

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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23rd February 2024



Dear Families,

Over Lent, our Catholic Social teaching focus is on *the preferential treatment of the poor and the vulnerable* in our communities and across the world. Here is a video which explains what that means from a Catholic perspective <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKT5iLOU4ek>

On Thursday, our pupils watched the CAFOD's Lent Assembly. The children heard about a child called Aaron in Liberia, about the work CAFOD has done alongside the fishing community there, and how we can make a difference to our global neighbours through our giving this Lent.

CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, an international development charity and the office aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. CAFOD stands beside people living in poverty – whatever their religion or culture. By working with local people and listening to their stories, CAFOD demonstrates the Catholic Social Teaching theme of subsidiarity – empowering local communities and making sure that everyone has a say.

Friday 23rd February was CAFOD's Family Fast Day. Your child will have brought home an envelope in which you can make a small donation to CAFOD's work around the world. Please return any donations to the school office or to your child's class teacher by Friday 1st March.

We will also be supporting Father Hudson's Care (<https://www.fatherhudsons.org.uk/>) this Lent. This is a diocesan charity who work with some of the most vulnerable in our community.

Warm wishes

Jess Tweedie
Headteacher



School Discos

Whilst we do not yet have a figure for the amount raised, we know that the discos were a roaring success! They were thoroughly enjoyed by the children, and some of the adults showed off some impressive dancing skills too! A huge thank you to Mr Cavendish who reprised his role as DJ for the evening. Mr Cavendish has been providing the lights and music for school discos for 10 years and we are so grateful to him! Thank you to the PTA organising committee, school staff, and all the parent helpers who made the event possible!

PTA Committee

Hockey visit

On Tuesday 6th February Years 3-6 had an exciting sporting opportunity with Oxford Hockey Club who delivered a hockey taster day at school. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the specialist coaching, most coming away very enthusiastic about the sport. Stay tuned for more details about an after-school hockey club coming soon!

Mrs D Montes



Art in Year 3 – Printing Unit

In 3M, children have amazed us with their exploration of art within the printing unit following our new CUSP programme for Art. Throughout the lessons, they delved into a variety of marks achievable through printing techniques. They crafted their own printing blocks, showcasing their creativity. Our young artists have demonstrated their skills by successfully printing on a variety of surfaces. The photos of their prints from our sessions stand as a testament to their exceptional work. Their accomplishments in this unit highlight both their talent and dedication to the artistic process. Overall, the children have performed admirably, producing a collection of impressive prints. Well done!

Mrs D Montes



Reception Trips to Museum – 6th and 8th February 2024



We had a roaringly-good time at the Natural History Museum to round off our topic on 'Dinosaurs'!
Mrs Oates

Assistant and Deputy Head Appointments

We are delighted to announce our new leadership team for September 2024. Mrs Hanlon has been appointed Deputy Head and Mr Dillon is our new Assistant Head. Mr Dillon will be in post from this April (this is a teaching role and he will remain class teacher of 3D) and Mrs Hanlon will take up her new post in September 2024. Congratulations to both of them!

Road sign competition

Congratulations to our Year 2 poster competition winner. We are delighted with our new sign and will be displaying this outside on the road. We are just waiting for the stand to arrive!



IMPs

On Monday and Tuesday this week Year 6 visited the John Radcliffe Hospital to take part in the I.M.P.S programme. IMPS stands for Injury Minimisation Programme for Schools. Accidents are the most common cause of death in young people, many of these accidents and injuries are preventable. The aim of IMPS is to reduce accidents and the impact by giving children basic first aid skills. The children learn basic resuscitation, what to do if someone is choking or unconscious and how to prevent accidents happening in the first place.

Sporting Success! Football Open 7 Finals

Congratulations to the girls' football squad for qualifying for the Open 7 finals event. This will take place at Oxford City on Monday 25th March. We wish them all the best!

Mrs D Montes

Year 1 Science Oxford – 8th February 2024

The children had a fantastic time at Science Oxford. They were able to create their own experiments, test their own designs and make their own discoveries. They all really engaged while watching the interactive show and were able to contribute their own ideas whilst conducting collaborative experiments and sharing their observations. Thank you to all of the parent volunteers who helped on the trip, it was a great day out and fun was had by all!



Parent Meetings

Thank you to all parents who met with their class teachers over the last week. Thank you for all the positive comments. This gives parents the opportunity to look at books and hear about the progress their child has made as well as learn about the next steps.

Year 2 Story Museum Workshops

Year 2 had a spell-binding story-telling session with an outreach worker from the Story Museum entitled 'Dreamers'.



Health and Safety at St Joseph's

It was suggested by Governors at the Health & Safety committee that we share a bit about the work they monitor.

