leaders and a variety of lessons. We were incredibly pleased with the outcomes of the day.

Mrs Osman has been working alongside Jan from CAFOD to present workshops to Years 3 and 4 on Catholic social teaching. Catholic social teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. It is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world. These workshops will continue next term for all other year groups. The children thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and learnt about how to care for others, especially those in need. To care for our world. Ali in Year 4 shared with me that, 'That no matter what your religion, skin colour, race or gender you should always be included.' Following the completion of the workshops the entire school will be celebrating Catholic social teaching day led by Mrs Osman on Tuesday 4th July 2023.

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

Year 1 celebrated St David's day, their year group saint, by leading an assembly to share with us and their families' facts about him and what makes him special as a saint.

Mrs Barnes and the Faith leaders led an assembly to the rest of the school where they gifted each class a vase of daffodils to celebrate and honour St David.



Year 3 led us in celebration for St Patrick's day, with Irish dancers helping to share and celebrate Irish culture.

The season of Lent began with Year 4, 5 and 6 attending mass and receiving ashes. Then at school a liturgy was held and the dispersal of ashes for Reception to Year 3.

Over the course of Lent Mrs Osman has asked the children to challenge themselves and each other to take on the Big Lent Walk for CAFOD. The challenge was to walk when and where they choose over the 40 days, alone or with friends and think about how we can fight global poverty. Mrs Osman would like to thank you all for your encouragement and support. Please can all sponsor forms and any money raised be brought into school on Tuesday 18th April 2023.

Year 4 led stations of the cross for the entire school on Wednesday, a great opportunity for the Easter story to be brought alive for the entire school community. As classes, the children then had a further opportunity to visit and discuss the stations that were set up around the school site for further prayer and reflection time. Luke from Year 4 said that, 'Just like Simon we should care for everyone' and 'In the toughest of times always believe that God is with you.' They have taken much of what they learnt from Catholic social teaching and applied it to how Jesus and his friends cared for us.



Mrs Barnes and Mrs Ogilvie have done an amazing job again coordinating reconciliation for Years 4, 5 and 6 on Monday and Tuesday to help children reflect and prepare for Easter. Our thanks to Fr Tony and Fr Binoy for coming into the school to offer this sacrament to our children.

A big thank you to 5E for their assembly on Lent - which helped us to reflect and think of how we are preparing for Easter.



This year's Reception classes have been following the new RE curriculum. Lots of our learning is through story books and thanks to the Book Fair, we were able to purchase these new books for our summer topic called 'Dialogue and Encounter.' It has been lovely to have been able to go into the classes and listen to and chat to them about their learning. When looking at a picture of people gathered to listen to Jesus, a child shared that 'It was like when Jesus was born everyone wanted to come and see him.' Amazing to see them making the links between different stages in Jesus' life.

Coming up next term

- On the 24th April we will be celebrating the feast of St George.
- Keep an eye on Google classroom for your child's assembly, we have a number of them in the summer term.
- There will be a whole school May procession to honour our Lady on 25th May 2023. All are welcome to attend, more information to follow. The Month of May is dedicated to Our Lady and the children will be looking at the rosary and the mysteries of the rosary and praying to celebrate Mary, Mother of Our Lord.

Mrs McGrath and the RE team

Reception

In R.E Reception were learning how Jesus wants us to care for other people. We read the story of The Big Umbrella and discussed how it doesn't matter what we look like, everyone is welcome. Just like Jesus welcomes everyone of all different shapes and sizes.



Year 1

Year 1 had an excellent day celebrating their year saint, Saint David. With ingredients kindly donated by the Co-op Merstham, each child had a turn at making and eating their own Welsh cake - they were delicious! We made Welsh dragons that could blow flames too.



We have also had a wonderful, crafty time making Easter bonnets for our parade today. We hope you like them.



Year 3

This term, Year 3 have been looking at the different dynasties across Ancient China. In English, we created persuasive leaflets inviting people around the world to visit Ancient China. We also had a closer look at the timelines from this period, life during the Shang Dynasty and the social hierarchy that people lived by. Year 3 had an absolutely awesome 'Dynamic Dynasties' day where they created Chinese dragons, lanterns and fans. We also did some food tasting in the afternoon and really enjoyed the vegetable and sweet chilli noodles.



Year 5

As part of our Year 5 topic 'Allotments' the children spent time looking at the fruits and vegetables that people often grow. Each child had the chance to make a salad with fresh ingredients, we peeled and chopped and produced some tasty dishes! We then started a project to make a 3D model of an allotment and it was a great success, take a look for yourself....



Year 6

Saint Oscar Romero is the Saint chosen by our Year 6 cohort. To help represent him they have created their own Salvadorian Crosses - Crosses of Hope - which symbolise the hope for a better life, a better future and a better world for all. Their crosses have been amalgamated to form one large Salvadorian Cross.



Staffing Updates

Mrs K Lear will be leaving the school on 31st March 2023. I would like to thank her for her service to St Joseph's and wish her all the very best for the future. I am sure the children in her class will miss her. We are delighted to welcome Miss E Sherwin to the teaching staff. Miss Sherwin will be the class teacher for 3LM, full time from after the Easter break.

Mrs Pashley will be taking her maternity leave from 25th April 2023. Mr Topson and Mrs Cook will be taking on the responsibility of 4P from after Easter. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Pashley all the very best in the final weeks of her pregnancy and look forward to being able to share her good news soon.

