

St Joseph's NewsletterAutumn 1 October

It has been a busy start to the term. We have been so impressed with how the children have settled into their new classes.

Thank you for celebrating the beginning of term with us at Mass last week. We were pleased to see parishioners and parents joining us. All the children were prayerful especially the children in Noah class for whom this was their first Mass in school.

You will notice that our newsletter is a little different from previous versions. To keep our children safe we have been reviewing our use of photographs in response to concerns around the manipulation of children's images especially through AI. We still want to share the exciting and significant events that take place in school whilst protecting the children's privacy and safety. We will be mindful of not showing children's faces and use more pictures of behind the scenes activities that do not feature children directly. We have also decided we will not post directly on social media sites if children are featured in anyway.

We are asking for your help to keep our children safe by not using your mobile phones when on the school site. Our yr 6 pupils who walk home alone are allowed phones but these are switched off and kept in the office when in school. We therefore ask you to be role models for our children and avoid the use of mobiles when in school.

The routines and procedures guidance and the Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers and Visitors will be sent out in the near future. Please read this information as it gives a lot of information that will help you understand what is going on in school.

Diocesan Schools Mass

' Look at the gargoyles!' was the shout as we arrived at the Cathedral.

On Friday 25th September the children in Jonah class went to the Cathedral in Norwich to take part in the annual Diocesan Schools' Mass. It was a joy to join the other schools from across the diocese. The children were wonderful ambassadors for the school, they behaved impeccably and were prayerful and reverent throughout. They had a picnic lunch in the Cathedral gardens and met the Bishop as he came to speak to each school. A pupil from St Joseph's, Calvin, had the special task of helping to take up the offertory and walked all the way from the back of the Cathedral to the Bishop's chair on the high altar.

The children carrying our newly repaired banner, Thomas and Emma, walked in the procession at the beginning of Mass with many of the priests from the Diocese as well as the Bishop. We also had a singing practice with the Diocesan Director of music and the sound of the children singing was so beautiful with the acoustics of the building. Many of the children were fascinated by the stained glass windows and carvings and took time to look closely at them.

Formula 1 comes to St Joseph's

I'm sure you will have noticed the new addition to the playground play equipment. Mr Webb, our caretaker, was busy over the holidays building our very own St Joseph's car. It has been a popular addition to the play facilities and it has been lovely to see the children using it co-operatively and creatively. There has been lots of discussion about where they are going and the adventures they are having on their way. Thank you to Mr Webb for his hard work and the personalised number plates which really make it special.

Care for Creation

At this time of year in the church's liturgical calendar there is a particular emphasis on Creation and our role as stewards of God's word. In the RE curriculum the children have been learning about the story of creation from the Book of Genesis and Pope Francis's encyclical 'Laudate Si'. In school we are showing our care for creation by planting bulbs in the raised bed next to Moses Class.

Thanks to Mrs Cameron, who has worked hard over the summer to get the bed ready for the children to plant by removing all the weeds. Every child has planted a bulb so that in spring we should have a beautiful display of daffodils, tulips and crocuses.

We are also looking forward to welcoming you our Harvest festival on Friday 2nd October at 2.30pm in the school hall. Please come to the playground gate which we will open at 2.20pm. Our Harvest Festival is our celebration of the gift of food and an opportunity to give thanks for those who work in the farming industry and food production. Your donation of dried and tinned goods and toiletries help our child understand that we are fortunate to enjoy access to food and support those do not. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Friends of St Joseph's

The Friends of St Joseph's had a very successful year raising funds for the school and organising fun events for our school family to share. The funds went to subsidising school trips and visits for the children and we are grateful for the support you gave them.

They are already planning for this year and looking forward to your support.

On Friday 2nd October there will be a break time treat provided by the Friends. Children can purchase a snack (crisps, Quavers, Wotsits) for 20p. If you would like your child to take part please send them with 20p. If children do not bring in any money we will assume you do not want them to purchase a snack.

Diary Dates

23rd October PD day- children not in school

26th-30th October- Half term

13th Nov- Break the Rules for Children in Need (more info to follow)

17th & 19th Nov- Learning conversations after school

24th & 26th Nov- Learning conversations after school

14th Dec Noah, Moses & Elijah (yr 2 only) Nativity Dress rehearsal 2.30pm

15th Dec Noah, Moses & Elijah (yr 2 only) Nativity Performance 2.30pm

16th Dec Noah, Moses & Elijah (yr 2 only) Nativity Performance 2.30pm

18th Dec Elijah (yr 3 only), Abraham, Jonah and Samson Carol Service 2.30pm

21st Dec 2026- 4th January 2027 Christmas Holidays. Children return to school on Tuesday
5th January 2027

