ST JOSEPH'S
Catholic Primary School

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# Autumn 2 Newsletter to parents - November 2026

Welcome to Autumn 2, a very busy half term as we prepare for Advent and the "coming" of the birth of Jesus Christ.
In November we pray for and remember the deceased and our RE council will be laying a wreath on behalf of St Joseph's on Remembrance Sunday and leading a Liturgy on the 9th. We are selling poppies in school until the 11th.

Our 2 virtues we will focus on this half term are HOPE and PATIENCE

Weekly masses will continue every Thursday at 9:30am, The dates for this half term are:
Thursday 5th November - Year 1 to Year 6 / Thursday 12th November - Rowan and Yew
Thursday 19th November - KS1 and Woodlands / Thursday 26th November - Hawthorn and Oak
Thursday 3rd December - Pine and Birch / Thursday 10th December - Rowan and Yew
Thursday 17th December - Whole school mass.
Parents, if you are able to, please join us at 9:30am every Thursday or try and make it when it is your child's class turn. Reception classes will start going over to church in the new year.

Hawthorn class will have a Saint liturgy about St Vincent De Paul this half term, Mrs McCarter will be in touch about the date and time.

I hope you managed to speak to your child's teacher at Parents Evening. If you did miss an appointment please contact your child's teacher to re-book.

Attendance last term was 95% which is a great start. We still had 26 children take holidays during the first half term and we do have some children who fall into the category of Persistent Absence (PA) - if your child is currently PA, below 90% you will be receiving a letter. We do have to monitor these children as we are accountable for their welfare during school time. 29 children are on our PA register from last year and we hopefully can work with parents to improve their attendance and show progress. Mrs Wilson may also be inviting parents in to talk about how we can work together.

We have a Reception open evening on Tuesday 24th November 3:30pm - 4:30pm , if you are looking for a place for your child in September here is a chance to have a look around our great school. Please share this with anybody you know may be interested.

Lots of trips are planned this half term. Your class teacher will be informing you of the dates. Reception will be performing Christmas songs to their parents and KS1 - (years 1 and 2) will start rehearsing their nativity.
We have a Rock Steady concert booked in for 15th December, these are always great to watch.
Year 5 will be hitting the capital city on 14th December - going to look around Parliament, soaking up culture at the Art Gallery and going on the London Eye - very exciting!
Do keep checking Arbor or look out for letters for all the activities planned.

Our Christmas Fair will be Thursday 10th December at 3:30pm in school. We will be asking for donations and hope you will support as you always do.

After-School Clubs will continue this term - we have Karate and Forest school on Tuesday, Running club and Performance choir on Wednesday. On Thursday, Miss Kinglake will be doing a Pokemon club.

Children In Need merchandise is now being sold in school and is on Friday 13th November, we are having a dress down day. Mrs Wilson will send more details.

Thank-you for your donations for Harvest - the RE council will be taking them down to the Salvation Army this week. This term they want to help the Gianna Baby Bank Christmas Advent Appeal 2026. We will be in touch about how as a school we can support this great cause.

Important Dates :
School is **closed Friday 27th November and Monday 30th November - please don't forget!**
The Christmas Fair is Thursday 10th December, straight after school.
Christmas jumper and dinner day is on Wednesday 16th December,
School closes for Christmas on Friday 18th December and re-opens on Monday 4th January.

Please keep Parentpay up to date, having money topped up before they take their meals or attend breakfast Club and please pay trip monies before the deadlines.

As always, thank you for your support.

God Bless
Mr Arnold