



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter
November 2025

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we come to the end of a very positive November, I wanted to share some excellent news from across the school. This month we met with the RISE team from the Department for Education, who spent time reviewing our progress across the school and our school improvement plans. They were extremely impressed with the direction the school is moving in, particularly our thoughtful future planning and the precision with which we continue to develop our provision. Both the DfE RISE team and leaders from CAST shared how pleased they are with the progress we are making and the strong sense of purpose across our school community. So a huge well done and thank you to everyone.

This month also included Anti-Bullying Week, which gave us an important opportunity to reflect on how we treat one another. Children have been learning about supporting each other, staying positive when things go wrong, and recognising the size of a problem so their reaction matches the situation. These are skills they will continue to practise throughout the year, and we are proud of the thoughtful conversations taking place in classrooms.

Looking ahead, we have a very busy December filled with learning, celebrations, and the special events that make this time of year so joyful in primary school. We look forward to sharing these moments with you and your children.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best Wishes and God Bless Sarah Deane and all the St. Joseph's team

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL

All Saints' Mass

We were delighted to celebrate All Saints' Mass in the school hall this month, led by Deacon Tim, Deborah, and Father George. Our school chaplains played an important role throughout the liturgy, supporting through thoughtful readings, a reflective drama, and by leading the community in prayer. It was a truly beautiful celebration, and—as always—our children showed reverent, respectful behaviour that made us all very proud.

THE BRITISH VALUES OF OUR SCHOOL





This month, our focus on British Values has linked closely with several key events in school. During Anti-Bullying Week, children explored the importance of mutual respect, individual liberty, and understanding how our actions affect others. Our Road Safety activities reinforced the value of keeping ourselves and our community safe, encouraging responsible decision-making. We also came together for Children in Need, demonstrating compassion and a strong sense of community by helping others through charitable giving. These moments have provided meaningful opportunities for our pupils to live out British Values in real and practical ways.



STARS OF THE WEEK





VALUE GUARDIANS

Noah R Brianna Bentley		Bentley Noah R Brianna
Isaac H-M Jack Ashleigh		Ellie Lily-Mai Alfie Isaac H-M

STARS OF THE WEEK



VALUE GUARDIANS

Harry Noah Matilda D Oliver J Lilia	 	Amelia Wilbur Theo Layla Oliver K Kensi Phoebe
Maisie Kyleigh Nicolas Frankie		India Andrii Evie



CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



☀ November in St Francis ☀

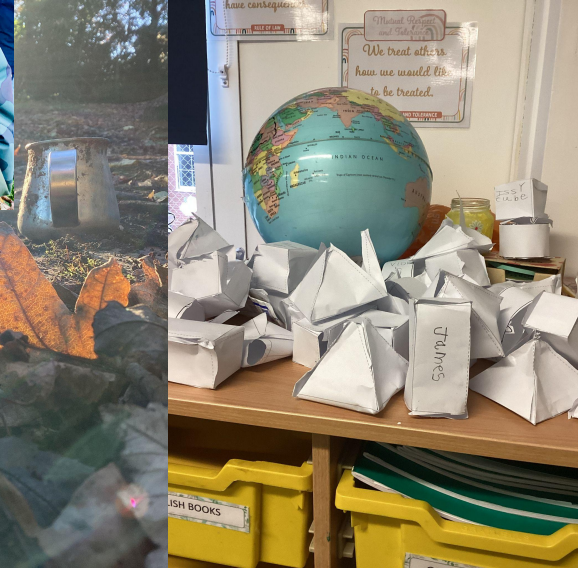
This month, our learning has been centred around the classic tale of *The Gingerbread Man*. The children have thoroughly enjoyed creating their own gingerbread characters using playdough, letting their imaginations run wild! We also rolled up our sleeves for some real baking. The children followed the biscuit recipe with confidence and enthusiasm — it's clear that many of them have been practising their baking skills at home.

