



November 2023

Mrs Lawlor writes ...

Dear Parents and carers,

I trust you had a good half term break and ready for the second half of the autumn term! The half term ended with our harvest celebrations that were led by our faith leaders and Fr Tony. As always, the families of St Joseph's were very generous with their giving and Mrs McGrath was able to provide the local foodbank with a variety of food items. Yesterday we celebrated the solemnity of All Saints with Fr Tony in school. Unfortunately, KS2 were unable to walk to mass because of the heavy downpours of rain. All the children took part in a liturgy which was led again by our faith leaders.

The SJA have purchased school edition Bibles for KS2. These were blessed by Fr Tony on the feast of All Saints liturgy in school. The Bibles will enhance the children's learning in their RE lessons.



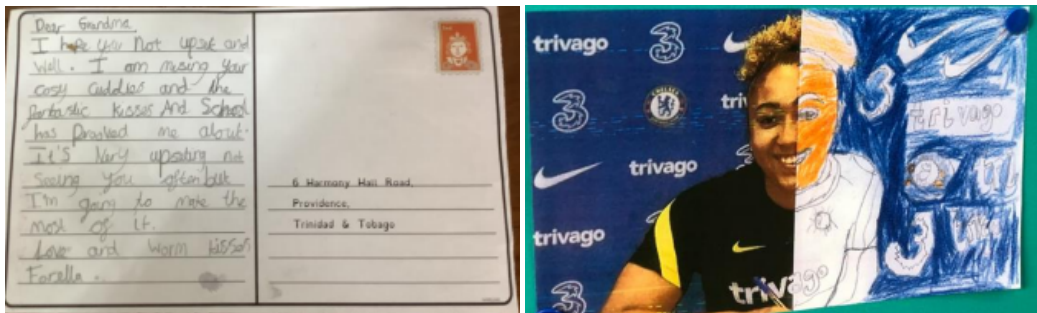
### **Black History Month**

Promoting progression for Black History Month in primary schools involves age-appropriate activities and education. At St Joseph's we do this through a diverse curriculum by integrating a range of activities focusing on different key figures in black history such as Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks. We feel that it is important that all students understand the importance of equality and diversity so during lessons we allow children a safe space to discuss their thoughts and feelings on the topics they cover in black history. We also ensure that we incorporate reading and share stories about black history. We then allow time for the students to reflect on what they have read and learnt. Art and music are another vital skill that all ages and abilities can explore to help them gain a greater

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understanding of black history particularly when celebrating different cultures. It is also important for children to understand the timeline of black history and see this throughout their history curriculum.

This year for Black History Week, we focused on black women as the theme was 'Celebrating our Sisters' each year group focused on different fields where women have been exceptionally successful. In EYFS, we looked at newsreaders like Charlene White. In KS1, they looked at super heroes such as Mary Seacole as this also linked to their current topic. Year 3 were excited to learn about famous sportswomen including Jessica Ennis-Hill, Dina Asher-Smith and Lauren James. Year 4 looked closely at musicians like Shirley Bassey. Year 5 linked their famous women to their space topic and discovered the impact on space exploration and the struggles that black women faced especially Katherine Johnson and Mae Jemison. Overall, we had a successful week and each year group have produced written reports on their key people/person and a creative art piece.



**Football at St Joseph's**

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October our Boys & Girls football teams went to Sandcross to play their first league game of the season. The children who have been chosen to represent the school football teams were successful in the try outs that happened near the start of the academic year. We had over 60 boys

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turn up for the trials which is brilliant to see, however it made my decisions very difficult as I had to limit the spaces in the team to just over 20 places. I would like to thank all the boys that showed up for the trials for their efforts and encourage them to try again next year if they are year 5 but if they are in Year 6, to sign up to the after-school football clubs.

The matches on the 18<sup>th</sup> at Sandcross were played in terrible wet conditions, but the Boys & Girls didn't allow that to get in the way of them trying their best and enjoying themselves.

#### Girls Team v Sandcross

The girls team drew 1-1 with Isabel scoring our goal. Only 4 of the team had played in the school team last year, which shows how amazing the team was for their very first match against a good Sandcross team.

#### Boys Team v Sandcross

The boys team won 3-2 in a very competitive match, goal scorers were Caleb x2 and Declan. With our team dominating the first half of the game but then Sandcross showing determination and grit in the second half to make a contest of it. Our boys matched the opposition's determination and efforts to deservedly see the game out and clinch all 3 points against a good Sandcross side.

We are very proud of several of our Year 6 children who were chosen to represent Reigate and Banstead Football at District level, following trials from over 80 children. Both the U11 boys' and girls' teams recently took part in the first round of the Southern Counties League Cup in Woking against other local districts. Aiden G represented the boy's team who had a fantastic start and narrowly missed out on a place in the final after losing on penalties to Sutton. While Isabel, representing the girl's team, saw the team through to the final, however lost to Wokingham.



Good luck to Mr Kavanagh who will be playing for Horsham Town in the first round of the FA Cup against Barnsley this weekend.

#### Year 3 Stone Age Day

On Wednesday 18th October, Year 3 had a fantastic Stone Age Day! It was an opportunity for the children to dress up and share some of the experiences of these prehistoric hunter gatherers. We began our morning as stone age hunter gathers where we built our own houses and hunted for 'food' down in the woodland walk. For the rest of the day, we completed various activities in rotation with different adults in Year 3. We loved 'flint' knapping with Mrs Sullivan and creating our own stone age tools. We made some fashionable jewellery with Mrs Evangelidou. We enjoyed our pottery making activity with Mr Willicombe. Most of all, we loved building 'biscuit-henge' with Miss Ali and eating our creations. Have a look at some of our photos from the day!



The run up to Christmas will undoubtedly be busy, just before Advent we have a visit from Wintershall – a catholic organisation that provide live theatre and experiences to portray significant stories from the Bible. Wintershall will be bringing a live nativity to St Joseph's on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, the children will be fully immersed in the nativity story as well as seeing the animals. Thank you to the SJA for generously paying for this for all the children at St Joseph's

The consultation period for the proposed academy conversion and the joining of the Xavier Catholic Education Trust will formally end on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023. On our website you will see the minutes for the staff and the parents' meetings. We have also included the slides presented by Mr James Kibble

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CEO of the trust. The information shared helps to answer some of the questions that have been sent in as part of the consultation. The governors will meet on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the process and make their decisions. Please do share any more thoughts before the 15<sup>th</sup> November.

We would like to extend a very warm welcome Mrs Charmaine Murray to the office staff team.

I hope that we all have a good half term and enjoy the run up to Christmas!



*Christmas at St Joseph's*

**Reception**  
09:30 - Tuesday 5th December 2023  
13:30 - Wednesday 6th December 2023  
St Joseph's School, Upper Hall

**Year 1**  
09:30 + 13:30 - Thursday 7th December 2023  
St Joseph's School, Upper Hall

**Year 2**  
13:30- Tuesday 5th December 2023  
09:30 - Wednesday 6th December 2023  
St Joseph's School, Upper Hall

**Year 3+4**  
19:00 - Tuesday 12th December 2023  
St Joseph's Church, RH1 1LF

**Year 5+6**  
19:00 - Thursday 14th December 2023  
St Joseph's Church, RH1 1LF