Jesus: in our hearts, in our minds, in our living, in our learning.

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Headteacher: Mrs Laura Taylor

20th November 2026

Year 5 Class led a beautiful Liturgy focused on the Feast of Christ the King, which will be celebrated in the Church this Sunday.



Message from Mrs Taylor

Last week, pupils from Reception to Year 6 became scientists, engineers and inventors during a series of hands-on workshops led by **XL Wales**. The workshops brought STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) to life through practical challenges, from finding out what magnets can do to building a lighthouse with a flashing light.

- **Reception | Magic Magnets** – Our youngest learners explored which objects magnets attract and discovered what happens when two magnets are brought together.
- **Year 1 | Bear Home** – Pupils built homes for a family of bears and took on the challenge of making doors and windows that could open and close.
- **Year 2 | Castle Technology** – Budding engineers designed and built castles with working drawbridges and portcullises.
- **Year 3 | Lighthouse** – Pupils used simple electrical circuits to light up their model lighthouses and explored how to make the lights flash.
- **Year 4 | Push It, Pull It** – Pupils investigated how pushes and pulls make things move, exploring magnetism, friction, weight and air resistance along the way.
- **Year 5 | Frozen Balloons** – Pupils explored solids, liquids and gases using balloons and investigated how much gas is in a bottle of lemonade.
- **Year 6 | Windmill** – Pupils designed and built windmills with turning sails and explored how cogs and pulleys can help them carry out different tasks.

A huge thank you to our **Friends and Family Team** for funding the workshops, and to every parent and carer who supports our fundraising. Your generosity gave pupils across the school the chance to test their ideas and see what they could make work.

Thank you for supporting our **Universal Children's Day** celebrations today and helping us raise money for **CAFOD.** Across the school, pupils explored the difference between what children want and what they need, sorted children's rights into groups linked to health and happiness, and reflected on their own rights and responsibilities. Through our 'Sound of Silence' activity, pupils also thought about why it matters to speak up when they see or experience bullying.

Take care and God bless,
Mrs Taylor

Prayer of the Week

Friday 20th November was Universal Children's Day. In our Act of Worship this week, we thought about the rights that all children have and that there are children in the world who do not have these rights. Say the Our Father together, for all the children in the world:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Pupil Profile Virtues



Pupils in St Joseph's RC Primary School are growing to be . . .

. . . eloquent and truthful in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.

To be eloquent in the way in which we speak to each other and truthful in our words, actions, to the Gospel and to ourselves.

At home:
Decide now what you are going to do this week to be more ELOQUENT and more TRUTHFUL.
How will you be honest and truthful, following in Jesus's footsteps to live your life the way God wants you to?

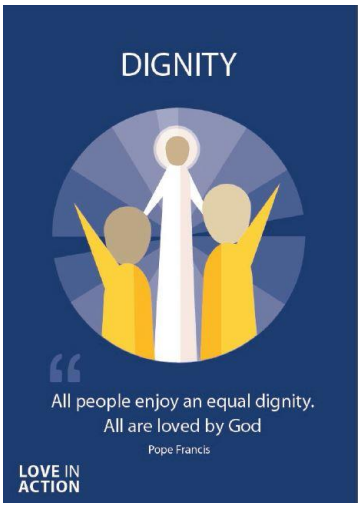
Attendance

This week's attendance figures for each class are:
Well done to Year 5 who achieved the highest attendance this week and to all families who arrived at school on time.

Class	Attendance	Late
Reception	89.47%	0.53%
Year 1	89.9%	0.48%
Year 2	84.19%	0.43%
Year 3	90.78%	0.00%
Year 4	90.33%	1.33%
Year 5	99.31%	0.00%
Year 6	94.82%	0.91%



Catholic Social Teaching – Human Dignity



This half term we are learning about the Catholic Social Teaching principle, **'Human Dignity'.**

In our liturgy, the scripture reading taught us that God created humans in His own image and likeness, which means that we are special and valuable to God. We thought about how treating someone with dignity means treating them with love, kindness and respect and that everyone should be treated with dignity because we are made in the image and likeness of God. This means we should care for each other, help those in need, and stand up for what is right, just like Jesus taught us.

You are made in the image and likeness of God. You are special, unique and important to God.

Amazon Christmas Wishlist - Thank you for your support!

