



# St. Joseph's Journal

Free! Friday, 3rd March 2023

12th Edition



## Lent

Last week we came together as a school in St Paul's Church to celebrate the start of Lent, with our Ash Wednesday service. Lent is a time of reflection where the Church asks us to prepare for Christ's passion and resurrection by making small sacrifices, traditionally in the form of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We continued to journey through Lent this week by sharing the book *The Promise* by Nicola Davies. If you are not familiar with the book you can share the story with your child via the following YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/ynMTWupOQJ4> The story focuses on how a young girl is asked to keep a promise by looking after some acorns, and then goes on to change her behaviour and become a better person by planting acorns throughout her city. As a take away task from this week's assembly, every pupil has been given a symbolic acorn to make their very own Lenten promise. We will be reflecting on how we can all grow as we journey through Lent. We will make every child's acorn a focus of a whole school display and watch how our Lenten tree grows as every member of the St Joseph's family plants their individual acorn. If you would like to give something back this Lent, we have set up a cost of living fund on ParentPay. This fund will be used to supplement any educational initiative or trips that a family might not be able to afford due to financial pressures. Of course, as a school we would ensure no child is left behind. However, I know our St Joseph's family extremely well and I know that there will be members of our community that will want to make a confidential donation. If you are fortunate to find yourself in this position any donations can be made via the ParentPay website. Your generosity is very much appreciated and will make a real difference during such a time of economic uncertainty. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Walker



## Thrive Course

Positive relationships are at the heart of Thrive. We use these relationships, together with play and creative activities, to give children key experiences at each different stage of their development. Thrive is a specific way of working with all children that helps to develop their social and emotional well-being, enabling them to engage with life and learning. It supports them in becoming more self-assured, capable and adaptable. It can also address any troubled, or troubling behaviours providing a firm foundation for academic attainment. Starting on the afternoon of Friday, 21st April, we will be holding a 6 week Family Thrive course at St Joseph's. Places are limited so if you are interested please email Mrs Monnery: [Imonnery@stjosephshh.org.uk](mailto:Imonnery@stjosephshh.org.uk)



## FOS Help!

On Thursday, 23rd March our Friends of School team would like to invite you to a planning event / social at 7pm in the small hall. They would love to encourage more parents to get involved with FOS events - more hands makes light work! In particular they are looking for parents to step forward and help organise the school fair, this could be in any capacity (setting up / running a stall, helping with refreshments - no experience necessary and you won't be abandoned! We do absolutely know how busy everyone is however without more helpers our fabulous fair may not be able to take place.



## Fortnightly Attendance

St A	98%	St B	94%
St C	96%	St D	97%
St E	97%	St F	95%
St Gen	98%	St Geo	97%
St H	96%	St J	96%
St M	96%	St P	97%
St T	98%	St X	96%



Believe · Achieve · Succeed



## Malayalam

Since September we have been running a Wednesday morning club for our Malayalam speakers. Children from Years 1-6 gather to share their news, develop skills and play games. The older children are excellent role models for our younger members. We have a thriving Malayalam community and it would be great if we could extend the invitation, on some of those Wednesday mornings, to our parents. Perhaps you would like to come and share a skill or read a story. Maybe just to participate and see what we do! You would be most welcome and the children would love to see you there. If you think this is something that you would like to get involved in, please let Mrs Noone know via the school office.

**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

reach 200k) as we consider how we can help fight poverty, all money raised goes to CAFOD. Take a look at the link and sign up if this is something you think your family might like to do over Lent: <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/big-lent-walk>

Since Ash Wednesday last week, the children have been exploring what **Lent** means; how we **pray** (thankful and think of others), **fast** (give something up) and **give** (time, money, kindness). This year CAFOD are using 'The Big Lent Walk' to encourage families to consider others during this liturgical season. Over the 40 days of Lent, your family could participate by being sponsored to walk as much as possible (trying to

## St Xavier Class Assembly

St Xavier held their class assembly on Wednesday. Their topic was 'Curiosity', one of our five learning



values. They spoke about a willingness to learn about all subjects within the curriculum, and the different ways that topics are able to be linked to them. All subjects within the year 6 curriculum so far have included WW2, Harry Potter and the sinking of the Titanic, finishing off with a rousing performance of How Far I'll Go - well done St Xavier. Thank you to Miss Smith and Mrs Wallace for helping them put it all together.

