

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oxford

"Let us protect with love all that God has given us"
(Pope Francis 19.03.2013)



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6th October 2023



*'Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Earth, our Mother, who nourishes us and sustains us,
bringing forth fruits and vegetables of many kinds and flowers of many colours.'*

Canticle of Creation, St Francis of Assisi

Dear Families,

In October, we are exploring 'stewardship' in our social teaching – looking after God's creation. This week we started by relooking at the ***Laudato Si*** – a letter written to the world by Pope Francis on caring for our earth. We shared this video with the children in assembly on Monday (<https://cafod.org.uk/education/primary-teaching-resources/laudato-si-for-children>) and we talked about action we could take to work to help our *wonderful world* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYXBJmrSxZU>). We feel that it is important to be hopeful (it can feel so glum) and to focus on the action we can take individually and collectively. We will focus on this over October.

On Wednesday, it was the feast of St Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis issued his second letter on global warming which is called ***Laudato Deum***. For those who are interested, there is a summary on the CAFOD website and a link to the original letter. (Please click here: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/laudato-deum-explained>)

September has passed so quickly and been so very busy. We have had two residential trips, we hosted International Evening, held talks on restorative practice, phonics and class meetings! The Year 6 Boys football team had a successful match yesterday as well. The teachers are busy in the classroom and children have made a flying start to the year. Have a lovely weekend – the weather looks lovely and we look forward to a busy October!

Warm wishes

Jess Tweedie
Headteacher

Nut-Free School and Choking Guidance

Another reminder that we are a nut-free school. This includes the 'Nakd' brand fruit bars. Please check carefully before packing cereal-type bars in your child's lunchbox.

The Local Authority asks us to remind parents that depending on size, parents should halve or quarter cherry tomatoes, strawberries and grapes and raw carrots and cucumber must be cut into batons and not rounds.

International Evening

We celebrated a wonderful International Evening on Friday 22nd September, a welcome return for this very popular family social event. Thank you to all those who brought food to share, wore national dress and joined us to celebrate our globally diverse school population. Thank you to the PTA for organising the drink sales and to all the school staff who helped make the event such a success.



Car Parking in the vicinity of school

We know that parking in the vicinity of school can be difficult in the mornings, but please could parents/carers be considerate of our neighbours. We have been sent pictures of a car (including registration number) completing blocking a driveway, the homeowner was unable to gain wheelchair access to their vehicle as a result.

Year 4 Residential to Youlbury



Youlbury, September 2023



'Youlbury was so much fun! You got to do so many activities - some took your breath away. We did incline climbing, crate stacking, team building, archery and we had a camp fire in the dark! We cheered each other on when we had a challenge and everyone did really well. We liked the food which was really good and you could eat as much as you liked. The dormitories had bunk beds which were very comfy and we had our own bathrooms too.'

Year 4 pupils



Some of us didn't go to Youlbury so we did fun stuff at school like making PowerPoints about the River Thames to use in our Geography lessons and learnt about Pointillist painting in Art.

Winning Return to Year 6 Boys Manor Cup

In March 2020, our all-conquering Year 6 boys were hot favourites to win the Manor Cup, but COVID kicked in and the game was called off.

Yesterday, we played our first match in the competition for over 3 ½ years at St Michael's School. The boys were good company and very mature walking down the hill; they then played in a positive supportive way (despite some embarrassing goal celebrations!) After an early injury, our fitness and perseverance prevailed in extra-time, with 2 very late goals deciding the match 3-1 in our favour. Thanks very much to the very important off-field support of Mrs Lalvani, Mr Rustom and Mrs Sweeney for walking down with us, providing fruit and washing the kit.

Mr J. Ingram

Flu Vaccinations

Your child's annual flu vaccination is due 20th October 2023

The annual school aged Flu vaccination programme is, this year, being offered to all children in Reception – Year 6. Flu can be a very unpleasant illness for children and sometimes causes serious complications. Children can catch and spread flu easily so vaccinating them also protects others who are vulnerable e.g babies and older people. This is particularly important as COVID-19 is still circulating and people at risk of flu are also vulnerable to the complications of COVID-19.