Internet Safety at St Joseph's

Following Internet Safety Week, we sent parents a variety of advice and information about how to keep your child safe online. It is important that families and the school work in partnership to safeguard children from the potential dangers they face online. In school we have a sophisticated filtering system called Securly, this was upgraded in October 2023. It produces regular reports and alerts which are sent automatically to senior staff. This means that should a pupil try to access or search for something inappropriate, this can be followed up immediately. We encourage families to look at their home security settings and check age-appropriate guidance for apps, websites, and games.

Healthy Eating and your child's teeth

Keeping your children's teeth healthy will help them maintain clean and healthy teeth and gums and develop good oral hygiene habits they will need throughout the rest of their lives. Remember the most important thing is brushing at least twice a day with fluoride toothpaste.

A healthy and balanced diet is also important for every aspect of children's health, including the health of their teeth. The following NHS advice gives ideas for tooth-friendly snacks and drinks:

Healthy snacks

Try to limit your child's intake of sugary food/drink. The more often they have these foods the more likely they are to develop dental decay.

Tooth-friendly snacks

- Raw vegetables, you could even add a dip
- Fresh fruit i.e. a banana
- Tinned fruit (in natural juice) with plain natural yoghurt
- Pieces of cheese
- Crackers/breadsticks
- Bread products with low-fat spreads i.e. toast, pitta bread, crumpets
- Plain popcorn
- Sandwiches – fillings could include: cheddar and celery, cream cheese and cucumber, tuna and sweetcorn, ham or chicken, houmous and grated carrots

Drinks

Remember the safest drinks for teeth are plain milk or plain water.

For more information on how to cut down on sugary food and drink click on the Change For Life [sugar smart website](#).

Healthwatch Oxfordshire wants to hear from parents and carers of children with special educational needs or a disability (SEND) in Oxfordshire about what it is like supporting their child to look after their teeth and gums. The county's independent health and care watchdog would like to know what is helpful, what is challenging and what would support parents and carers. They would like to hear from them even if their child has not had a formal SEND diagnosis. They are asking about all aspects of oral health, including information, learning and support to prevent problems with teeth and gums, as well as treatment by dentists and specialists like orthodontists. Please ask families to share their experiences by completing this survey - <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/OralHealthandSEND/>

This survey is anonymous – you do not have to say who you are and Healthwatch Oxfordshire will not identify participants. It should take about ten minutes to complete the survey, which will close for comments on 29 February.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire will use what it hears to write a report, which will be shared with people who make decisions about health and social care in Oxfordshire. If you would like a copy of the survey in another format or language, or would prefer to speak to someone about this, you can contact Healthwatch Oxfordshire on 01865 520520 or at hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk To find out more about Healthwatch Oxfordshire see www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk

Home School Link Worker Role in our School

Many of you will know Kate Stratford who our home school link worker and has worked with families in a range of ways – including running our Family Links course for parents, helping families with filling out forms, and accessing services amongst other things. Her role has grown and so we have appointed Alexandra Kozlova, who will be supporting her in this role.

Headteacher presentation on our school and curriculum

Over the two days of parent meetings, Ms Tweedie held two talks on the school and the broad curriculum we offer at St Joseph's. Thank you to those parents who attended. This talk will be offered again, online, for interested parents. Information and sign-up will be sent out separately.

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

Dairy Dates

Date	Year Group/Class	Event
Monday 26 th February	Year 4	Ashmolean Museum trip
Tuesday 5 th March	Year 3	Corinium Museum, Cirencester
Tuesday 12 th March	Year 4	Play performance
Wednesday 13 th March	Year 4	Play performance
Tuesday 19 th March	Year 3	Poetry performance
Wednesday 27 th March	All year groups	School finishes for Easter break at 3:10pm (ASC running as usual)
Thursday 28 th March	All year groups	INSET day – school closed to pupils
Friday 29 th March – Friday 12 th April	All year groups	Easter Holidays – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 16 th – Friday 19 th April	Year 5	Woodlands residential
Monday 10 th -Tuesday 11 th June	Year 3	Camping residential
Tuesday 30 th April	Year 3	Story Museum visit
Monday 6 th May	All year groups	May Bank Holiday – school closed to pupils
Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May	All year groups	May half term break – school closed to pupils
Monday 3 rd June	All year groups	INSET day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 4 th June	Year 6	Story Museum visit
Wednesday 24 th July	All year groups	Last day of summer term

Flyers and Information



The **Library**

Old Marston

Children's book club

Love books, love to have fun? If you're 8-12 years old, join other young book fans to read stories and make friends.

Come and join in:

First Mon of month 4.15-5.15pm

Old Marston Library, Oxford Road, OX3 0PH

oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

A photograph of Robin Stevens, a woman with blonde hair, holding a magnifying glass over her eye. She is wearing a blue top. The background is a bright yellow and pink wavy pattern.

