ST.JOSEPH'S MALMESBURY

CATHOLIC SCHOOL & NURSERY FOR CHILDREN AGED 2-11

Friday 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

Term is now well underway and how busy we have been this week!

On National Poetry Day this week, the children were visited by former journalist and broadcaster Richard Lyddon, who shared with them a selection of the inspiring and humorous poetry of Charles Causley.



(Mr Lyddon enjoyed his visit to St Joseph's so much that he has agreed to become our Reading Champion!)

The children then had the chance to practise their own declamations. St Aldhelm's performed a soundscape version of Blake's *Tyger Tyger* and St Carlo a line-perfect rendition of the darkly comic poem *The Pig*.

The children in St Teresa's were also able to take part and recited the poem *I can Read* – all about the different places they can enjoy reading.



Smartphones: the impact on children

For those who missed it, this presentation is now available on the website here.

Egyptian Day - Monday 19th October

To tie in with our termly history topic, we are hosting a day of activities and learning all themed around the Ancient Egyptians! Children may dress up in a costume related to Ancient Egypt or attend in their PE kit.

So far, they have learned about pyramids, Howard Carter and the boy pharaoh, Tutankhamun (including his beautiful funeral mask). Prize for the best outfit!

Harvest Festival and Foodbank Appeal

Our Harvest Festival celebration will be in assembly on Wednesday 21st October (the last day of term) at 2.15pm – all are welcome.

As we approach our Harvest Festival celebration, we are inviting families to support our collection for those in need within our local community. From Monday we will be collecting donations for the Malmesbury & District Foodbank.

Harvest Festival reminds us that small acts of generosity can make a big difference. By working together as a school community, we can help ensure that others receive the support they need. Thank you for your kindness and support.



Parents Evening

Parents Evenings for all year groups will be on Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th November. You will be able to sign up for a 10 minute appointment slot with your child's teacher on the day most convenient to you. This is done via a sign-up sheet which will be available just inside the school gate at drop off and pick up after half term. We will send out a Dojo message nearer the time to let you know exactly when it will be available.

Visit from the Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance

On Weds 21st October we are looking forward to welcoming a member of the Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance service to do some basic first aid training with all children from Year 2-6. This will include how to call for help in an emergency, putting someone in the recovery position and CPR (KS2). This opportunity is being funded by the kind generosity of the Malmesbury League of Friends.

Flu Vaccination

The Immunisation Team will now be on site to administer the flu vaccination on the revised date of 12th November. If you would like your child to have the vaccination and have not yet given permission via the link sent out on Parentpay then please do this by 6th November at the latest.

Voluntary Contribution Towards Forest School

We are delighted that Forest School continues to be a valued part of our curriculum, giving children opportunities to learn outdoors, develop confidence and independence, and engage with nature in a practical and enjoyable way.

To help sustain and enhance these experiences, we are inviting parents and carers to make a voluntary contribution towards the consumable resources used during these sessions. Like all schools, we continue to face increasing financial pressures, and voluntary contributions help us to maintain the high-quality experiences we want to provide for our pupils.

Forest School Subs are £2 per week for the term during which your child's class is timetabled to do Forest School (between £12-14 in total). If your child is in St Teresa class this has been added to your account as a Parentpay item for this term.

We would like to stress that this contribution is entirely voluntary. No child will be excluded from Forest School activities if a contribution is not made. However, all contributions help us to continue providing these valuable learning opportunities and we are extremely grateful for any support you are able to give. Thank you.

Cauliflower Cards

Our annual Cauliflower Cards project gives children the opportunity to see their artwork transformed into personalised Christmas cards and gifts. Families can purchase unique Christmas items featuring their child's design, creating special keepsakes and thoughtful gifts for relatives and friends.

Between now and October half term the children will have some time in school to design their artwork which will be sent home with an order form. Orders are placed directly on the Cauliflower Cards website (details of which will be included on the form) but your child's artwork and order form MUST then be returned to the school to send back to Cauliflower cards by 6th November for production of your chosen items.

The children are always incredibly proud of their creations, and every order helps support the school.

St Teresa

St Teresa Class have had a fantastic start to the academic year. All children have been focusing on developing their understanding of our 'Respect' virtue through a wide range of collaborative activities. Our new starters have particularly enjoyed experiencing their very first Forest School sessions at St Joseph's.



Through a range of listening games and opportunities for 'active play', 'exploring and engaging' and 'creative thinking' the children have quickly developed confidence in their new surroundings.





The older children in the school have been excellent role models for igniting an interest in Reading for Pleasure. They are engaging fully in daily handwriting challenges and have particularly enjoyed demonstrating their use of punctuation through exciting writing!





St Aldhelm

Over the past month we have been learning about lots of many things, from Ancient Egyptian cartouches to labelling the human skeleton to Cauliflower Christmas Cards!

We have been also been testing some smoothies and will hopefully make our own in the next coming weeks.



Charlie -"I thought they were good, and the one I liked was the strawberry and banana one. I am excited to make my own!"

Zoe—"I liked the cartouches because we could draw different hieroglyphics and I learned how to spell my name in Ancient Egyptian!"

