

### **Mrs Lawlor writes**

**21<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

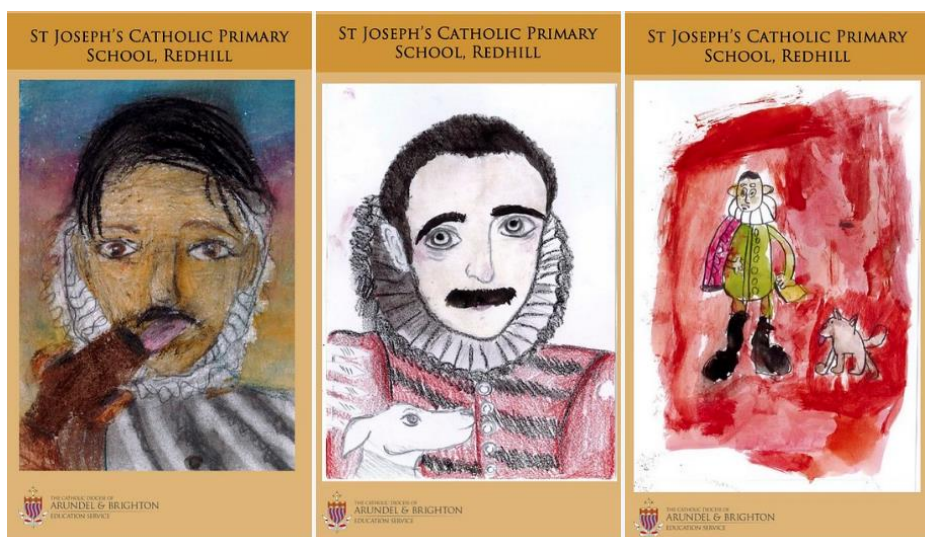
Dear Parents and Carers,

The time has come to say goodbye to another academic year. It really feels like the year has flown by, St Joseph's school is a busy place and it is useful to pause and reflect on the many events and activities; we have much to celebrate and be proud of. We have enjoyed some outstanding sporting achievements this year as well as children participating in a range of music and liturgical events. You will see in this newsletter the final events of the year which include the children attending the 150 years celebration of Arundel Cathedral, Year 6 refugee art project focussing on the theme of compassion at the Harlequin. It is wonderful to see the range of activities that children are involved in.

### **Arundel cathedral has been celebrating its 150-year anniversary this Year**

Mrs Lawlor was invited to attend the sung pontifical vespers. Our Head Boy and Head Girl along with the Deputy Head attended the Good Shepherd service where they took a sheep that the faith leaders had made with Mrs Heaney. The children named him 'James Bartholomew'; he currently resides in our reception area under the watchful gaze of St Joseph. Across the school the children learnt about St Philip Howard, we were asked to select three pieces of artwork that the children had made and send them to the Diocese. Mrs Barrett our chair of governors and Mrs Lawlor picked our entries which can be viewed on the Arundel and Brighton Diocese website <https://www.flickr.com/photos/abdiocese/albums/72177720309275464/page2>. We also had one of the entrants featured in the Ablaze magazine which is the newsletter sent to all schools across the Diocese.





The overall percentage of children achieving expected standards at the end of Reception, Phonics screening check, KS1 assessments and KS2 SATs as well as the Year 4 multiplication check are all inline and above national expectations. The children have lived-out our school values through their learning and engagement in school life and we look forward to seeing them develop their skills and talents further in the new academic year. Congratulations to all our children on their outstanding achievements.

Attainment	2021-22		2022-23	
EYFS GLD	63%		78%	
Y1 Phonics Screening	85%		92%	
KS1 Reading EXP standard/Greater Depth	54%	10%	70%	26%
KS1 Writing EXP/ standard/Greater Depth	37%	1%	63%	11%
KS1 Maths EXP/ standard/Greater Depth	65%	5%	77%	27%
KS2 Reading EXP/ standard/Greater Depth	84%	36%	80%	48%
KS2 Writing EXP/ standard/Greater Depth	68%	12%	71%	17%
KS2 Maths EXP/ standard/Greater Depth	92%	41%	83%	39%

I would like to say goodbye and thank you to our staff members who will be leaving. I would like to wish Miss Powel, Mr Edwards, Mrs Miller, Mrs Cove, Mr Robinson and Miss Anderson all the very best for the future as they move to new jobs and opportunities. I would also like to record my thanks and farewell to some of our agency support staff who will be moving across to teacher training and thankfully staying with us as trainees – Miss Streeter and Miss Moore! I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of all of us to thank the St Joseph's staff team for their dedicated commitment to the children and families of St Joseph's. I very much hope they take the rest that they deserve and I look forward to welcoming them and our new staff members back in September. We were pleased to welcome our new teachers on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July for transition day, a warm welcome to: Mr L Simons, Miss M Penfold and Mr B Willicombe.

We have made some internal appointments to support the leadership structure which will take effect from September 2023. The structure is there to support communication and consistency of standards. I would like to congratulate Mrs McGrath on her recent accreditation as a Catholic School's Inspector.

This was a lot of work and will undoubtedly benefit the school as we prepare for inspection in the new academic year. Please note the following:

Early Years - Reception	Mrs J Gray
Year 1	Mrs L Kirwan
Year 2	Miss A Watson
Year 3	Miss R Ali
Year 4	Mrs C Brown
Year 5	Miss A O'Flaherty
Year 6	Miss K Friend
Assistant Headteacher – Curriculum	Mrs C Brown
Assistant Headteacher (maternity leave)	Mrs E Milican
Maths Lead	Miss R Ali
English Lead	Mrs L Kirwan
RE Lead	Mrs F McGrath

I would also take this opportunity to thank the governors of St Joseph's for the time they give to the school. Their strategic direction and overview of the school is hugely beneficial and we are grateful for the professionalism they provide to all aspects of school improvement. I would also like to record by heartfelt thanks to Mrs B Barrett who has served as Chair of Governors for the past 4 years. She has taken the decision to stand down as Chair but will be retained on the board to provide the school with some continuity.

