



Mrs Lawlor writes ...

March 2024



The season of Lent has been well observed by the children at St Joseph's. They have had many opportunities to engage with the importance of the season and to have time to reflect, using the catholic social teaching principles, to fully embody what the season of Lent means and how we live out the teachings of Jesus in our everyday lives. I'd like to thank Fr Tony for his continued support. He was joined at the school this week, by Fr Binoy, to facilitate reconciliation for Years 4 to 6. We are very grateful to them for this as it is such an important part of preparation in Lent.

We are rarely in school for Holy Week and it has been wonderful to share the events of Christ's Passion with the children in school. They have been immersed in the story and helped in their understanding by Year 4's work on producing the Passion Play to mark the solemn events of Holy Week. The children are naturally excited by the feast of Easter and Year 1 have embraced the joy with their Easter Bonnet Parade and the selling of hot cross buns!

At the end of term, we often say goodbye to members of staff. We are sad to be saying goodbye to **Mrs Tina Osman**, Mrs Osman has been a teacher at the school since September 2012 and has over her time impacted positively in many different ways through her teaching and more recently in her Catholic leadership around collective worship and Catholic Social Teacher (CST). She will be missed by the children and her colleagues as she is always ready to find humour! I wish Mrs Osman all the very best as she now takes some time out for her and her family. She is very much a part of the St Joseph's community and she will not be a stranger.

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We will also be saying a fond farewell to **Mrs Nicky Grant**, Mrs Grant has been at St Joseph's since September 2010 and has worked as a teaching assistant and more recently using her skills to support speech and language development as well as English as an additional language support. Mrs Grant is leaving to concentrate on her business and we wish her all the very best for the future. She will be missed by the children and staff as she is extremely supportive and nurturing in her role.

Miss Ellie Sherwin is also leaving us to start a new role in a special educational needs school in Surrey. Miss Sherwin has been with us for a short period of time and we would like to thank her for the hard work she has put into her teaching role and to wish her all the best in her future career. We shall be welcoming back **Mrs Rachel Pashley** from maternity leave at the start of the summer term. Mrs Pashley will take up a full-time teaching post in Year 2.

We have continued with a journey into the Xavier Catholic Education Trust and have received notification of our academy order. We are aiming to fully convert by 1st September 2024. The Trust carried out a learning and teaching review at St Joseph's which has been hugely beneficially in highlighting good practice and enabling us to develop areas for further improvement with curriculum development.

As always it has been a busy half term and a lot has been packed in and achieved. Thank you to my SLT and all staff for their hard work. I am sure everyone is ready for a spring break and to enjoy Easter with friends and family.

We are sadly aware of families who have been bereaved very recently and we would like to extend our prayers and condolences to those families affected. You are in our prayers.

We would like to extend warm wishes to you and your families for a happy and blessed Easter.

World Book Day

On 7th March all year groups celebrated World Book Day. It was great to see the children dressed up. They made such an effort. The year 6 children loved sharing their stories with the younger year groups.





Year 4 Trip to Bough Beech

Year 4 visited the Bough Beech Reservoir where they looked at water treatment works in our local area. This links to their Geography project. They had the services of Sutton and East Surrey Water tutors for the whole day who worked with the children in groups.



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Mother's Day

To celebrate Mother's Day, all the children made cards and bought a present from the Mother's Day gift shop arranged by the SJA.



Year 6 STEM week

Year 6 spent a lesson in STEM week using Microbits to programme shapes, words, tunes and random number generators from their computers to a digital display.

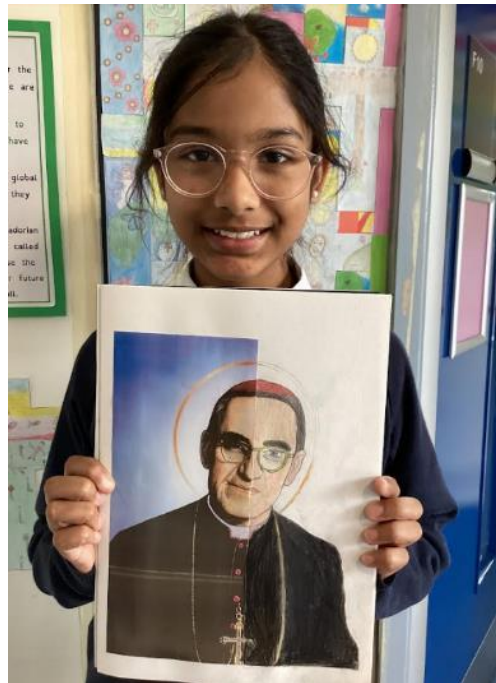
They developed their programming skills and enjoyed learning how to combine software and hardware for creative purposes.



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Feast of St. Oscar Romero

Year 6 celebrated the Feast Day of St Oscar Romero on Friday 22nd March by completing a detailed sketch of St Oscar Romero



Sustainability at St Joseph's!

The Stewardship Council has been busy over the last several months completing an environmental review of our school grounds. From this they identified several areas that they wanted to develop and created their own action plan!