For most children, the vaccination is painless and given by a quick and simple spray up the nose. In some circumstances it is necessary to administer the vaccine by intramuscular injection, but this is always discussed with parents/carers beforehand. You may also choose for the vaccination to be administered by intramuscular injection if you object to the nasal vaccination on the grounds of its contents (eg Porcine Gelatine) or if the vaccine is otherwise unsuitable. The intramuscular injection, if required, will also be delivered in school on the date above.

How do I provide Consent for my child to receive the vaccine?

It is important that you first read the information in the [Flu Leaflet Child flu vaccine - NHS](#) which includes details about the programme and the small number of children who may not be able to have the nasal spray. Due to the 'checking process' required please follow the steps below at least one full school day before the session to ensure your child can be vaccinated at school. Community clinics will be available across the county if your child has not been vaccinated in the school session.

1. **Click** the link <https://www.oxfordhealthimms.co.uk/Forms/Flu>
2. **Enter** the Unique School Code **OX123216**
3. **Complete** the form (one per child). Please complete even if you are REFUSING the vaccination*.

Information regarding the Flu Vaccination and Asthma and what to do if you change your mind is available below. Further information is also available at www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imms/ including information about all our vaccination programmes.

If you need to contact us, please email immunisationteam@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk. If you require help to complete the Consent Form please call the Immunisation Team on 07920 254 400 and we will be happy to help you.

School Nursing Team

School Photographs – Thursday 12th October

Tempest will be coming into school on Thursday 12th October to take individual photographs of the children. Photos of sibling groups will also be taken during the school day. Should you wish to bring a pre-school age sibling into school (child not yet of school age) to have their photo taken with St Joseph's pupils, you **must** sign up in advance using the link provided. These photos will be taken between 08:20 and 08:50am and a limited number of slots are available.

'Using a Restorative Approach – what this means in practice at St Joseph's'

Thank you to all the parents who attended the talk on our school relationships and behaviour policy and restorative practice. We will share the PowerPoint with families and we will host another event. The policy can be found on the school website.

<div>LOW</div> <div>(Challenge, Boundaries, Structure)</div>	Doing To We endeavour to set <u>clear</u> boundaries for acceptable and unacceptable behaviours across the school (inside and outside). These are set out in policy, procedures and the law. These: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep everyone safe • Ensure everyone can focus and learn (<i>'You cannot be in class because you are disturbing the learning. When you are ready to learn, you can come back inside.'</i>) Where these are broken, there are given consequences which may be punitive/legal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time out to self-regulate e.g. off the playground, learning break, completing unfinished work etc. • Suspension • Permanent Exclusion 	Doing With (restorative) This involves listening to (not excusing), removing blame, building trust and resolving root causes of conflict: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happened? • How do you feel? What were you thinking? • Who was harmed? • How can we fix it? This is not just about saying sorry (that may be part of it) – it is about co-constructing a resolution that everyone is happy with and ensure behaviours do not re-occur. The 'fix it' may be just the conversation or may include an action. <u>This is not lip service.</u>
	Not doing Ignoring behaviour – walking by and not giving boundaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sort it out yourself • No guidance This leads to an escalation in behaviours. (Ignoring behaviours can have a place in very specific, agreed instances, but never where someone could be harmed).	Doing For We may find that we need to model behaviour, responses and actions. This is especially true with younger pupils, pupils who are new to the English education system or some pupils with SEND. This may involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modelling feelings or thoughts <i>'I think what xxx is saying is' 'It looks like you may be feeling ...'</i> • Explaining/teaching ripples of harm - who has been harmed/affected as a result of actions • Suggesting an action to model how to resolve an issue.
	<div>LOW</div> <div>(Nurture, Support, Encouragement)</div> <div>HIGH</div>	

First Holy Communion and Confirmation

On the 2nd October, we emailed families with children in Year 3 and/or Year 6 with leaflets about preparation for the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation. Enrolment on a preparation programme is through your parish and there may be deadlines for signing up. Please see the leaflet you were sent for more information.