Thank you to Fr Tony for his leadership and support, he is a regular visitor to the school and keeps the school and parish links alive. The annual Parish Day Mass celebrated here at school on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July was a great testimony to the strong community that exists and continuing to build.

On behalf of the whole staff, we wish all our families a happy and restful summer. Thank you for the kind messages, gifts and good wishes we have received during the run up to the end of term. We are always overwhelmed by your generosity and are extremely grateful.

Please do continue to keep well and safe over the summer break and I will see you all back on the school gate on Monday 4th September 2023.

### **Religious education and Catholic life at St Joseph's**

Rain stopped us from attending Mass for the Feast of St Peter and Paul, but Father Tony and Lucy Barnes facilitated this with two liturgies for the children to celebrate the day.



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Our Year 6's attended the life of Christ at Wintershall which they all thoroughly enjoyed. It was fabulous to see the parables and Gospel readings being brought to life by the actors. Some of the children even managed to get their picture taken with the actor who portrayed Jesus.

Mrs Barnes and a fabulous group of children across the school led an assembly where they shared information about their Muslim faith. The children were very interested and respectful to learn more about the faith. In KS2 we had lots of children ask very insightful questions.

Year 6 finished their time with us here at St Joseph's with a reflective prayer service that they shared with their parents. Father Tony blessed the fish pins that each child was presented with. The whole school joined together on Friday to wish good luck to our Year 6 children and sang 'Forward in Faith' as they processed around the astroturf.

### **Year 6 moving on to Year 7**

I would like to thank the Year 6 parents for their support of the school over the years. For many it is an end of era as you will have had long associations with St Joseph's. I would like to extend a warm farewell to you all. I would like to express my thanks to the Year 6 team of teachers and teaching assistants who have supported and nurtured the children through their final year in primary school. A special mention to Mrs Heaney who always produces wonderful leavers booklets with lots of photographs and memories, I know the children enjoying having it as a souvenir. Congratulations to all our Year 6 children for the hard work they have exhibited this academic year, for the roles and responsibilities they have taken on and for reaching an important mile stone in their school careers.

Year 6 will move on to the following secondary schools including: St Bede's, Carrington School, Christ's Hospital, Merstham Park, Reigate Grammar and Reigate School. All the very best for the future!

### **Year 6 Refugee week**

Refugee Week is a world-wide arts and culture festival aimed at promoting an understanding of refugees, their plight, resilience, and contribution to society. This year's theme is compassion – and the importance of showing compassion particularly to those seeking sanctuary.

Our Year 6 cohort were all able to be involved in the above, attending sessions at the Harlequin Theatre - some making canvases depicting their understanding of compassion with the support of Art Matters artists with others attending a self-portrait workshop with the artist Monica Dyer. All children behaved impeccably and were a credit to our school.



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## Leaver's Hoodies

Last month, our Year 6 children were presented with their hoodies by Mrs Lawlor and Mrs McGrath. The children have thoroughly enjoyed wearing them this term, don't they look great?



## Year 6 PGL

The children had a wonderful time at PGL Marchants Hill, Hindhead. They really enjoyed trying out all the team building and individual activities. We are so proud of all of our Year 6 children and it was a real joy seeing them relaxing and enjoying themselves at the disco too. During our PGL visit the children attended Mass at St Anselm's. The congregation were incredibly welcoming and provided the children with juice and biscuits afterwards. We received many compliments from the parishioners about the impeccable behaviour of the children.



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### Sporting Achievements

I would just like to say a big thank you to all of the children who have been chosen to represent the school this year in any of the sporting competitions and events. This has been the most successful sporting year to date, I believe it is down to the hard work and effort the children have put in during PE, after school clubs and the extra practises we have done for the specific competitions, we have been involved in. A special mention also goes to the parents for their support and understanding with the extra practises, but more so the time they have taken out from work or other commitments to ensure their child has attended the competitions. Thank you. Please note all of St Joseph's achievements this year.....



District Sports  
Champions, Girl's  
football league winners,  
Netball league winners,  
Boy's football Team 2nd  
place finish, Qualifying  
for Sportshall Athletics  
Youth games, Highest  
overall standing for  
Cross country, Reigate  
school mixed football  
tournament winners.

Special mention to the Year 6 children who helped on Sports day, they all were brilliant and played their part in helping the day run smoothly.

### Governors Fund and School Fund

Please can you have a look at the attached letter and declaration forms regarding the school's Governor Fund and School Fund which will be introduced in September 2023. The standing order form will be sent in September.

## Forest School

24 children took part in the Junior Forester Award. They learnt about risk assessments, helped to plant trees, flowers and make bug hotels. They completed each of these tasks with enthusiasm and have a much better understating of nature and the wider world.



As part of Forest school, Reception all took turns drilling and sawing to make their own Ladybird habitat. We have positioned them at the front of the school so you can all enjoy watching the Ladybirds in their new homes.

Year 1 planted potatoes in their Forest School session, Year 6 took great care of them, dug them up and a selection of Reception children were lucky enough to enjoy the fruits of their labour at home to make chips!

## SJA Events



The SJA have enjoyed another wonderful term of fundraising events for our children including two particular highlights; the Summer Fayre raised over £6,000 and the end of year discos raised over £1,200. Thank you to everyone for your support this year. We look forward to putting on some wonderful new events for you and your children next year.

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