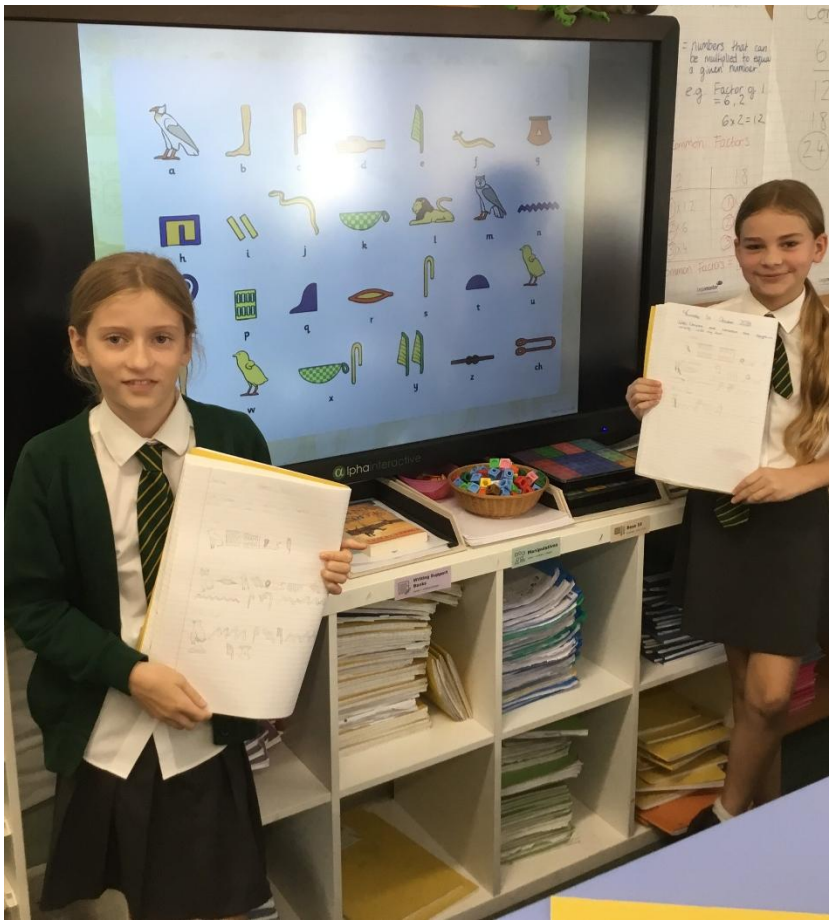
Albert "I thought the cards were fun, I liked making the snowflakes!"

Sanugi— "It was fun to draw around each other on the playground and label the bones in our bodies! It was fun to go outside to learn."



St Carlo

Over the past month we have been learning many exciting things in St Carlo. Our topic this term has been Ancient Egypt. We have been learning lots about Tutankhamun, Howard Carter, understanding hieroglyphs and even how to make our own scrolls. In our writing we have been writing diary entries as someone from ancient Egypt and in one of our experience days we had the opportunity to taste some of the foods and smell some of the aromas the ancient Egyptians might have experienced.



Amelia - "Tasting the warm flatbread was fun to experience and to understand a bit more about the way the Egyptians lived."

Henry - "I enjoyed making our own Egyptian scrolls as we were able to show off some of our own creativity."

Victoria - "Understanding and writing our own hieroglyphs was fun as the hieroglyphs were very fun to draw."


Ancient Egypt
Pharaohs
Ancient Egypt


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Nursery

The nursery children have settled back in happily and we have gained several new friends too. The children have enjoyed sharing photos and talking about their families and friends outside of the setting as part of our 'All About Me' topic.



We have been making the most of the warm weather and taken lots of our learning outside. We were visited by some tortoises, have picked apples on the land and made a delicious crumble, explored shaving foam, gloop and other sensory play.





Please feel free to come and have a look at our lovely display board in the EYFS library (outside Nursery and St Teresa) to see what we have been up to!

YEAR 5 & 6 RUGBY TOURNAMENT

What a fantastic afternoon of rugby at Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club!



We took two teams, a total of 15 children representing the school. Every player gave their all across five matches each. Our A team had a fantastic tournament, finishing 3rd overall and coming away with well deserved bronze medals.



Our second team also had a brilliant afternoon, showing great determination and sportsmanship throughout. They enjoyed a mixture of results but continued to support one another and play with great enthusiasm.

We are very proud of Ivan, who received a Magic Moments medal, awarded for demonstrating the true spirit of the game!



A huge well done to all 15 children! It was a lovely afternoon in the sunshine and a fantastic way to start our sporting year.

We are already looking forward to the next event!

Thanks to Mrs Cockram for her help at this event and for driving the minibus.

Mrs Bennett

Would you like to join the Governing Body of St Joseph's?

We currently have vacancies for a parent governor and a foundation governor.

The governing body has three core functions which include, but are not limited to ensuring:

- that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined
- that the headteacher performs their responsibilities for the educational performance of the school
- the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

Parent governors do not have to be experts in education and do not represent the parent body or the interests of their own children. However, they bring the perspective of a typical parent to the governing body. They are elected to the governing body by the parents.

Foundation governors are appointed by the Bishop and must be Catholic. They do not need to be parents.

The role is strategic and governors do not get involved in the operational running of the school. They serve for four years, and parent governors can continue to the end of their term even if they no longer have children in school. All governor activity is confidential and must not be shared outside the governing body. Governors are volunteers and, while demanding, it is a rewarding role.

In terms of commitment, there are six full governing body meetings each year and you would also sit on one of two committees monitoring resources or education. These also meet six times. Meetings should not last longer than two hours. Currently our meetings start in the early evening around 5pm and 6pm but these can be adjusted depending on the composition of the governing body.

It can sound daunting but there is plenty of training and support available for those new to governing.

If you would like to find out more about whether being a governor is for you, please contact me to arrange an informal conversation (kirstymartin@sjpschool.co.uk). Nomination forms will be available towards the end of next week.