In RE, we have been exploring the journey to Bethlehem. The children have shown wonderful curiosity, engaging in thoughtful discussions and asking insightful questions about Mary and Joseph's travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

We now have some Readers in St Francis, we are so proud of you all!

In this month's exciting learning journey, our students have been diving into the world of 3D shapes! Not only are they exploring different types of 3D shapes, but they're also getting hands-on by creating their own. From cubes to square-based pyramids, the children have been experimenting with building their own models to bring these shapes to life. In addition, we've been exploring the fascinating world of photography! The children are learning how to take creative photos of their shapes and use simple editing tools to enhance their images. To tie it all together, we've been taking a trip through history, discovering toys from the past and how they've evolved over time. It's been a month full of creativity, exploration, and fun learning!

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



We have been busy being Archaeologists in our outdoor forest school area. Look at our exciting findings! Can you see all the mosaics that past children made about 20 years Ago? They are of scenes around the Newton Abbot area Like the clock tower!



As Scientists we have been researching the nutritional values of different types of food by reading food labels.

We were quite surprised by some of our findings. We compared data and worked hard to represent our results in a bar graph to make our results easier to understand.

In PE we have been Gymnasts. Exploring ways of travelling at different levels. We have been learning different balances using different parts of the body. We have also been creating sequences of movement in small groups and been learning how to positively critique our partners' work by using the stem sentence 'It would be even better if....'



CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

A lovely month when, as historians, we have begun to understand WWII and how we can build peace. On Remembrance Day, we thought about those who had fought in the war, and designed memorial stones.

As an enhancement to PE, PAFC have been coming in and running sessions enabling us to learn dribbling, tactics, heads up, and most importantly, team work

As artists, we created our own clay models supported by the Daisi foundation. And now we turn our focus to DT, using coding and microbits to create a temperature monitor for an Anderson Shelter



Breakfast Club

- Available **Monday – Friday** from **8:00 AM**
- Cost: **£4 per session**



Booking Information:

All bookings should be made via **ParentPay** prior to the session. For any last-minute bookings, please call the **school office**.



After School Club

- Available **Monday – Friday**
- Until **5:00 PM** – **£6.75**
- Until **5:30 PM** – **£10.00**
- **Fridays close at 5:00 PM**



After School Activities

- **Tuesday** – Football



Important Notice:

Any accounts with arrears of **£50 or more** will not be permitted to use the **Breakfast Club** or **After School Clubs** until the balance is cleared.



BREAKFAST AND AFTERSCHOOL CLUB ACTIVITIES

Weekly Schedule:

Monday: Football



Tuesday: Netball



Wednesday: Art



**Thursday: Forest
School**



Friday: Games



Snacks Provided

Brick Keyrings

Every keyring ordered raises £1



Made with LEGO

£3.25 each



We have had a great response to our Lego keyring fundraiser. If you would like to order a keyring please follow the link.

<https://forms.gle/xB2aKCdC9Y9Mk1Mi9>

Please pay for your keyring via ParentPay.



Attendance Matters



Attendance October

	89.11%
	92.58%
	90.21%
	96.05%

Important Notices & Reminders

If your child is late for morning registration, arriving late at school after 9am, please ensure you or their accompanying adult reports to the school office to ensure that they are registered.

Good attendance means...
being in school at least 95% of the time or 180 to 190 days

175 days not at school!

