

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



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On Monday, Father Nick Williams celebrated Mass to launch our week focusing on the Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope.

Message from Mrs Taylor

To mark the launch of the Jubilee Year 2025, we have embraced the theme "Pilgrims of Hope" with a week of inspiring activities designed to deepen pupils' faith and commitment to building a better world. The week began with a special Mass celebrated by Fr Nick Williams, followed by class activities where pupils watched CAFOD's Jubilee 2025 film, created their own Jubilee logos and wrote their own prayers of hope. On Wednesday, the pupils participated in a reflective pilgrimage walk around the school grounds, engaging with stations designed by our Chaplaincy Government Group, and including moments of prayer, reflection, and hope. At the end of the day, the Chaplaincy Government Group led a beautiful Celebration of the Word, inspiring us to reflect on the Jubilee's message. Further details and photographs will be shared with you in next week's newsletter. My thanks to Mrs Lawrence and the Chaplaincy Government Group for their hard work in organising our special launch week.

Over the next few weeks, parents and other family members are invited to join their child for 'Come and Pray' in the classroom. The theme of the 'Come and Pray' will be 'Pilgrims of Hope'. You can find the dates for your child's class 'Come and Pray' in the Dates for the Diary below. We hope you are able to join us.

In Domain this week, Nursery and Reception recognised and sequenced the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears; Year 1 pupils identified different sounds; and Year 2 recognised the natural and physical features of our local area. In Year 3, the pupils drew a map of the school using symbols and a key; Year 4 pupils learnt about National Parks in Wales; Year 5 pupils identified rocks using their features; and Year 6 pupils researched the features of South America.

Thank you to all our parents and carers who took the time to complete our recent questionnaire about the Catholic life, mission, religious education, and collective worship at St Joseph's. We are delighted to share that the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 100% of respondents agreeing that our school is a supportive and joyful community where the mission statement—'Jesus: in my mind, in my heart, in my learning, in my living'—is reflected in your child's experience. Parents also highlighted the dedication of staff as positive role models, and the support provided for children's spiritual and moral development. Your thoughtful responses will help us to continue building on these strengths and identify opportunities to enhance our provision even further. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in nurturing our children's faith and education.

Take care and God Bless – Mrs Taylor

Prayer of the Week



As part of our Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope launch week, our Chaplaincy Government Group has written its own prayer of hope.

Say together:

Dear God,
Please help us during this Jubilee Year
to become pilgrims of hope.
Let Jesus' light shine throughout the world,
Be there for the countries who are facing war
Be there for the homeless and those who are poor, for those
who have no food or clean water,
May our hope help the animals on Earth.
Help those who are experiencing wildfires and feel hopeless.
Let the countries who are good role models help the countries
who need help.
May we help those around us,
Jesus keep us safe.
Guide us always.
Amen

Prayer of the Week – Pupil Profile Virtues



This half term we will be focusing on the virtues of 'Attentive and Discerning' as part of our ongoing work to develop the St Joseph's Pupil Profile.

Pupils in St Joseph's RC Primary School are growing to be:
attentive to their experience and to their vocation;
and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

To be **ATTENTIVE** means that we take the time to NOTICE the big and small things in our lives, each day. We NOTICE how others respond to what we do and say. We PAY ATTENTION and LISTEN to God and others when they are speaking to us.
To be **DISCERNING** means that we are able to choose better what is good for us and for others. It helps us to choose God's will for us. It helps us to become the person God has called us to be.

Attendance



This week's attendance figures for each class are:

Class	Attendance	Late
Reception	93.1	0.0%
Year 1	87.1	0.0%
Year 2	93.1	0.0%
Year 3	97.6	1.29%
Year 4	93.5	0.0%
Year 5	94.4	0.39%
Year 6	82.4	0.0%

Well done to Year 3 who achieved the highest attendance this week and to all families who arrived at school on time.



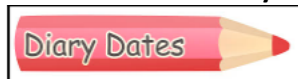
CAFOD World Gifts



Following the success of the Christmas market, each class had £30 to spend on **CAFOD World Gifts**, supporting others in need around the world. Each class voted on the World Gift they wished to purchase. Well done everyone for your wonderful choices and for showing **solidarity** to others in need!

Year group	World Gifts
Nursery	Emergency Water; Vegetable Garden Wonderful worms; Teach someone to read
Reception	Chirpy Chickens; Teach someone to read
Year 1	Chirpy Chickens; Wonderful worms
Year 2	Chirpy Chickens; Teach someone to read
Year 3	Chirpy Chickens; Teach someone to read
Year 4	Teach someone to read; Emergency Water; Trees for Life
Year 5	Teach someone to read; Tree for Life Vegetable Garden; Happy Queen Bee
Year 6	Winter Survival Kit

Dates for the Diary



January

- 29th – Reception and Year 6 to Mass
- 29th - Year 5 Vocal Singing Project
- 30th – Come and Pray – Reception class 3.20pm

February

- 3rd – Children's Mental Health Week
- 5th – Nursery – Year 2 Fluoride Varnish Application
- 5th – Chaplaincy Government Group to St Richard Gwyn – Launch of the Jubilee Year Mass
- 5th – Years 1 and 5 to Mass
- 5th – Year 6 PC Alex Cyber Safety
- 6th – Come and Pray – Years 1 and 2 3.20pm
- 10th – Reduce Food Waste Week!
- 11th – Safer Internet Day
- 12th – Rec – Year 2 HSBC Financial Education workshops
- 12th – Years 2, 3 and 4 to Mass
- 12th – Year 4 Educational Visit to Brecon Beacons
- 13th – Y3 – 6 HSBC Financial Education workshops
- 13th – Come and Pray Years 3 and 4 3.20pm
- 14th – Martha's Dancing Heart Charity Day
- 17th – Year 5 – Multi Sports Festival, St Cyres
- 18th – Year 6 to St Richard Gwyn to see 'The Wizard of Oz'
- 20th – Come and Pray – Years 5 and 6 3.20pm

