

# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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## Newsletter February 2025

## MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

#### **Dear Parents and Guardians,**



During February, our school underwent two rigorous inspections within a two-week span. The dedication and hard work of our staff were evident, resulting in exceptional feedback that highlights our children's' 'exemplary' learning behaviors. The positive feedback received underscores our commitment to educational excellence. Reports and letters detailing the inspections will be distributed to parents shortly, ensuring everyone is informed of our achievements and progress.

Being a very small school means that all staff have many roles within our school which can be very hard work. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff for their unwavering commitment in creating a nurturing school environment. Your hard work and passion inspire our children every day. We also thank our parents for their vital support; your involvement strengthens our school community and enhances our students' educational experiences. Together, we build a brighter future!

We invite parents to share their positive experiences about our school within the community. Engaging more families can help attract new students, essential for obtaining additional resources and staff. Let's work together to establish our school as a preferred choice for education in the local area!

**Best Wishes and God Bless** 

Sarah Pascoe

#### Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

## THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL

Today we launched the Jubilee in school.

The Catholic Jubilee of 2025, themed "Pilgrims of Hope," is a special event celebrated by the Catholic Church to bring people closer to God and each other. Here's a simple explanation for children and their parents:

What is a Jubilee? A Jubilee is like a big birthday party for the Church! It happens every 25 years and is a time for Catholics all around the world to grow in faith, ask for forgiveness, and share God's love. It's a time of joy, prayer, and new beginnings.

#### Why is it called "Pilgrims of Hope"?

- Pilgrims are people who travel to holy places to feel closer to God. It's like going on a trip, not just to see something new, but to discover more about your faith and God's love.
- Hope is believing that good things will happen because God loves us and takes care of us.

So, the Jubilee invites everyone to be "Pilgrims of Hope," traveling in faith, trusting God, and spreading kindness and joy.

#### What will happen during the Jubilee?

- Pilgrimages: Many families and groups will travel to Rome or other holy places to pray and celebrate.
- 2. Special Prayers: People will gather in churches to pray together and grow closer to God.
- 3. Acts of Kindness: The Church encourages everyone to help those in need and show love to others.
- 4. Forgiveness: It's a chance to say sorry to God and others for mistakes and to feel His love and mercy.

#### What can children do?

- Pray together: Spend time talking to God and thanking Him.
- Help others: Share kindness by helping a friend, family member, or neighbour.
- Learn about Saints: Read stories about Saints who were "Pilgrims of Hope."
- **Join church events**: Attend special masses or activities at your parish.

#### For Parents

This Jubilee is an opportunity to teach your children about hope, faith, and forgiveness. It's a time to encourage them to see the world as a place filled with God's love and to play their part in making it brighter. Whether you visit a holy site or celebrate in your local parish, the Jubilee reminds us to walk together as a family in faith, sharing hope and love with the world!



STARS OF THE WEEK

VALUE GUARDIANS

Awarded to the whole class
Isaac Coates
Caleb Dobson
James McGlincy

Leah-Marie Rawlings



Maya Isaac HM Max Alesha

Matilda D Samanta Oliver J



Samanta Violet Oliver K

## STARS OF THE WEEK



## VALUE GUARDIANS

Gracie E Corey Gracie O



Whole Class Swimming! Layla Whole Class shining bright!

Everyone! Federico Frankie



Everyone Dheshawn Y5





## CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



This February has flown past!!

In St Vincent we have been preparing for spring by doing lots of planting and gardening around our school and in our lovely forest school.

We have had loads of fun learning about different invasion games in PE. We have learnt how to 'mark' each other and different ways to pass a ball.

We are very excited about our class assembly on Red Nose Day! Everyone is welcome!



## CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

In English we have enjoyed looking at why an Author writes in a particular way and what makes a good strong story.

We are looking forward to studying the Author Michael Morpurgo.