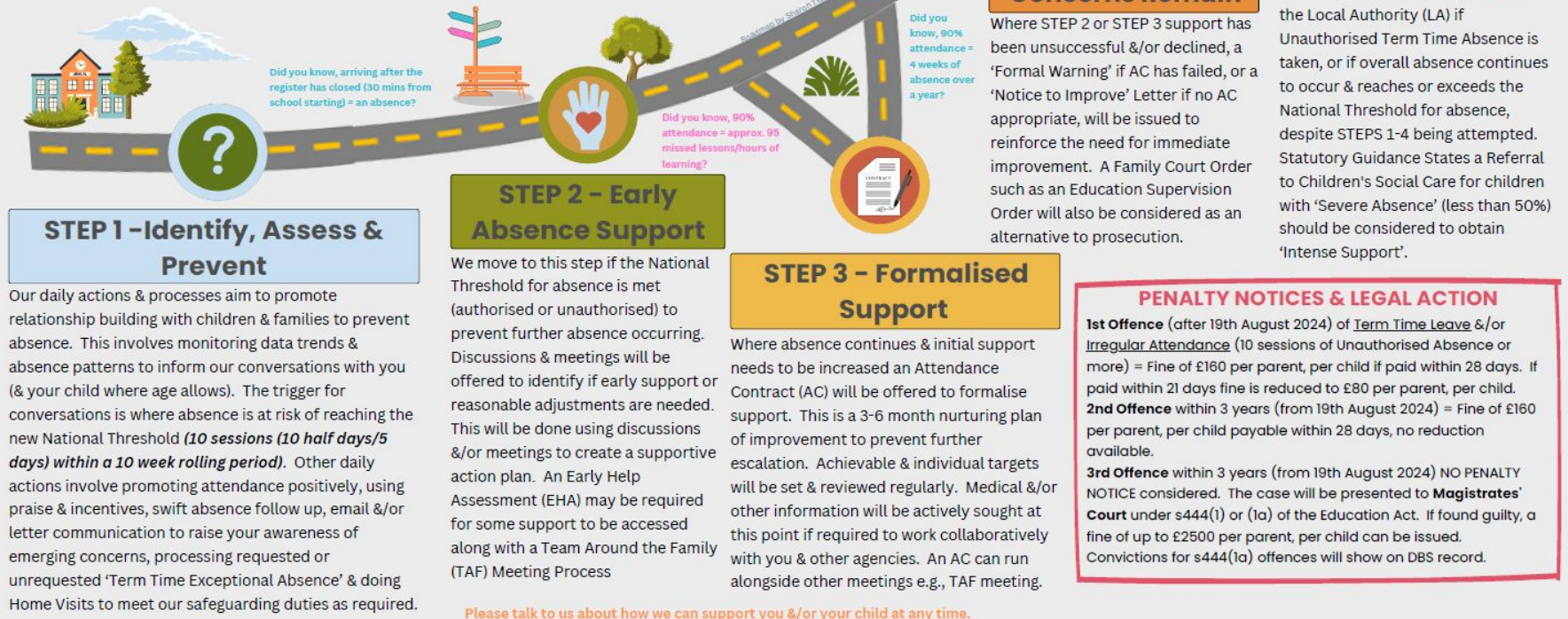
All this time for shopping, holidays and appointments

365 days in a calendar year



Attendance Roadmap

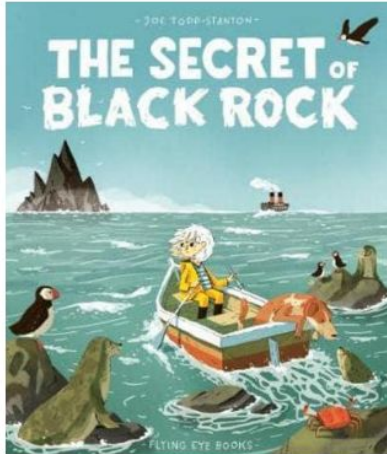
In line with the DfE Statutory Guidance (in force from 19th August 2024) we offer a supportive, stepped, attendance approach. We will offer a welcoming ethos with high expectations for all. We will assess data to identify absence trends & use preventative discussions/meetings with families to listen, understand & support to remove barriers. Where needed, we will formalise support to nurture improvement with Attendance Contracts & as a last resort we will consider intensifying support &/or enforce legal sanctions.