## St Helen Class Assembly

Well done to St Helen class who last week presented the first class assembly since Autumn 2019 - laying down the gauntlet to our other classes!! Overcoming nerves, they shared how they use the school's learning values in all their learning, speaking clearly and singing with great gusto. We are incredibly proud of them! Many thanks to Mrs Rogers and Mrs Garvey for helping the children pull it together.



## Reporting Absences

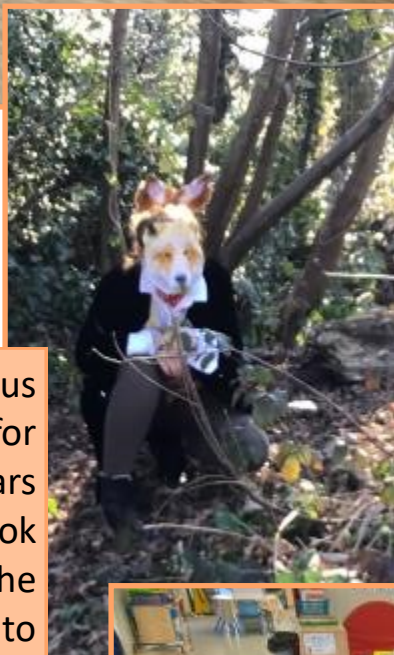
Please can we remind parents that **all absence, whether for illness or medical appointments or any other reason**, should be reported to the school via Studybugs. Studybugs is a free app and all reported absence goes directly into the register and keeps class teachers informed of the reason for your child's absence. We have a legal duty to ascertain the whereabouts of all children. By reporting all absences, it prevents office staff from having to ring and email parents to find out the reason for them not being at school and avoids unnecessary home visits. Please remember to report absences daily, your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.



Lent



# WORLD BOOK DAY



There were some fabulous outfits on display yesterday for World Book Day. This year's theme was 'Your World Book Day' and it really was about the children, the books they like to read and their interests. The day was jam packed with lots of fun activities to help boost their writing and interest in books. Thank you to all of our parents for supporting the children and the school.



# Spring Term Diary Dates



## March

- 8th Mar - St Theresa Class Assembly, 9am
- 9th Mar - Year 6 NCT Parent Meeting, 6pm
- 15th Mar - St Francis Class Assembly, 9am
- 20th Mar - St Joseph's Day Mass, 1.30pm
- 22nd Mar - St Elizabeth Class Assembly, 9am
- 23rd Mar - FOS Summer Fair / Planning Social - 7pm
- 24th Mar - FOS Disco
- 27th-31st Mar - Spirituality Week
- 28th Mar - Reports Out Years 1– Year 6
- 31st Mar - FOS Cake Sale, St A, St H, St M & St T to contribute please
- 31st Mar - End of Term, normal finish time

# Summer Term Diary Dates

## April

- 17th Apr - Return to school

## May

- 1st May - Bank Holiday
- 3rd May - Class Photos
- 3rd May - SEN Parents Evening, 3.30-5.30pm
- 8th May - Bank Holiday
- 9-11th - May - National Curriculum Tests, Yr 6
- 12th May - May Procession, 2.15pm
- 15th-19th May - KS1 Assessment Week
- 18th May - Ascension Day Mass
- 19th May - Talent Show
- 22nd-26th May - Fairthorne Manor Residential - Year 6
- 26th May - FOS Cake Sale, St E, St Gen & St J to contribute please
- 29th May - 2nd Jun - Half Term

## June

- 5th Jun - Back to school

**Please note all dates and events are subject to change.  
Dates are also available to view on the St Joseph's website calendar.**