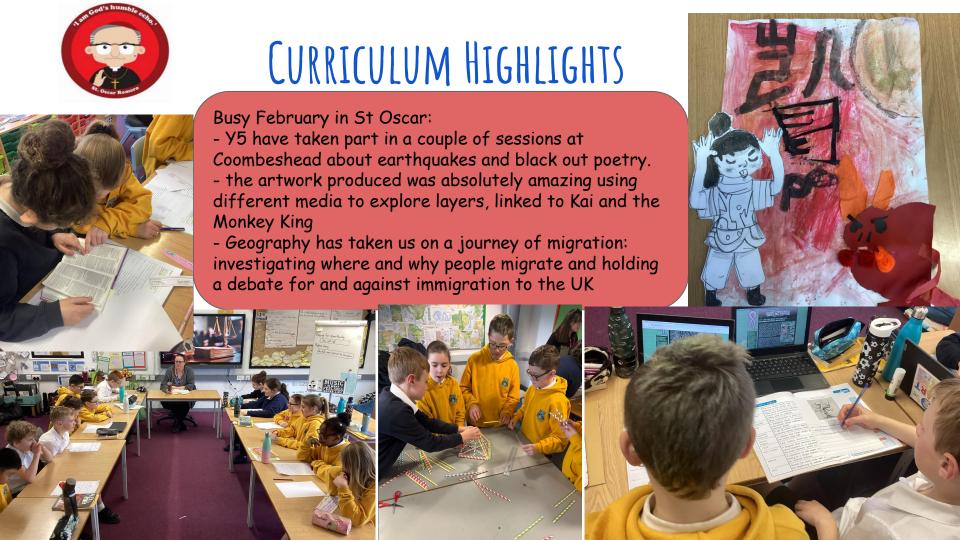




In PSHE we have been considering how we can be the next world changers!
How we can play our part and contribute to society!
We celebrated our choice of possible different jobs we wanted to do when we were older!

Exciting times in science investigating what forces are and comparing how things move on different surfaces. We have been looking at how science fits into different jobs!





#### **After School Clubs:**

Tuesday - Football



Please note that any accounts that are £50 + in arrears you will not be able to use the breakfast and after school clubs.









Attendance Matters!

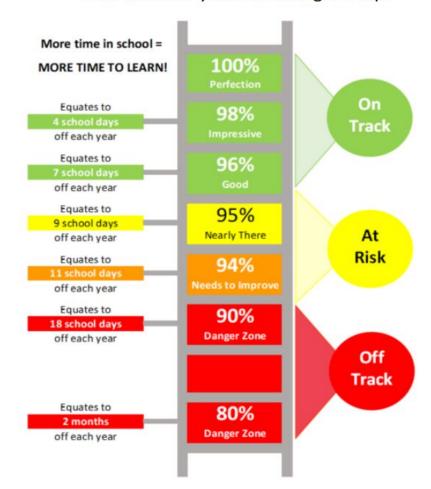


Attendance Dec/Jan		
	93.27%	
de la	94.53%	
	93.12%	
	93.85%	

#### **Important Notices & Reminders**

If your child is late for morning registration, arriving late at school after 9am, please ensure you or their accompanying adult reports to the school office to ensure that they are registered.

#### How close are you to reaching the top?



#### **Attendance Roadmap**

In line with the DfE Statutory Guidance (in force from 19th August 2024) we offer a supportive, stepped, attendance approach. We will offer a welcoming ethos with high expectations for all. We will assess data to identify absence trends & use preventative discussions/meetings with families to listen, understand & support to remove barriers. Where needed, we will formalise support to nurture improvement with Attendance Contracts & as a last resort we will consider intensifying support &/or enforce legal sanctions.



Did you know, arriving after the register has closed (30 mins from school starting) = an absence?

Did you know, 90% attendance = approx. 95 missed lessons/hours of learning? attendance = 4 weeks of absence over a year?

Did you

STEP 4 - Warnings -

Did you know, good attendance

Where STEP 2 or STEP 3 support has been unsuccessful &/or declined, a 'Formal Warning' if AC has failed, or a 'Notice to Improve' Letter if no AC appropriate, will be issued to reinforce the need for immediate improvement. A Family Court Order such as an Education Supervision Order will also be considered as an alternative to prosecution.

#### STEP 5 - Legal Action - No Improvement

Legal action (Penalty Notice or Prosecution) MAY be requested from the Local Authority (LA) if Unauthorised Term Time Absence is taken, or if overall absence continues to occur & reaches or exceeds the National Threshold for absence, despite STEPS 1-4 being attempted. Statutory Guidance States a Referral to Children's Social Care for children with 'Severe Absence' (less than 50%) should be considered to obtain 'Intense Support'.