24th – 28th – Half Term

March

- 5th – Ash Wednesday Liturgy 2.45pm
- 7th – School Eisteddfod: Nursery – Year 2 10am; Years 3 – 6 2pm (Pupils can wear Welsh costume/ Welsh sports shirts/ Red to school)
- 11th – Parent Teacher Consultations 4pm – 6pm
- 12th – Parent Teacher Consultations 4pm – 6pm
- 14th – World Book Day
- 19th – Feast of St Joseph Mass at 2.45pm
- 25th – 28th – Year 6 cycling
- 24th – 28th – Big Walk and Wheel

Summer Term

- 5th May – Bank Holiday
- 6th May – INSET day
- 21st May – May Procession and Picnic
- 10th June – Years 1 – 6 Sports Day
- 17th June – Nursery and Reception Sports Day
- 18th July – Final Day of school for pupils
- 21st July – INSET day

Please check the Dates for the Diary every week.

XL Workshops



Over the past two weeks, the pupils have taken part in XL Wales' STEM workshops. STEM stands for Science Technology Engineering Maths. Each class from Years Reception - 6 had a fantastic workshop and my thanks go to the Friends and Family Team and all our parents and carers who support our fundraising activities for funding this wonderful educational experience for our pupils.

The workshops were:

XL Wales Workshops	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
	Magic Magnets – Magnets are great fun! They seem to have magical powers – but do they? Let's find out!	Light fantastic! How do we see? Experiment with light beams, shape and size of shadows and reflections.	Castle Technology – Design and build a castle, add a working drawbridge and a portcullis.
Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Burglars beware – Design and make an alarm, with a light and a buzzer using series and parallel circuits.	Push it Pull it – Making things move using pushes and pulls. Explore magnetism, friction, weight and air resistance.	Rock Steady – Use a variety of rock samples to explore their origins, similarities and differences.	Windmill – Design and make a windmill with sails that turn. Use pulleys and cogs to carry out various tasks.

Here's what some of the pupils thought about them:

'We made windmills with gears. It was really hard to balance our windmill so it didn't fall over but it was great to solve the problem! It took 7 tries but we eventually decided to give it legs and it worked! We used wheels, gears and a handle to make the windmill blades spin. We were really proud of ourselves!' (Brooke, Year 6)

'I really enjoyed the challenge of making the windmill! We kept having to redesign and build it but it was great fun. We used gears and a handle to make it turn.' (Toby, Year 6)

'I loved our workshop looking at fossils and rocks. We learnt the names of different types of rocks and observed them through a microscope. My favourite was obsidian.' (Archie, Year 5)



'My favourite rock was the slate because you can use it for all sorts of things like gardens, buildings and for decorations.' (Layla, Year 5)

'I made a vehicle using Knex, magnets, string and paper. There were lots of challenges to solve to work out how to make our vehicle moved. It was so much fun!' (Charlotte, Year 4)



'I had so much fun! I liked making the house out of Knex. We had to think about the shape and how to make it stand up.' (Flossie, Year 2)

We made a castle with a door, flag and drawbridge, We used string to make the drawbridge open and closed. Some of us made a moat and a canon too! We made an electrical circuit to turn a light on and off inside our castle.' (Mila and Jonah, Year 2)



'Our workshop was about light and sound. We made shadow puppets of dinosaurs like pterodactyls and a stegosaurus. We created a light show and had a dinosaur disco! (Year 1).



Four Purposes of the Curriculum – Enterprising and Creative Contributors!

Nursery	Delilah Pugsley	Year 3	Ffion Parker
Reception	Sophia Burnett	Year 4	Ava Morgan
Year 1	Hallie Ayres	Year 5	Aoife Burge
Year 2	David Robin Abraham	Year 6	Ella Moreton



Weekly Good News Awards

Mrs Taylor's Good News Awards are for pupils who, inspired by the example of Jesus, help to create a world of justice, peace and love. They put their faith into action to build a better world for everyone. (Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope)

Congratulations to this week's winners!

Nursery	Irene Nithin Ella McNamara Jacob Murray Ada Best	Year 3	Caleb Cummings William Mackie Andrea Nithin Tomos Parker
Reception	Regan Ruckley Athreya Akarsh Ellen Jones Sonny Surringer	Year 4	Alys Holt Nia Holt Oliver Hooper Finley Todd
Year 1	Xavier Buinimasi Jasper Challis William Hoover Ben Hooper	Year 5	Elizabeth Yerokun Amelia Davies Jac Newton-Walker Manuel Jojan
Year 2	Edward Best Dylan Walsh Alayna Jubin Mila-Blu Lewis	Year 6	Jasmine Crocker Thomas Mortimer Bobby Perkins Zeta Chan



Does your child turn 3 between September 2025 and July 2026?

Are you looking for a Catholic education in an excellent school with fantastic outdoor grounds?

If so, your child will be eligible for a part-time place, 5 mornings a week, from their 3rd birthday.

Parents/ Carers can apply directly to the School, at their earliest convenience.

Application forms for our wonderful purpose-built nursery are available on our school website: stjosephsrc.com, or from our school office.

St Joseph's RC Primary School is a welcoming and loving community where children are happy and successful in their learning.



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Prospectus: <https://www.stjosephsrc.com/prospectus>