St Anthony of Padua

Catholic children, aged 7 years and over, who wish to make their First Communion in St. Anthony of Padua Church in June 2024, require to register for preparation classes by Sunday 29th October 2023. Registration Forms can be downloaded from <http://www.stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/> Scroll to the bottom of the page to Downloads and open/save First Holy Communion Form

Footsteps Child Pedestrian Safety – Be Bright Be Seen

As Autumn progresses, the mornings and evenings are getting darker, meaning children walking to and from school need to be even more aware of the potential dangers for pedestrians and the importance of wearing bright clothing, making it easier for other road users to see them. Oxfordshire County Council have a child pedestrian Road Safety scheme called **Footsteps**, aimed at parents and carers.

The **Footsteps** programme is simple for parents to use as it can be carried out in normal everyday situations such as walking to school or to the local shops. Rather than *telling* children what to do, parents are encouraged to *ask* lots of open questions to make the children think about the decisions they are making. Making these decisions safely while in the company of a supporting adult will mean they will be better prepared for dealing with roads and traffic once they begin going out on their own. We have attached the **Footsteps** programme separately, it will also be available on our school website.



Practical Help and Signposting

Sadly, things at the moment are difficult for many of our families. Bills all seem to be rising, and everything is getting more expensive. We want to make sure that all our families have support in place if it is needed. Even if your child is not eligible for Free School Meals, we may be able to help with uniform from our vast stock of good-quality second-hand items, we are able to refer to local Food Banks and signpost families to other sources of help, advice and support.

If you are struggling, please contact our home/school link worker, Mrs Kate Stratford. Her contact details are below. Mrs Stratford will be happy to talk to you in confidence to see what support we can offer.

If you need help towards paying for school trips, please contact the office to arrange a confidential conversation with Ms Tweedie.

Mrs Kate Stratford

Home/School Link Worker and Deputy DSL

Tel: 01865 763357

Mobile: 07500 802732

Email: kstr3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk

Secondary School Applications Parents/Carers of Year 6 pupils

The deadline for applying to secondary school is approaching, although you still have plenty of time if you have not completed your application yet. The application needs to be received by the County Council by midnight on **Tuesday 31st October**. Several of the secondary schools have been holding open events, hopefully you made it along for one or more of these. If you missed them, check the individual secondary school's website for information about any more that may be running, or speak to the secondary school to ask about a visit.

If you haven't yet done your child's application, we strongly recommend you start thinking about it. Please don't leave it too late.

You have an option to apply for up to 4 schools. We would urge you to enter 4 schools on your application. Applying for more schools will not reduce your chances of getting a place at your preferred school. Our home/school link worker, Kate Stratford, is available to help and support parents with their applications if you would find this useful.

Dairy Dates

Date	Year Group/Class	Event
Monday 9 th October	Year 2	Oxford Castle trip
Monday 9 th October 7pm	All year groups	PTA Meeting via Microsoft teams or in person at school – link sent out via parentpay
Thursday 12 th October	All year groups	Individual school photographs taken by Tempest
Friday 20 th October	All year groups	Flu vaccinations
Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th October	All year groups	Half Term break
Monday 30 th October	All year groups	INSET (no pupils in school)
Tuesday 31 st October	All year groups	INSET (no pupils in school)
Monday 6 th November	6H	Junior Citizens
Tuesday 7 th November	6T	Junior Citizens
Tuesday 7 th November	All year groups	Parents/Carers Consultation Meetings with teachers
Thursday 9 th November	All year groups	Parents/Carers Consultation Meetings with teachers
Thursday 7 th December	All year groups	Advent Service
Friday 8 th December	Year 4-6	Advent Penitential Service
Friday 15 th December	All year groups	End-of-term Mass
Wednesday 20 th December	All year groups	School finishes at 1:30pm

