



Newsletter – Friday 31st March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy term it has been! There has been so much going on including World Book day, our open afternoon, St. Joseph's day celebrations, a visit by 'Sublime Science' and our Holy Week assemblies.

It was lovely to see so many parents at our open afternoon on 10th March. I know the children loved being able to share their work and to show off the new reading corners in their classrooms. A huge 'thank you' to The Friends for providing the funding for these. The teachers still have some books to order which will help to make the reading corners even more inviting.

This has been a busy term for our pupil leaders, with our school council working with Miss Oakley and Mr. Neal to plan the development of our outdoor areas. We have new playground markings being added to the lower playground and we are very excited about the forthcoming installation of an adventure play area on the top field. Both of these are due to be in place by the end of May, weather permitting. The adventure play area is being funded by the very generous donation in memory of Mr. Desai, which we are matching with some of our school funding along with money being raised by our school council.

Our prayer leaders have met several times and have taken the lead with the collection of food for Thame foodbank. This was done primarily as part of marking St. Joseph's day, but our prayer leaders would very much like this to continue into next term. We will therefore keep you updated with lists of foods that they need. Many thanks once again for the many donations. Every little makes a difference and the foodbank is very grateful for our support.

Holy Week assemblies



This week we have marked the events of Holy Week with three assemblies focusing on the key events which took place in the run up to the very first Easter. Our theme has been journeying through Holy week with Jesus and thinking about how these events teach us of God's great love for us. We focused on Palm Sunday, when the crowds welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem; Holy Thursday when Jesus shared his Last Supper with his disciples and Good Friday when Jesus died on the cross.

We finished our Good Friday assembly by remembering that even though Jesus' death seemed so final, this was not in fact the end.



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



St. Joseph's Day Celebrations

Friday 24th March marked our St. Joseph's day celebrations. Our day began with a beautiful whole school Mass which was celebrated in our school hall. This is the first time we have been able to have a whole school Mass in school and the feedback from the children was that they loved it! They particularly enjoyed being able to be close to the altar, having the words of the Mass displayed on screen and also singing some familiar hymns together.



Our prayer leaders set out the food that had been collected for Thame food bank which they displayed alongside our statue of St. Joseph and some lilies which are a symbol associated with St. Joseph.

The children spent the afternoon doing activities which helped them to understand more about St. Joseph and his fatherly care for us. The afternoon finished with everyone having biscuits which had been very kindly baked for us by our school kitchen.

Sacramental Preparation

On Thursday 23rd March, several of our children celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. This was a very special step in their faith journey and is also a 'marker' on their path to receiving Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time when they celebrate their First Holy Communion in June. We continue to hold these children in our prayers as they prepare for this very important next step in their faith journey.

Staffing update

After ten years dedicated and loyal service to our school, Mrs. Medland is starting a new and exciting chapter. She is moving on from St. Joseph's and is very much looking forward to spending some time travelling. We will miss Mrs. Medland but wish her all the very best for the future. If you would like to contribute to a gift for her, you can do this via your class rep. After Easter we will be joined by Mrs. Spurgeon who will take on the role of Finance Office in our school.

and finally...

Wishing you and your family every blessing for Easter – I hope you have a lovely break and look forward to seeing you on Monday 17th April. Do remember that gates will open at the new time of 08.35 with all children in class by 08.45!

Yours sincerely,

Ms. R. Gowers
Headteacher