While this document will change and adapt alongside our young group, we are looking forward to the next couple of months when we can 'Spring' into action – Pun intended!

[Check out our action plan here!](#)

One of our actions is to speak out about the issues we care about. Yssabelle has done a wonderful job at this. Take a look at her poster!



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Year 4 Passion Play

At the end of the term, Year 4 delivered an incredible Easter reflection to the rest of the school. It detailed Jesus' last moments on Earth; from Him entering Jerusalem to the moment he died on the cross.

The children each played their part in ensuring the delivery was solemn, calm and reflective. They should be very proud of themselves as they have worked hard to learn their lines and perform. Well done Year 4, you were superstars!



Sporting Updates

Well done to the cross-country team who finished 3rd place overall - which equals our highest scoring placement to date. Well done to all the athletes who took part and put in the extra practise.

Our football teams have now completed their league season, well done to all members of the boys



and girls football teams for showing great commitment to training and matches. The progress for each team has been very evident over this season, and individually each player has developed and took positive steps forward with their football ability and understanding.

Well done to all that took part in the tag rugby festival, it was a first time for our school in this festival and the children all seemed to enjoy themselves. This is something that we will look to do more of next academic year.

Well done to our gymnastics team in their competition, again a first time our school have entered a gymnastics competition. The team had been practising really hard following on from what they learnt in their PE lessons to take into the competition. It was great to see children that hadn't represented the school before, take part in their first sport competition.

We look forward to the summer term now, with more competitions/ festivals coming up such as roundnet for year 3/4, cricket festival, football tournaments for year 3-6, the fun run & of course the build-up for sports day, plus more. More info on the above will come out when we return after Easter.

Netball

On the 20th of March, 8 children took part in the annual district Netball tournament at Reigate Grammar School. We were so blessed with the weather all afternoon and the sun was shining for us! 12 schools were split into two groups. We were in Group 2. We won 2 out of the 5 games. The children played brilliantly and used everything that they had learnt, in training, on the court. They had fantastic footwork, great communication and good game awareness. We came joint 4th in our group with Furzefield and the deciding factor was who won against who in the individual game. St Joseph's were victorious which meant that we were in the Plate Semi Final. We played RAA and what a close and intense game it was. The ball was going from end-end but in the end, we won, which meant we were through to the Plate Final.

Our final was against St Johns, a team we had previously played in the group stages so we knew it wasn't going to be easy! After nail-biting moments, we ended up drawing 1-1 so we had extra time! After extra time, we then drew again so another 3 and a half minutes was played. Unfortunately, we ending up losing in the extra... extra time however we did still come away with medals!

I am so proud of each individual child who played. They thoroughly deserved the win and recognition.

On a separate note, a massive well done to all the children who were part of Netball Club this season. Their skills have improved greatly and they were a delight to teach/coach.

Please also look out for the summer term club list for before/ after school as we shuffle the clubs to add as much options/ variety as possible.

SJA



Thank you to all of you who have contributed towards SJA fundraising. The money raised really does make a difference to the children. I would especially like to thank the Class Representatives and the trustees for their hard work and time in arranging our fundraising events. Class Representatives will be appealing for helpers soon as we have a full programme of events coming up so, I encourage all families to offer their time and support as helpers for upcoming events. If any parents work for companies offering matched funding, or would be able to donate any prizes for raffles, the SJA would love to hear from you! It is a rewarding experience as enables parents to work together for the benefit of the children. Some of the short-term things we have requested funding for are playground games and equipment, supplementary reading books and top up training for the teaching of writing using 'Talk for Writing'.

Staff Fund raising

We are delighted to be supporting Mrs. Millican's Half Marathon challenge. She is fundraising for The Skye High Foundation, they support bereaved families during and after the loss of a twin, triplet or multiples. She is running in memory of her friend's son, Harry O'Sullivan who sadly died at only 12 days old. Every penny raised is used to provide resources and training to hospitals and medical professionals along with supporting bereaved families. Please donate as much as you can.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/emily-millican>

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. The cost of a meal is currently £2.70.

Uniform

After the Easter holidays, all children are expected to return to school wearing their Summer Uniform.

Reception – Year 6 Girls

Green checked dress, white socks, black school shoes and navy school logo jumper.

Reception Boys

White St Joseph's Polo shirt, grey shorts, grey socks, black school shoes and navy school logo jumper.

Year 1- Year 6 Boys

White short sleeve shirt, school tie, grey shorts, grey socks, black school shoes and navy school logo jumper.

Girl's Summer Uniform



Boy's Summer Uniform



Holy week mass timings are as follows....

Paschal Triduum & Easter Sunday

Parish of the Nativity of the Lord

Triduum

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper 8pm St Joseph's

Good Friday: The Passion of the Lord 3pm St Joseph's

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil 8pm St Joseph's

Easter Sunday

9am Holy Family Church, Yorke Road, Reigate RH2 9HF

11am St Joseph's Church, Ladbrooke Road, Redhill RH1 1LF

5.30pm St Teresa's Church, Weldon Way, Merstham RH1 3QA

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