



Mrs Lawlor writes

26th May 2023

Half term is here and we are fast approaching the end of this academic year. We have lots to report on and still many things to look forward to.

Once again, we have enjoyed a royal celebration with the recent Coronation of King Charles III. The kitchen did us proud with a celebratory lunch, thank you to Mr Wright and Mrs Shepherd for providing the festive decorations. We will be continuing the royal theme for the fun run which the children will take part in on Friday 26th May 2023. The money we raise will go towards supporting the school's well-being offer which includes: Forest School resources, teaching resources to support nurture as well as making a contribution to the charity that provides our therapy dog- Lottie. Thank you in advance for your support with this initiative.



May is the month of Mary and this year we have once again celebrated with the May Procession led by Mr Aldridge. The procession is to honour our Lady and remind us about the importance of praying the Rosary. This year instead of having lots of cut flowers we asked for bedding plants and seeds so that we can begin to grow a sustainability project to incorporate reducing waste, growing and nurturing plants and habitats on the school site as well as looking at scootering and cycling to school to reduce traffic around the school. Thank you to our Year 6 Faith Leaders, Mrs McGrath, Mr Aldridge, Mrs Osman and Mrs Tackie for their support in making the occasion a memorable one.



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



I am delighted to say that we were able to donate a large quantity of your cut flower donations to Wray Common Nursing Home too.

We were delighted to invite 7 of our governors to spend time in the school on Thursday 25th May. It was an opportunity for governors to experience the school working and see the children in classes and over the lunch period. Thank you to our governors who give all of their time freely. They are a real strength of our school community and support the school's ongoing strategic direction and development.

St George's Day



This year St George's Day fell on a Sunday but we didn't let that stop us celebrating the patron saint of England.

Jacob J, Luisa, Kevin, Melissa, Leila K, Freddie, Jake, Serephina and Gabe, all from Year 6, volunteered to present an assembly to mark the Feast of St George on Monday 24th April. They came together to present the assembly twice to different year groups in the school. They shared some interesting and fun facts about this courageous saint who became a martyr. The children in

Year 2 coloured some roses for the occasion and some of the Year 6 children made red paper roses to decorate the hall. These were then saved to decorate around the statue of Mary for the month of May.

Isle of Wight trip 2023

We were delighted to have seen 78 children go off and come back safely from the Isle of Wight for our annual residential trip. The children were a huge credit to St Joseph's and clearly had a wonderful time. Thank you to the staff team led by Mrs Brown for their hard work in the lead up to the trip and for the energy they put in while away to ensure the children had a wonderful time. It was an excellent team and I am very grateful to them.



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



Dorking Halls

We enjoyed a joyful evening at Dorking Halls with the Year 3 children on Thursday 11th May 2023. The children took part in the Surrey Arts annual festival of singing and, in my opinion, were by far the most animated group there! The children were great ambassadors for our school and thoroughly enjoyed the singing and performing. Thank you to the parents, grandparents and friends who came out in the evening to support the children. Thank you to Mrs Tackie for her preparation of the children and to the Year 3 team for their organisation of the event.

Year 6 SATs

Year 6 SATs week in May was a busy week for our Year 6 children. We were very proud of how our children approached the tests with great resilience and perseverance. The children remained calm and were confident in knowing that they were doing their very best, which was all that was being asked of them. There was a lot in the national press about the difficulty of the tests and the pressure it was placing on Year 6 children. There is a lot to be said about testing and the equity of the tests however our children generally coped well. Thank you to Miss Friend, Miss Powell, Mrs Wigley and the rest of the Year 6 team for the management of the week.

Congratulations to all of Year 6 for coping so well during our SATs week. You rose to the challenge and everyone is very proud of how hard you worked during the tests and in the lead up to it. It was lovely to be able to celebrate your achievements further with our Year 6 Fun Day, jumping on inflatables, competing in a quiz and playing rounders! We should receive the results on Tuesday 11th July – this is later than in previous years which will delay the end of year reports slightly.



