



Mrs Lawlor writes

9th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

After what felt like a long January, we have already reached the February half term point!

This half term we had a school improvement visit from Surrey Alliance for Excellence (SAfE) on Monday 29th January 2024, the half day visit was extremely positive and has been useful to help secure the work of leaders within the school to further improve provision and outcomes for our children. You will have also received notice that the school was inspected by the Catholic School Inspectorate (CSI) on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th February (2 years after the whole school OFSTED Inspection). Thank you to parents for engaging with the process and we hope to be able to share the report with you once published.

On Friday 9th February the school is closed for an INSET Day the staff will be attending face to face event. We will be listening to the inspirational speaker Chris Lubbe: <https://chrislubbe.co.uk/>. He is an inspirational speaker and has a clear message about hope and courage. He served as a body guard to Nelson Mandela and has many wonderful anecdotes to share as well as the drive to inspire positive change.

Staffing updates:

This half term we have said goodbye to Mrs Sarah Bailey who has been a member of the support staff team for the past Years. Sarah has gone on to a different role and will still be serving the local community. I would like to thank Sarah for all that she did for St Joseph's and the children she worked with. We wish her all the very best for the future.

Academy update:

There is no further news with this other than our application will be reviewed by the regional board on the 21st March 2024. It is still the school's intention to join the Xavier Catholic Education Trust by September 2024.

Epiphany Tea

In a heart-warming gesture, Miss Ali and Mr Aroca took an enthusiastic group of Year 3 children to the PNL centre where they spread Christmas joy and the festive spirit among the group of elderly people who attended. The adults were all visibly touched by their charming performance as their angelic voices brought smiles and laughter all around. Following their singing, they enjoyed an afternoon tea together whilst chatting away to everyone. The children and adults alike had such a wonderful time together.



Sportshall Athletics

Before the Christmas half term, the Year 5 & 6s had been practising in PE sportshall athletics and competing against one another to make it into the final team chosen for the sportshall athletics qualifiers. The children that were selected won the qualifying competition and made it through to the finals for the second year running, winning by a difference of over 100 points above second place.

The children performed very well on the day and we will be looking forward to the finals now and hoping to better our 5th position finish from last year's finals.

Well done to all the sportshall athletics children and parents for supporting us on the day, I hope to see you at Guildford Leisure centre on Tuesday 5th March supporting the team again.



We look forward to a busy sports calendar when we return after February Half term with lots of events/ competitions taking place such as Judo, Cross Country, Boys and Girls football matches, Tag rugby and Gymnastics too.

Pancake Race

All year groups participated in the yearly pancake race and we saw some brilliant pan designs. Thank you to the SJA for providing wonderful hampers to the winners of the best decorated pans.



Young Voices 2024

I was once again thrilled to attend the Young Voices concert on Wednesday 31st January at London's O2 Arena. It was an amazing spectacle with some excellent performances which the children were thrilled to be part of! Thank you to the children for representing St Joseph's so admirably and for their enthusiasm. Mrs Tackie has done a wonderful job once again in inspiring the Young Voice choir and for the work that she put into preparing the children, my thanks to the staff and parent volunteers for supporting the children all day. It is a long day and a late night but definitely a highlight of the year!



Harry Potter Studio Tour

On Wednesday, Year 6 had a wonderful time on our trip to Harry Potter World. We started the day with a workshop on how to pitch a movie, and had the chance to see some props for the Harry Potter film that members of the public are not allowed to see. Next, we visited the main exhibit. We watched a short introduction in a cinema from JK Rowling and the main actors in the film. Then the screen rose up and we realised we were standing in front of the gates of Hogwarts. We entered to find ourselves in the Great Hall, which was the real set that they used to film scenes in the movie (including the famous Sorting Hat scene). For the rest of the day, we had a chance to explore all the major sets for the film, to see the props and how they made the film up close, as well as try Butter Beer and sample the delights of the official Harry Potter shop. We had an awesome time, and many members of Year 6 want to read or reread the whole series, having been inspired again by this unique trip.



Children's Mental health - Workshop for Parents

On Wednesday 7th. February, we welcomed the Mindworks Mental Health Support Team into school to run a session for parents which looked at a range of topics including an exploration of what mental health is, different types of anxiety and some practical solutions for promoting good mental health in children. The session was very well attended - the team commented on how positive it was that so many parents came.

We hope to run more sessions in the future, so please keep an eye out for this.

Staff Fund Raising



We are delighted to be supporting Mr. Kieran Topson's Half Marathon challenge. Mr. Topson, a class teacher of year 5 is running the London Landmarks Half Marathon on April 7th for a charity close to his family.

It's the JE3 foundation and they campaign for legislative change on the installation of Automated External Defibrillators within health and sports facilities, while raising awareness of cardiac arrest and delivering CPR training.

Please find the QR code for his JustGiving page.

Dinner Money

Please can we remind all parents/carers to check their child's dinner money balance on SCOPAY and settle any outstanding debts as soon as possible. May we also remind you that dinner money must be paid **in advance or weekly** as we cannot allow any debts to accrue.

Warm Spaces

During half term week (12-16th February) the St Joseph's PNL Centre will be open from 10am-5pm for anyone who wants to come along for a while, either on their own or as a family (no unattended children will be permitted). Wi-fi will be available and the SVP and others will be on hand with a simple lunch and refreshments.

Please see the advert beneath for job opportunities currently available with the Diocese.

I very much hope you enjoy the half term break and I look forward to the next half of the spring term.



Diocesan Job Opportunities

There are currently 2 job opportunities (listed below) at the Diocese

The vacancies, including the job descriptions are also on the Diocesan website under Careers <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers>.

Buildings Officer: School Buildings and Finance, closing date 16 February

Part time (0.6 FTE)

Based in Crawley - with travel around Sussex and Surrey

Salary £27,000 (FTE £45,000)

The Diocesan Education Service is seeking to recruit a part time Buildings Officer - School Buildings and Finance. The successful applicant will ensure that public capital funding provided to the Diocese is spent appropriately and that the Diocese can provide assurance to the DfE and auditors as to compliance with the conditions of funding. Key areas of responsibility include ensuring that the diocesan education estate is safe and well maintained, prioritising school building projects, planning the maintenance and development of new and existing school stock and being the first point of contact in the Diocese for schools' capital issues.

Pastoral Coordinator - The Catholic parishes of Woking & Knaphill – closing date Friday, March 1, 2024.

The Catholic parishes of Woking & Knaphill are seeking an energetic, committed worker with a good understanding of Catholic faith to join their pastoral team, to assume responsibility for coordinating and developing catechesis, developing lay leadership and promoting a culture of missionary discipleship across our twin parishes.

The post is full-time but applicants who can offer least 0.6 FTE will also be considered.

Salary £32,000-35,000 depending on experience and qualifications.

Application deadline: Friday, March 1, 2024.

Interviews: Friday, March 15, 2024.