### STEP 1 - Identify, Assess & Prevent

Our daily actions & processes aim to promote relationship building with children & families to prevent absence. This involves monitoring data trends & absence patterns to inform our conversations with you (& your child where age allows). The trigger for conversations is where absence is at risk of reaching the new National Threshold (10 sessions (10 half days/5 days) within a 10 week rolling period). Other daily actions involve promoting attendance positively, using praise & incentives, swift absence follow up, email &/or letter communication to raise your awareness of emerging concerns, processing requested or unrequested 'Term Time Exceptional Absence' & doing Home Visits to meet our safeguarding duties as required.

#### STEP 2 - Early Absence Support

We move to this step if the National Threshold for absence is met (authorised or unauthorised) to prevent further absence occurring. Discussions & meetings will be offered to identify if early support or reasonable adjustments are needed. This will be done using discussions &/or meetings to create a supportive action plan. An Early Help Assessment (EHA) may be required for some support to be accessed along with a Team Around the Family (TAF) Meeting Process

#### STEP 3 - Formalised Support

Where absence continues & initial support needs to be increased an Attendance Contract (AC) will be offered to formalise support. This is a 3-6 month nurturing plan of improvement to prevent further escalation. Achievable & individual targets will be set & reviewed regularly. Medical &/or other information will be actively sought at this point if required to work collaboratively with you & other agencies. An AC can run alongside other meetings e.g., TAF meeting.

#### **PENALTY NOTICES & LEGAL ACTION**

1st Offence (after 19th August 2024) of <u>Term Time Leave</u> &/or <u>Irregular Attendance</u> (10 sessions of Unauthorised Absence or more) = Fine of £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. If paid within 21 days fine is reduced to £80 per parent, per child. **2nd Offence** within 3 years (from 19th August 2024) = Fine of £160 per parent, per child payable within 28 days, no reduction available.

3rd Offence within 3 years (from 19th August 2024) NO PENALTY NOTICE considered. The case will be presented to Magistrates' Court under s444(1) or (1a) of the Education Act. If found guilty, a fine of up to £2500 per parent, per child can be issued. Convictions for s444(1a) offences will show on DBS record.

Please talk to us about how we can support you &/or your child at any time.

## IS MY CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?







Should I keep my

child off school?

#### Yes

#### Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

#### No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever	
Head lice	Tonsillitis	
Threadworms	Slapped cheek	





#### Advice and guidance

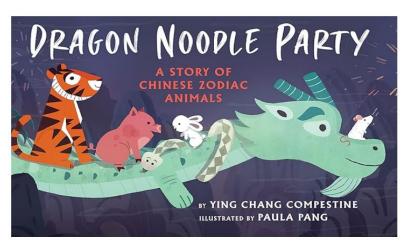
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit https://grco.de/minfec.

03.03.25	Y5 - Discover Music - Coombeshead	24.03.25	St. Oscar Romero Day Y5 - How to become a Mathemagician - Coombeshead
05.03.25	1:30 Ash Wednesday Service - In School Hall - Parents and Carers welcome	25.03.25	Y5 - Coombeshead - Music Workshop KS2 Dog Trust Workshops
06.03.25	World Book Day - Come dressed as your favourite book character or snuggled in your PJs to listen to an amazing book	2503.25 26.03.25	Parent Consultation Meetings
18.03.25	Papermaking workshop for all classes	28.03.25	Celebration Assembly Led by SF  Y5 - The Ivory Bangle Lady - Coombeshead
19.03.25	Feast of St. Joseph - Whole School to go to Church - Parents and Carers welcome Party Afternoon	01.04.25	Stations of the Cross Easter Service - School Hall 11:15 - All are welcome
21.03.25	Comic Relief - Wear red noses or dress in red/Silly Outfits. SVdP celebration assembly, parents are welcome to attend.	04.04.25	Break up for Easter Holiday
		22.04.25	Summer Term Begins World Earth Day

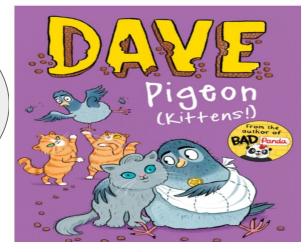
Join the animals of the zodiac as they make noodles for a party in this festive book from an award-winning author and food editor.