Could you add St Joseph's to your Christmas list?

amazon

Starting your Christmas shopping this weekend in the Amazon Black Friday sale? If you'd like to add a little something for St Joseph's to your Christmas list, we'd be so grateful! We've put together an **Amazon Wish List** of resources that our pupils will use and enjoy in their classrooms.

To send a gift, simply scan the QR code, sign in to Amazon if prompted and choose an item. At checkout, select **"Laura Taylor, Penarth Vale of Glamorgan Gift Registry Address"** for delivery. If you'd like us to know who it's from, please add a gift note so we can thank you personally.

Taking part is entirely optional. Thank you for all the ways you already support our school and for the kindness you continue to show our school community.

Creative and Enterprising Christmas Challenge Business Sponsorship

Week beginning 7th December, all year groups will be taking part in a Creative and Enterprising Christmas Challenge. During the Challenge, the pupils will develop the characteristics of the Four Purposes of the Curriculum for Wales, most notably those of a Creative and Enterprising Contributor. They will generate ideas for an enterprise project, gain an understanding of a simple business structure and enterprise roles and responsibilities, think creatively to design an advert to sell their product, explore how to price their product and calculate their production and other costs and create a finished product, which is quality assured. The products will be advertised in a Christmas Catalogue which will be sent to all parents, staff and governors.

Parents and carers will be given the opportunity to purchase a product made by their child. In addition, we will be selling the products in a **Christmas Market on Monday 14th December from 3pm in the school hall.**

To help support our Enterprise Challenge, we are looking for eight businesses or families who would be willing to donate £20 to a class, to set their business up and begin to buy the materials they need to create their products. In exchange, the business can provide us with an advert or logo for their company or the family name will be shared in the Christmas Catalogue and on the class market stalls.

If you own, work for, or know a business who would be interested in supporting one of our classes in our Enterprise Challenge or would like to support as a family, please contact me at office@stjosephsrcadmin.com

St Joseph's School Parliament - Government Group Action Plans

Our School Parliament is an important focus and priority in St Joseph's and the work of Government Groups is essential for pupil voice, developing the four purposes and improving the school. For the academic year 2026 - 2027, all pupils from Years 3- 6 are a member of a Government Group. The groups have all written an action plan to work towards targets to improve the school (Cynefin), improve the local community (Community) and work towards the Global Goals (Citizenship). Here are 3 actions from each plan:

Government Group	Proposed Actions
IT and Digital Safety 	• Organise device charging and resolve routine charging issues, build a shared collection of free online games that support learning, and run a fundraising event to help buy new digital equipment. • Gather updates from across the school for teachers' regular Instagram posts and create posters and digital adverts to promote school campaigns and special days. • Create a shared bank of free online games that help pupils learn through play (Global Goal 4) and promote responsible energy use by encouraging pupils to care for laptops, switch them off when finished and report faulty chargers (Global Goal 7).
Curriculum and Diversity 	• Celebrate diverse books on World Book Day and run a whole-school competition to create resources that encourage reading for pleasure. • Arrange library and care home visits for pupils to read with younger children and older residents, continue visits to local refugee centres, and invite the school nurse or relevant organisations to lead workshops on visible and non-visible disabilities. • Mark World Ocean Day by exploring how to protect our oceans, and use Refugee Week and the Day of Welcome to explore why people seek refuge and how we can welcome them.
Criw Cymraeg - Welsh language and culture 	• Promote Welsh through dance, comic strips, *Seren a Sbarc* on Amazon Music, Welsh-language animation, speaking games and celebration days. • Run Welsh-language stalls at school fairs, invite families and local people to contribute to the annual Welsh magazine, and link to the school's Welsh YouTube channel in the magazine. • Plan inclusive activities that explore Wales's place in the world and celebrate Welsh and other cultural traditions, linking learning to the right to a name and nationality (UNCRC Article 7) and quality education for all (Global Goal 4).
Chaplaincy 	• To plan and lead a celebration day for the Year of St Francis, helping pupils to learn about his values. • To strengthen links between school and families by promoting opportunities for prayer and providing resources that encourage families to pray together. • To work alongside the Eco Government Group to support the school in achieving the Live Simply Award.
Health and Wellbeing 	• Health and Wellbeing previous group members will train all new members to become playground pals. Organise new playground equipment and games booklet for playtimes • Promote and participate in Children's Mental Health Week 1st – 7th February 2027. Plan and organise healthy and confident week (Summer 2027) • Promote healthy snacks for playtimes through digital persuasive posters. These can be sent to families and included in the newsletter.
Eco and the outdoors 	• Keep our Eco-Schools Platinum Award. Follow the Eco-Schools programme and work with our Eco Committee to choose what to improve, take action and check how we're doing. • Help wildlife close to home. Look for plants and animals in our school grounds and nearby places. Find out what makes it hard for them to survive, then help by planting local wildflowers or making homes for insects. • Help protect wildlife around the world. Find out what palm oil is used for and how it can be grown without clearing more rainforest. Share what we learn so our school community can make choices that help protect rainforest plants and animals.
Expressive Arts 	• Introduce Charanga and organise a pBuzz and percussion assembly, a Day of Dance linked to Catholic Social Teaching, a Holy Week 2027 art project, an art-inspired stop-motion filmmaking day and an Expressive Arts logo competition. • Arrange Singing Club performances at the St Richard Gwyn Advent Service, local care homes and St Augustine's Tree Festival, explore entry to the Penarth Christmas Poems competition, organise a pupil art exhibition or competition at the library or Tesco, create a mural with a local artist and share a film of pupils' work on the school website. • Hold an Expressive Arts week exploring world music through Charanga and how the arts bring communities together, with a pupil musical and a Musathon for an international charity.