Robin Stevens Children's Author Talk

**SATURDAY 9TH
MARCH 2024
2:30PM**

OXFORD WESTGATE LIBRARY

Join us for a 'World Book Day' week event with Robin Stevens, author of the best-selling 'Murder Most Unladylike series'. Books will be available to buy on the day which Robin will be happy to sign post-event!

A QR code with a circular logo in the center, likely linking to the event page.

**BOOK A TICKET ON
EVENTBRITE HERE!
(NOT ESSENTIAL)**

A logo for Repair Café featuring various tools like a wrench, hammer, and scissors.

REPAIR CAFÉ

OXFORDSHIRE

Saturday 24th February '24
14.00 - 17.00
St Nicholas Church Hall
Elsfield Road
MARSTON
Oxford OX3 0PR

A logo for Marston Community Gardening featuring a green tree.

**Marston
Community
Gardening**

Do you have broken items in need of repair? e.g. electrical, electronic, mechanical repairs, sewing/darning. A team of volunteers will help & show you how to fix them & save them from ending up in landfill. **FREE.** Donations welcome. Tea & cake too!

**Book your time:
use QR code - >**

A QR code for booking a repair session.

or
Email:
repairmarston@gmail.com





KIDS Holiday CLUB

For children aged 5 (Year 1) - 13

DATES:
2nd - 5th April 2024
8th - 11th April 2024
8:40am - 4:15pm

📍

Church Cowley St James
C of E Primary School,
Bartholomew Road,
Cowley, OX4 3QH



Time	Group 1 (5-7)	Group 2 (8-10)	Group 3 (10-12)	COACHING ACADEMY
8:40am - 9:15am	REGISTRATION AND GROUP GAMES			
9:15am - 10:00am	TAG GAMES	BASKETBALL	HANDBALL	ICE BREAKING GAMES
10:00am - 10:40am	DRAMA	QUAD BALL	TENNIS	CREATING A GAME
10:40am - 11:15am	MORNING BREAK			
11:15am - 12:15pm	LASER TAG	VOLLEYBALL	DANCE	LEADING ACTIVITIES
12:15pm - 1:15pm	LUNCH BREAK			
1:15pm - 2:00pm	DODGEBALL	DRAMA	ROUNDERS	LEADING ACTIVITIES
2:00pm - 2:45pm	FOOTBALL	ARCHERY	FENCING	RAFT CHALLENGE
2:45pm - 3:00pm	AFTERNOON BREAK			
3:00pm - 3:45pm	DANCE	FOOTBALL	PAC-MAN	CHOOSE YOUR GAME
3:45pm - 4:15pm	SIGNING OUT AND GROUP GAMES			

- ✓ CHILD CARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED
- ✓ HAF PROVIDER
- ✓ PLACES FOR FSM CHILDREN

OUR TIMETABLE WILL BE AMENDED TO SUIT THE CHILDREN ON EACH CAMP



HAF BOOKINGS

Eligible for Benefitted
Free School Meals?



How to Book:





07305191086
haf@clubszone.co.uk
www.clubszone.co.uk/hafbookings

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

We can accept multiple tax-free
childcare vouchers!



Contact us:
vouchers@clubszone.co.uk
Ofsted
Registered

PAYING PLACES

£28 per day



Book and Pay Online:
www.clubszone.co.uk/bookclubs



COACHING ACADEMY

11-16 HAF Scheme
Continue your Clubszone journey...



How to Book:





07305270565
katie@clubszone.co.uk
www.clubszone.co.uk/clubszoneacademy



Xenia Aidonopoulou presents

Skydiver

Saturday 9 March 11am & 2pm

Take your little ones on a magical journey with **Skydiver** and experience how movement, sound and stunning visuals bring whimsical characters to life in an enchanting encounter in the skies.

This multi-sensory dance experience for families invites audiences to soar through the fluffy clouds where flocks of birds and butterflies flutter.

Includes free drop-in stay & play and family dance workshops

For ages 3-6

Tickets £10 (£8 children)
Under 2s go free

Book tickets: 01865 819450 | thenorthwall.com





GET WILD FOR A WHILE THIS SUMMER HOLIDAY!

Exceptional activity camps for children aged 7 to 14 at

HILL END OUTDOOR SCHOOL IN FARMOOR

Monday - Friday
8 am to 6 pm this summer.

ULTIMATEACTIVITY.CO.UK
Headington School Activity ...

PAY BY CHILD CARE VOUCHERS

EARLY BOOKING OFFER NOW ON!

FLEXIBLE BOOKINGS



INSPIRING CHILDREN EVERYDAY