It's almost time for the party! One-by-one all the animals of the zodiac go up the hill, each one carrying an ingredient. Horse trots up the hill with a big wok. Goat strolls up the hill with wild onions.

Except for snake, that is. It's his birthday! All of his friends have prepared long noodles to celebrate his long and happy life. Simple text is paired with delightful, friendly art in this joyous look at the Chinese tradition of preparing long noodles to celebrate birthdays, the New Year, and other festive occasions.



# BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



'If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book.

> J.K Rowling

# Dave Pigeon (Kittens!) by Swapna Haddow, illustrated by Sheena Dempsey

Mean Cat is acting strangely and Dave the Pigeon and Skipper fear the worst. But an unexpected turn of events and some very cute kittens force them to see cats in a new light. Fast-paced fun and frequent illustrations make this series ideal for less confident readers in lower KS2.



#### **CPOMS** and Operation encompass

Safeguarding at St. Joseph's is always a priority. Should you have any enquiries or concerns, please contact our Designated Senior Lead for

governor for child protection is Tim van Kroonenburg.

information that we consider to be safeguarding information. Further information about the programme can be found here -

#### WELFARE

Our Family Support Worker is Rachel Ripley. Please let us know if you would like her to contact you for ANY support. Everyone needs a Rachel in their lives!



#### **ATTENDANCE**

Hi, my name is Steph, I'm the Attendance and Welfare Officer here at St Joseph's. I monitor attendance regularly to ensure that, where possible, every child is in school on time every day. If you have any concerns around your child's attendance, please leave a message with the office and I will contact you.



## Child Protection: Mrs Day or Mrs Pascoe on 01626 352559 OuAt St. Joseph's we use CPOMs as our system for recording

#### https://www.cpoms.co.uk/privacy-statement/

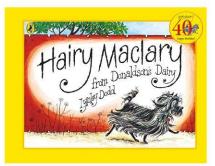
Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident.





### **STORY TIME** & CRAFTS





Saturday 8th March, 10:30am at Newton Abbot Library

Free event, no booking necessary!









To donate, please visit librariesunlimited.org.uk





10:30am - 12:30pm





Location:

The Courtenay Centre





And more...

## Bedz <u>kidz</u> Cosy Nights, Brighter Days



At Bedz4Kidz, we believe that every child deserves a quality sleep environment, which is why we donate a bedtime story with every bed we deliver. A good night's sleep helps children feel happier, healthier, and more focused at school. We've put together this list of bedtime stories—some you may already know and others that might be new to you—all chosen to help your child relax before bed. Because every child deserves Cosy Nights, Brighter Days.

#### **KS1** bedtime story list



1. The Flying Bath Julia Donaldson & David Roberts



6. Can't You Sleep, Little Bear? Martin Waddell



2. Peace at Last Jill Murphy



7. We're Going to find the Monster Malorie Blackman & Dapo Adeola



3. Omar, The Bees and Me Helen Mortimer



8. Dream Big, Little One Vashti Harrison



4.The Huddle Sean Julian



9. The Cat and the Rat and the Hat Em Lynas and Matt Hunt



5. Lila and the Secret of Rain David Conway



10 .Octopus Shocktopus Peter Bentley & Steve Lenton

#### **KS2** bedtime story list



1. The Boy at the Back of the Class Onjali Q. Raúf



6. The Girl Who Stole an Elephant Nizrana Farook



2. Asha & the Spirit Bird Jasbinder Bilan



7. The Island at the End of Everything Kiran Millwood Hargrave



3. Charlotte's Web
E.B White



8. The Night Bus Hero Onjali Q. Raúf



4. When life gives you Mangoes Kereen Getten



9. The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane Kate DiCamillo



5. The Secret Garden Frances Hodgson Burnett



10.The Boy Who Grew Dragons Andy Shepherd

school of Bedz4Kidz.

If you feel your family could



Choose a story
that is calming and
positive before bedtime.
Books with gentle rhythms, warm
endings, and relaxing themes help
children feel safe, happy, and ready to
sleep. Please remember to contact your
schools pastoral team should you need
support with bed frames, mattresses or bedding
to ensure your child get's a quality night's sleep.

**Happy Reading & Sweet Dreams!** 



## ONLINE SAFETY TTPS