Dates for the Diary



November

23rd – Dinas Powys Fairtrade Village Renewal Celebration in Dinas Powys Library from 4.45pm
24th – Years 5 and 6 Illustrator Visit – Matt Abbott
25th – Year 3 Road Safety Workshop (rearranged date)
26th – Reception Class Educational Visit to Techniquest
27th – Reception 2027 Applications Open
27th – Home Clothes Day – Teddy Donations for Christmas Fair
30TH – St Richard Gwyn Advent Service (Choir performing) 4.30pm

December

3rd – F&F Christmas Fair from 3pm - Home Clothes Day – Bottle Donation for Christmas Fair
5th – Choir singing at St Augustine's Tree Festival 11.15am
7th – Choir to sing at Dewi Sant
8th – Choir to sing at Parkside Care Home
9th – St Richard Gwyn Faith Friends Retreat

December

9th – Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production 2pm
10th – Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production 10am
11th – Nursery and Reception Christmas Celebration 10.00am
13th – Years 3 and 4 Advent Service, St Joseph's RC Church 2pm
14th – Creative and Enterprising Challenge – Christmas Market from 3pm
15th – Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
16th – Christingle Service
17th – irock concert for pupils and parents
18th – Last Day of Autumn Term

January

4th – INSET Day
5th – First Day back for pupils
8th – Year of St Francis Celebration Day

Pupil Profile Virtues –Faith filled and Hopeful!

Nursery	Barnaby Peskett	**Year 3**	Mia Watts
Reception	Jacob Murray	**Year 4**	Aleia Goodall
Year 1	Best Ajileye	**Year 5**	Erin Griffiths
Year 2	Roman Daly	**Year 6**	Eva Shrubsole



Weekly Good News Awards



Mrs Taylor's Good News stickers are for pupils who speak up for others, show kindness and help everyone feel safe, valued and included. (Antibullying week 2026)



Congratulations to this week's winners!

Nursery	Zara Sulley Elinor Williams Henry Jenkins Toula Gauci	**Year 3**	Daisy Bolt Afan McAuley Carter Bartlett Zack Sulley
Reception	Delilah Carroll Jaxon Gully Nancy Perkins Edie Dowott	**Year 4**	Charlie Moreton Cora Spear Dylan Walsh Finn Wilson
Year 1	Ana Choto Jorgie Jarvis Demi Daly Mia Dos Santos De Jesus	**Year 5**	Daisy Davey Ollie Jarvis Marcus Mathew-Riju Scarlet Chan
Year 2	Ellen Jones Alessio Bremner Jonah Quick John Harlow	**Year 6**	Esmai O'Grady Bethel Ajileye Marti Goma Camps Jaimes Emily Deacon

A Class Apart, Uniform Shop – Black Friday Sale





Friends AND Family
ST. JOSEPH'S R.C. PRIMARY

Christmas Raffle

Donations Needed!

We are kindly asking for donations of raffle prizes for our Christmas Raffle.





Raffle Draw on

3rd December

Please send any donations into school.

Thank you

for your continued support!