Flyers and Information



**OXFORD UNITED
IN THE COMMUNITY**

Girls Only Football Camp October Half Term 2023



GIRLS ONLY 4-13 YEARS OLD
£99 FOR 5 DAYS
£30 PER DAY
9AM - 3PM

23rd - 27th October 2023

Venue: The Oxford Academy (indoor sports hall / dome)
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Book Now: <https://ouitc.org/course/holiday-courses/>







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IF Oxford returns as a social way for adults, teenagers, families and friends to create connections with science and ideas.

Look into ideas

Get the magazine, meet and question experts, have fun and experiment this autumn:

6-29 October 2023
if-oxford.com
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Over 100 events across Oxford and beyond



A taste of the Festival...

Arts and performance
Jericho Comedy at The North Wall (6 Oct),
Sonic Spider at Bonn Square (7 Oct),
Answer Machine Tape in St. John's (18 Oct),
Plastic Drastic Fantastic at Pegasus (21 Oct),
Star Soup at The North Wall (24 Oct),
Warning Notes (27-28 Oct) and
Feedback Loops at Oxford Playhouse (28 Oct)

Interactive Festival zones
Packed with hands-on activities for families, teenagers and adults on weekends, evenings and during half term:
Explorazone (7 Oct)
Science Wonder evening (10 Oct)
Tech Works (14 Oct)
Science @ the Shops (21-22 Oct)
BLAST! (23 Oct) Robots (29 Oct)

Talks and conversations
Can you reclaim your life from tech? (14 Oct)
Art and science of communicating care (16 Oct)
A lullaby of African Caribbean folklore and chant (28 Oct)

Join discussions on
psychosis (9 Oct)
pain & pleasure.. (10 Oct)
Pokémaths (11 Oct)
AI in healthcare friendships (17 Oct)
vaccines (19 Oct)
dark matter (27 Oct) and irrational brains (27 Oct)

Why not start a new hobby?
Learn coding with Glow Your Own and share postcards from home throughout the Festival

Discover histories of
railways (7 Oct)
geology (20, 22 & 29 Oct)
science (21 & 28 Oct)

Try out experimental
drawing (11 & 28 Oct)
languages (11 & 18 Oct)
or robotics (29 Oct)

FREE events & features magazine: www.if-oxford.com

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YOU MOVE

Low cost and free activities for families to enjoy together!

You Move is brand new for Oxfordshire, providing low cost and free fun activities for families including weekends and school holidays

It's quick and easy to sign up for You Move:

- 1) visit www.getoxfordshireactive.org/you-move to register or call your local activator for more information (info below)
- 2) we'll send you a You Move welcome pack and membership cards
- 3) your local Activators will be on hand to provide lots of support and advice

Enjoy a fantastic range of activities including swimming, badminton, activity packs, children's holiday activities and so much more!

Oxford City Activators
Ben - 07483 010720
Gerti - 07485 311346

You Move is here to offer free and low cost activities for children on benefit related free school meals and their families

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MON 23RD - FRI 27TH OCT

EXTENDED HOURS

AGES 5 - 13

**30+ Sports
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*Discount code expires 30.09.2023



October Holiday Clubs St Nicholas' Primary School, Oxford

These clubs are open to children aged 3-11

Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October

Activities include dodgeball, dance, drama, yoga, multi skills, ball games, art and crafts, team and confidence building activities and much more.



Cost: £35 per day
All childcare vouchers accepted

Timings: 8am-5pm

To find out more or to book visit
www.rattleandrollperformance.com
or call 07722 014301



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SCAN ME

St Mary and St John Primary School
East Oxford
October Half Term