SJA Events

Thank you to the SJA for the events that have taken place this term. We had a great response to the smartie tubes which were collected in on St Joseph's Day. The cakes sales have continued to be popular and the film event on Friday evening was again a great success.

Site Safety

Please can we remind parents that the driveway, car park and turning circle is for vehicles entering and exiting the school and to ensure their children are not running around or climbing trees in this area. It is becoming increasingly concerning at drop off and pick up times with children running across the road without looking. Children should be supervised on the path, waiting for the gates to open.

Sports at St Joseph's

St Joseph's qualified into the finals of the Sportshall athletics youth games, the first time in the school's history that this has been achieved.

The team represented the school brilliantly - their behaviour was impeccable and they all gave 100% effort. We achieved better individual results in the finals than we did in the qualifying round, the extra practice, sheer determination and confidence helped them to do their best on the day under immense pressure and hopefully they walked away very proud of themselves.

I am extremely proud of this group of children, by getting to the finals they had already achieved something that had never been done in the school's history, but more so for the effort and resilience they showed to push themselves to achieve their potential.

They were disappointed not to finish in the top 3 in the finals but it just shows how eager and determined this group of children are to do well and be the best. This is a positive attribute to have and will help them in their continued development and progression through Sport.



St Joseph's Girls v Reigate Priory - Football - Monday 20th March

St Joseph's won 2-0 Goal scorers - Rose x2

Player of the Match - Molly for her solid performance in defence not letting anyone go past her and Sofia P for her 2 assists with the goals scored.

St. Joseph's girls football team were victorious in a match against Reigate Priory who like us were unbeaten in their previous games. It was a close encounter with some very good passing on display from both teams. We had the better of the chances with Sofia hitting the crossbar and their Goalkeeper making a couple of very good stops to keep the score line at 2. I was really impressed with the defence in this game, which consisted of Lauryn, Molly, Betty, Kayla as they didn't give Reigate Priory any opportunities to have a shot on goal, which made Almu's job a little easier.

The midfield and forwards; Orlagh, Leila, Sofia, Rose, Lucy, worked tirelessly as they made it hard for the Reigate Priory defence to get the ball out of their half at times and passed the ball well to create some goal scoring opportunities.

St Joseph's Girls v Meath Green - Football - Monday 27th March

St Joseph's won 5-1 Goal scorers - Sofia P x2 & Rose H x3

The girls went into this game knowing that if they were to win, they would be crowned League Champions - with this added pressure on the match the girls started off quite nervous and weren't playing their ordinary games, this was to be expected.

After 10 minutes of the first half the team started to settle into the game and took control from then on. With Isabel's constant running and tackling, Sofia P starting to dictate the game with her passing and Rose with her speedy dribbling and pin point crossing to Leila K who just missed that powerful strike to score a goal, but was a constant danger in the opposition team penalty area.

Our defence of Molly, Lucy, Lauryn and Betty had a quieter game than previously but nevertheless had to remain focused as the girls from Meath Green never gave up and did get close on a couple of occasions in the first half.

We went into the break 2-0 up and deservedly so, I thought the girls could still improve their individual performances and really challenge themselves by stepping it up in the second half and they definitely listened as the second half the team managed to play some even better football. Orlagh and Kaylah came on to bring some much-needed energy by not giving the opposition a moment's rest with the ball. Almu came out of goal to bring a calmness with the ball to our defence and even though Meath Green did manage to score a goal, there was only one team that looked like scoring more and we did with another 3 goals in the second half.

The final whistle blew and the girls celebrated respectfully but deservedly as they have worked so hard and to win every match this year is an outstanding achievement. I am very proud of all of them.

I would also like to congratulate Sofia and Rose who went on trial at Brighton and Hove Albion F.C. Academy earlier this month for a period of time. Both of the girls have an abundance of talent and this experience will be invaluable to their development and progression, I would just like to say a massive well done to both girls.

Mr Kavanagh

Make a Difference Day

Thank you to the families, Mrs Stockwell and Miss Roy for supporting the Make a Difference Day at school. Our aim is to make a difference to the whole school; we did some work in forest school, lots on the lower playground, general rubbish collecting of the whole school and a massive amount of work on the memorial garden.





Uniform

After the Easter holidays, **all** children are expected to return to school wearing their Summer Uniform.

Reception - Year 6 Girls

Green checked dress, white socks, black school shoes and navy school logo jumper.

Reception Boys

White St Joseph's Polo shirt, grey shorts, grey socks, black school shoes and navy school logo jumper.

Year 1- Year 6 Boys

White short sleeve shirt, school tie, grey shorts, grey socks, black school shoes and navy school logo jumper.

Girl's Summer Uniform



Boy's Summer Uniform



To maintain a neat and tidy school uniform, we ask that:

- Skirts should be an appropriate length and of a style which allows girls to sit comfortably on the floor.
- Shoes should be flat, black and appropriate for school. Your child should wear shoes which he or she can manage to do up independently. Please do not send your child to school in shoes which prevent them from running in the playground.
- Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied back at all times and hair bands/clips etc must be navy, black or brown.
- Children should not wear make-up, coloured hair or nail varnish.
- Children need a change of clothes and footwear for PE (for health and hygiene reasons) and a bag in which to keep the kit at school.
- All school uniform and PE kit **MUST** be clearly named. Children can become upset as a result of lost clothing, so please help us by naming everything.
- For health and safety reasons, children are not permitted to wear earrings or any other jewellery for PE. Your child's teacher will advise you when PE lessons take place so that earrings can be removed.