02.12.25	Pantomime at Coombehead for KS2	16.12.25	Year 5 at NAC
03.12.25	St Oscar trip to Exeter Museum & Sy Teresa to NA Museum	16.12.25	Carol Service at Church
04.12.25	Lantern making workshop	17.12.25	Christmas Dinner Day
05.12.25	Wreath Making Event for adults 7 - 9 in the school hall	19.12.25	Break up for Christmas Holidays
08.12.25	Rudolph Run	05.01.26	Back to School
10.12.25	Lantern Parade - evening	05.01.26	Swimming starts for St Teresa class
11.12.25	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day	06.01.25	1:30 - 2:30 - Epiphany Mass in the school Hall - Everyone Welcome
11.12.25	Nativity 2 - 3pm	14.01.25	Year 1 and 2 NAC - Sports Festival
12.12.25	Djembe Workshop - whole school	20.01.25	PE Impact Day - NAC in school to work with all classes

The Secret of Black Rock by Joe Todd-Stanton

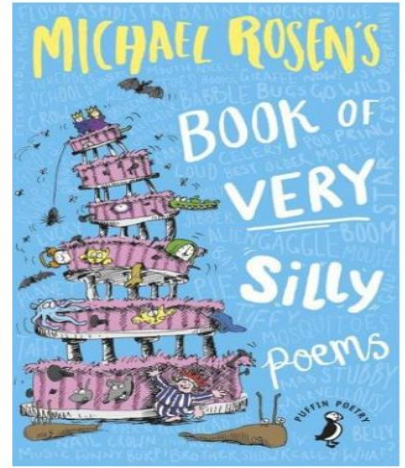
Erin dreams of exploring the sea beyond her quiet fishing village, despite the warnings about Black Rock, a creature said to wreck passing boats. When she secretly hides on her mother's boat, she discovers the truth – Black Rock is alive and teeming with sea life. Determined to protect it, Erin stands up to her community and shows them a different way to see the ocean. Joe Todd-Stanton's stunning illustrated story deftly explores themes of nature, understanding, and belonging. It's ideal for Year 2 group reading.



**"Books are a
uniquely
portable
magic."**

Stephen King

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Michael Rosen's Book of Very Silly Poems by Michael Rosen

Organised into themed sections like "Festering Food" and "Amazing Animals," the lively poetry collection features wickedly funny verse, subversive playground favourites, and both short and long poems. It offers plenty of variety to encourage reading aloud and conversation. Michael Rosen's Book of Very Silly Poems will remind 7-9 year olds, and their teachers, that poetry can be silly, accessible, and immensely entertaining.



SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding at St. Joseph's is always a priority. Should you have any enquiries or concerns, please contact our Designated Senior Lead for Child Protection: Mrs Day or Mrs Pascoe on 01626 352559. Our named governor for child protection is Tim van Kroonenburg.

WELFARE

Our Family Support Worker is Julie . Please let us know if you would like her to contact you for ANY support. Everyone needs a Julie in their lives!



ATTENDANCE

Hi, my name is Natalie, I'm the Attendance and Welfare Officer here at St Joseph's. I monitor attendance regularly to ensure that, where possible, every child is in school on time every day. If you have any concerns around your child's attendance, please leave a message with the office and I will contact you.



CPOMS and Operation encompass

At St. Joseph's we use CPOMS as our system for recording information that we consider to be safeguarding information. Further information about the programme can be found here -

<https://www.cpoms.co.uk/privacy-statement/>

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident.

Newton Abbot

LANTERN PARADE WORKSHOP

Tuesday 9th December

Fancy making your own Lantern and
taking part in a 'Fairy Tales' themed
Lantern Parade on Wednesday 10th December?

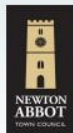
Public workshop held at
The Avenue Church, Newton Abbot

Tickets available from Newton's Place on 01626 201120

Afternoon workshop 4pm - 6pm

Evening workshop 6pm - 8pm

£5 per ticket! - (CASH ONLY)



HOLIDAY CLUBS GET OUTSIDE WHEN SCHOOL'S OUT

Check out our February Half Term &
Easter Holiday Clubs.

Learn how to:

- Light fires & build dens
- Climb trees & toast marshmallows
- Swinging in a hammock & dam a stream

Your child will come back beaming from ear to ear

BOOK NOW!

EXMOUTH

TOTNES

ESCOT

OKEHAMPTON