



# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



## Newsletter – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

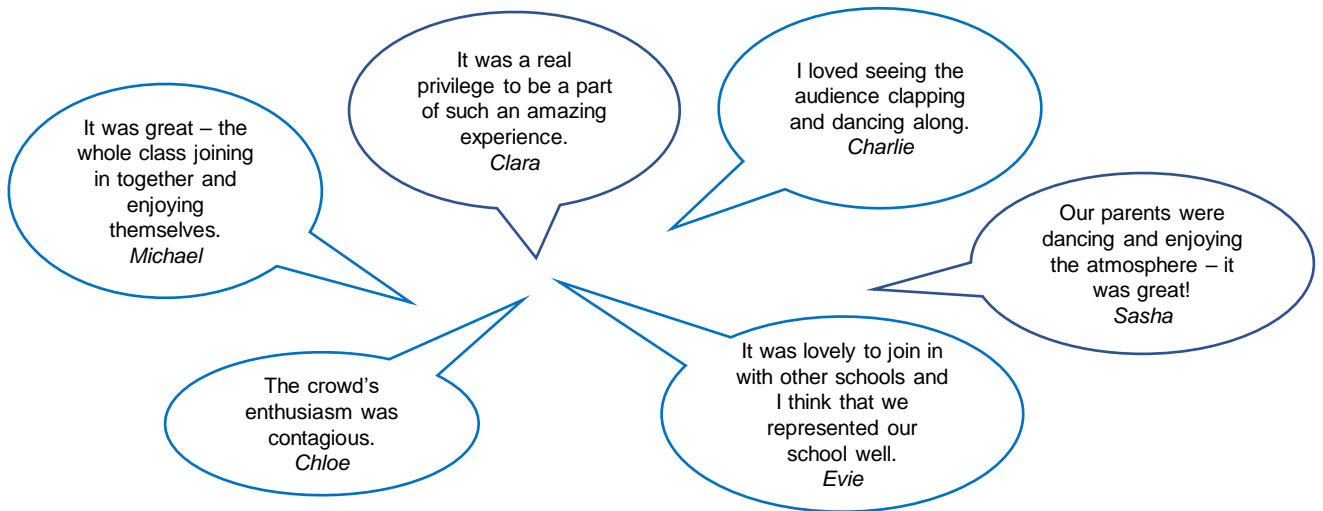
Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have had a good week and that you will be able to take advantage of the inset days either side of half term to have an extended break.

Our 'Welcome' meetings have now all taken place. They were very well attended and the feedback you provided has been very informative and helpful; thank you very much. If you were not able to attend, the Welcome PowerPoints can now be found on our school website under 'Family Information'.



This week's news comes from our Year 6 children, reflecting on their experience of the PFMAC 'Stronger Together' music festival which they took part in on Monday evening.



### October, the Month of the Rosary

As the month of October draws to a close, we continue to look to the example of our Mother, Mary and we try to emulate her trust in God and her willingness to do His will. We try to rely a little less on ourselves and a little more on God Our Father in our day to day lives.

We ask Mary to pray for us and our families as we go into the half term holiday.





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## Year 6 Leaders and Ambassadors

It has been quite the week for our Year 6 children! On Monday they were wonderful ambassadors for our school at the PFMAC music festival, "Stronger Together" at Oxford Town hall. This was a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a family of schools in a beautiful setting to create an evening of joy for so many people. The children rehearsed all afternoon before putting on a stunning performance of songs from stage and screen. These ranged from Mary Poppins to Matilda, Moana, The Greatest Showman....I could go on and on!



A few words from Fraser Long, the Catholic Senior Executive Leader of the PFMAC:

*"I just wanted to email to thank everyone for being at our inaugural 'Stronger Together' Music Concert. We had over 200 children performing, with ages ranging from Year 6 to Year 13. I really feel that the children gained a tremendous amount from performing together and I found it a truly uplifting event. It was also wonderful to see all the members of staff from our schools helping out and working together."*

As if that wasn't enough excitement for one week, yesterday we held our Year 6 Leadership Assembly during which the groups of our Year 6 pupil leaders were introduced to the whole school – Eco Council, House Captains, Prefects and Sports Captains. They made their pledges of service and were presented with their badges which they are wearing with pride. I know our Year 6 leaders are very much looking forward to their work getting underway and discussions about their plans for the future are in progress. Each group will be led and supported by a member of staff who will meet with them regularly to help them with their planning.

## Staffing Update

I am pleased to inform you that we have appointed a new SENCo who will be joining us two days per week from January 2023. Once her current school community have been informed that she will be moving on, I will be in a position to introduce her properly to you. Even though Mrs. Wickens will be officially finishing in the role of SENCo at the end of October, during Term 2 she will work closely with our new SENCo to ensure a smooth and successful handover. Mrs. Wickens will also be in regular contact with me about SEND matters during Term 2, in preparation for our new SENCo taking up her role in January.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming them to our staff team and I know they are looking forward to getting to know our school and supporting our continued development of SEND.





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## Attendance

This week it is the turn of Year 4 to receive our 'Attendance Aardvark' Award. A big 'well done' to Year 4 for having the highest rate of attendance this week!

Meanwhile, Reception and Year 1 are holding on to their lead in the punctuality stakes by jointly winning the 'On Time Elephant' award for punctuality. Well done to Reception and Year 1 again!

## Communication with the School Office

As you will have seen from the parent mail which was sent out earlier this week, we have now set up two new email addresses in order to help communication with the school office run more smoothly.

Our absence email address is [absence@st-josephs.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:absence@st-josephs.oxon.sch.uk). If you need to leave a message regarding your child's collection from school at the end of the day, the email address is [collection@st-josephs.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:collection@st-josephs.oxon.sch.uk). All other queries / communication can be sent to the school office email address in the usual way.

Having these two email addresses will help us to ensure the right messages get to the right person in a timely fashion. We hope that you find this helpful when communicating with school.

When emailing changes to do with collecting your child at the end of the day, it would be very helpful if you could email before 1 p.m. wherever possible. Of course we understand that at times arrangements have to be made at short notice, but the earlier we receive the message, the more helpful it is to our office staff. At times there can be a 'flurry' of emails and phone calls close to the end of the day which can make it difficult to ensure that all messages are delivered before the teachers take the children to the playground for collection.





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## Diary Dates

Diary dates for the first two weeks of term 2 are as follows:



Week commencing 31 <sup>st</sup> October	
31.10.22	INSET day – children not in school
01.11.22	<b>08.45 – 08.55 School re-opens for Term 2</b> Parish Mass for the feast of All Saints – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 attending in person; Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 attending online – parents welcome to join us in church.
02.11.22	Photographer in school taking photographs for new website – smartest uniforms please!
Week commencing 7 <sup>th</sup> November	
07.11.22	09.10 October birthdays celebrated in whole school assembly
08.11.22	Afternoon Open Event for school starters September 2023 Session 1: 13.00 Session 2: 14.15
10.11.22	17.30 Evening Open Event for school starters September 2023
11.11.22	Class led Remembrance assembly – more details to follow
13.11.22	Pupils joining <u>Thame</u> town Remembrance event – more details to follow



## Could you help with reading in school?

We are once again able to have volunteers in school and we would love to involve our parents in supporting our children with their reading. Training will be given to any parents interested in doing this. If you are considering helping out in this way, you will be allocated to a class **other than a class that your child / children are in.**

Please let the office know if you would like to help and we will be in touch to make arrangements.

**and finally ...**

I hope you have a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Yours sincerely,

**Ms. R. Gowers**  
**Headteacher**

