



Mrs Lawlor writes ...

October 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

The term has started off busy as usual and although not quite at half term it seemed sensible to get a newsletter out to try and capture some of the activity.

We had the privilege to interview 28 girls and 31 boys for the positions of Head boy, Head girl and deputies. The written letters of application were of an exceptionally high standard and it was noticeable how much the letters had improved over the last 4 years of this process. The appointed boys and girls were thoroughly deserving of their titles and worked hard to communicate effectively during the interview. I am very pleased for them and wish them all the very best in their respective roles. I am confident that they will have a positive impact on the St Joseph's community. The roles of house captains and vice captains were also awarded and again we have a good group within Year 6 to act as role models for their younger peers.

Congratulations to:



Head Girl: Lucy C  
Head Boy: Krish R  
Deputy: Ben C  
Deputy: Katie M



St Luke's: Aidan T and Nyla F



St John's: Jack L and Maisie D



St Mark's: Jack C and Gemma W



St Matthew's: Acamas V and Molly B

Unfortunately, the start of term was impacted negatively by the road traffic crash that occurred on Linkfield Lane on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Thankfully the children involved were back in school quickly and are recovering from their physical injuries. It was naturally a really challenging time for the family and they wish to express again the great feeling of support and warmth they received from everyone at St Joseph's. I know the incident left many feeling concerned for the on-going issues that we face with traffic, dangerous driving and the inattention of other road users. Illegal and dangerous parking continue, despite constant reminders, and features around the school. I have had meetings with the local cabinet councillor – Natalie Bramhall along with other officers from Surrey Police and Surrey road safety departments. There is a greater push for a crossing outside of the school as well as an extension to the Zig Zag lines, the area in front of the school where there should have no vehicle movement during drop off and pick up times. These plans will take a while to bring to fruition, however we can continue as a school community to raise awareness of road safety and support safer practices in and around the school.

On a more positive note.... On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September, the school hosted East Surrey's second "Kidical Mass" bike ride, which gave around 220 people an opportunity to cycle a four-kilometre loop around Redhill with their families and friends. A ride leader and group of marshals helped to keep everybody on the ride safe, and the local Safer Neighbourhood Team from Surrey Police sent along officers before the ride to meet the children and let them play in one of their patrol cars. A cake sale and ice-cream

van raised £110 as a “thank you” to the school to contribute towards some scooter stands for pupils. However, the real stars on the day were the children who took part in the ride, many of whom had not cycled on the road before and some of whom were as young as four. A video of the ride is on the school’s website and can be watched here.

[https://youtu.be/t\\_JDLkNdAlc](https://youtu.be/t_JDLkNdAlc)

My thanks to Rob Jeffery (parent of James Year 3 and Molly Reception) for the work that he did to coordinate the event. Rob is also a keen advocate for road safety and is keen to work with the school and the entire community to foster better attitudes to road safety.

### **ECO Week – Week beg 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Thank you, Mr Aldridge, for introducing Eco Week. This year, we are renewing our vocation as stewards of the earth! To mark this, September saw our first 'Our World Week'.

We had a wonderful time celebrating God's creation and thinking carefully about how we can play our part in protecting it - starting with our life at school. Every pupil played a part, from sowing seeds to building new area for wildlife, even creating posters to share our hard work:



However, this week was just the start, and the power to shape the future of the school lies with our pupils. For this reason, A new Stewardship Council has been formed of students from Year 3-6 (known as the Eco Warriors). These pupils will be in charge of developing the sustainability of our school, leading us in new and innovative ways to deepen our connection with nature, and reducing our carbon footprint!

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

Keep checking out our Stewardship page on the website, and look out for the Eco-Warrior's update in upcoming newsletters!



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**Rotary Gifts**



As with every year, our Year 6 children were delighted to be gifted their beautiful dictionaries from the Redhill and Reigate Rotary Club. Thank you.

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### Year 6 Faith Leaders

Along with the Head boy, Head girl and their deputies, Mrs Osman has chosen a wonderful collection of Year 6 children to be Faith Leaders for St Joseph's, this year. The children have started their role by leading assemblies to promote CAFOD's Brighter World Day on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October.



Louis 6F  
Avaanesh 6F  
Maryam 6F  
Isabel 6F

Sham 6W  
Arini 6W  
Aidan G 6W  
Caleb 6W

Lily-May 6S  
Kuzi 6S  
Raphael S 6S  
Finnan 6S

**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

**BRIGHTER  
WORLD DAY**  
THURS 19TH OCT 2023

- \*Wear your brightest clothes**
- \*Bring in a food donation for the St Matthew's Food bank**
- \*50p CAFOD Donation Via SCOPay**
- \*Cake Sale after school**

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