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



International Week

The children all enjoyed learning about different countries throughout the week and had a great day dressing up for French day and trying some French cuisine too. Year 6 focused on the country of Spain for our International Week celebrations. We learnt Spanish greetings and identified other Spanish speaking countries in the world. Inspired by the work of Pablo Picasso, we created our own work in his style of cubism.



Rotary Donation

This half term we were visited by members of the Rotary Society who very kindly donate dictionaries to our Year 6 pupils each year. This year, to celebrate the platinum jubilee, they also very kindly provided us with a cherry tree which was planted by our Year 2 pupils. Can you spot the beautiful new plaque in place as you enter the school grounds?



Priory Farm – Thank you



This half term, Reception have been learning about plants and where fruits and vegetables come from. Priory Farm Estates kindly donated 3 portable green houses along with strawberry plants, salad leaves and pumpkin plants. Every day, the children have been watering the plants and checking on their progress! We also launched our sunflower competition to see which family can grow the tallest sunflower... watch this space!

Staffing Updates

Congratulations to Mrs Pashley on the safe arrival of her baby girl on Monday 15th May 2023, mother and baby are doing well and we look forward to meeting the baby soon!

At the end of the academic year, we will be saying goodbye to Miss Powell, Miss Powell is swapping the classroom for a rucksack and will be taking some time to travel. I am hoping she will make her way back to St Joseph's eventually but in the meantime would like to thank her for the wonderful job that she has done and wish her well on her travels. We shall miss you, Miss Powell!

At the end of the academic year, we will sadly be saying goodbye to Mr Edwards, Mr Edwards has been with us for the past two years in Y5. He has enjoyed his time at the school and I wish to thank him for his contributions particularly his participation on residential trips and helping out with after school clubs. Mr Edwards is leaving teaching to pursue a career with the metropolitan police. I would like to wish him all the very best with his future career! I am sure he won't be a stranger to the school and look forward to hearing from him.

Mrs Miller will also be leaving us at the end of the summer term. I would like to thank her for the time she has given to St Joseph's and wish her well for the future.

Mrs Cove will also be leaving the St Joseph's team after 8 years in Reception. Mrs Cove has had a long association with the school as her mother was a former headteacher. Mrs Cove is looking forward to re-starting her gardening career and we wish her all the very best for the future. Thank you, Mrs Cove, for your commitment to the children and families of St Joseph's over the years.

After half term on Friday 9th June, we will be saying farewell to Mrs Keohane, Mrs Keohane has been a member of the support staff since September 2017 and is now moving on to take on a librarian role at a local secondary school. I would like to take the opportunity to wish her all the very best for the future and to thank her for her commitment to the children and families of St Joseph's.

I would like to welcome officially Miss Blewitt to the teaching staff. Miss Blewitt joined us after Easter to take on some of the class responsibilities in RPM. We are delighted that she will be joining the team as a full-time member of staff from September 2023.

We are delighted to have appointed and shall be welcoming to the teaching team Mr Luke Simons and Miss Mollie Penfold.

We will aim to provide a list of class allocations and staff after the half term break.

I hope you enjoy the end of term round up of events and I wish you all a sunny and restful Bank holiday and half term. We will resume the summer term on Monday 5th June.

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.

When collecting KS2 children, please do not allow younger siblings to use the gym equipment and also climb and swing on the football goals.

We are concerned that we may be missing emails from our parents, please **only** use the following email addresses.

Main Office Address - enquiries about after school clubs, any enquires linked to school dinners, trips, messages for class teachers or for any other more general matters; office@stjosephsredhill.co.uk

Absence – To report a child’s absence. This email must only be used in to report an absence. Parents must report a child’s absence by 08:30, daily to us either by email, calling the school office or leaving a voice mail; absences@stjosephsredhill.co.uk

Admissions – Any queries relating to admissions; admissions@stjosephsredhill.co.uk



THE SJA PRESENTS

St Joseph's Summer Fayre

24th June 12-3

BE A PART OF THE FESTIVITIES! - DONATION DATES

19TH MAY - BOTTLES

26TH MAY - SWEETS IN JAR

9TH JUNE - LUXURY ITEMS

16TH JUNE - TOYS AND BOOKS

23RD JUNE - CAKES