

# 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 Bassett 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



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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.....'



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



# CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

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



# 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.



## STEP 1 – Identify, Assess & Prevent

Our daily actions & processes aim to promote relationship building with children & families to prevent absence. This involves monitoring data trends & absence patterns to inform our conversations with you (& your child where age allows). The trigger for conversations is where absence is at risk of reaching the new National Threshold (**10 sessions (10 half days/5 days) within a 10 week rolling period**). Other daily actions involve promoting attendance positively, using praise & incentives, swift absence follow up, email &/or letter communication to raise your awareness of emerging concerns, processing requested or unrequested 'Term Time Exceptional Absence' & doing Home Visits to meet our safeguarding duties as required.



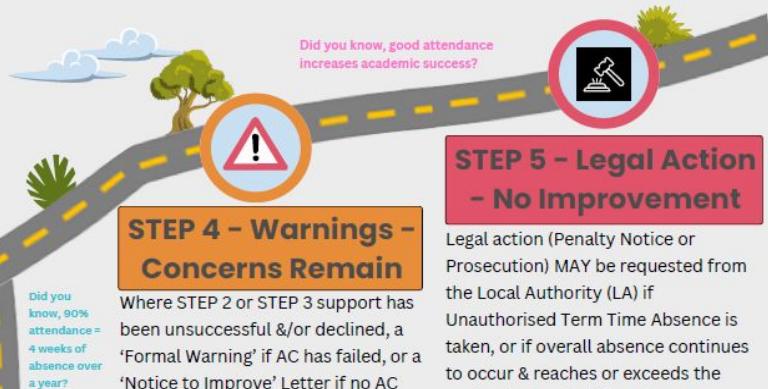
## STEP 2 – Early Absence Support

We move to this step if the National Threshold for absence is met (authorised or unauthorised) to prevent further absence occurring. Discussions & meetings will be offered to identify if early support or reasonable adjustments are needed. This will be done using discussions &/or meetings to create a supportive action plan. An Early Help Assessment (EHA) may be required for some support to be accessed along with a Team Around the Family (TAF) Meeting Process

## STEP 3 – Formalised Support

Where absence continues & initial support needs to be increased an Attendance Contract (AC) will be offered to formalise support. This is a 3-6 month nurturing plan of improvement to prevent further escalation. Achievable & individual targets will be set & reviewed regularly. Medical &/or other information will be actively sought at this point if required to work collaboratively with you & other agencies. An AC can run alongside other meetings e.g., TAF meeting.

Please talk to us about how we can support you &/or your child at any time.



Where STEP 2 or STEP 3 support has been unsuccessful &/or declined, a 'Formal Warning' if AC has failed, or a 'Notice to Improve' Letter if no AC appropriate, will be issued to reinforce the need for immediate improvement. A Family Court Order such as an Education Supervision Order will also be considered as an alternative to prosecution.



## STEP 5 – Legal Action – No Improvement

Legal action (Penalty Notice or Prosecution) MAY be requested from the Local Authority (LA) if Unauthorised Term Time Absence is taken, or if overall absence continues to occur & reaches or exceeds the National Threshold for absence, despite STEPS 1-4 being attempted. Statutory Guidance States a Referral to Children's Social Care for children with 'Severe Absence' (less than 50%) should be considered to obtain 'Intense Support'.

## PENALTY NOTICES & LEGAL ACTION

**1st Offence** (after 19th August 2024) of Term Time Leave &/or Irregular Attendance (10 sessions of Unauthorised Absence or more) = Fine of £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. If paid within 21 days fine is reduced to £80 per parent, per child.

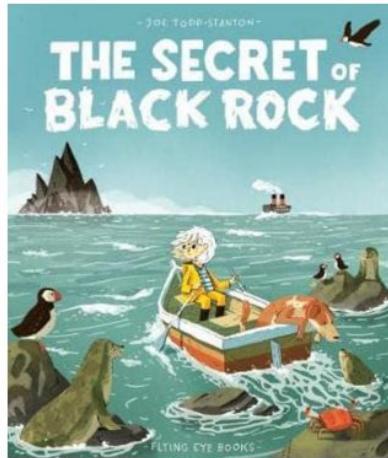
**2nd Offence** within 3 years (from 19th August 2024) = Fine of £160 per parent, per child payable within 28 days, no reduction available.

**3rd Offence** within 3 years (from 19th August 2024) NO PENALTY NOTICE considered. The case will be presented to **Magistrates' Court** under s444(1) or (1a) of the Education Act. If found guilty, a fine of up to £2500 per parent, per child can be issued. Convictions for s444(1a) offences will show on DBS record.

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

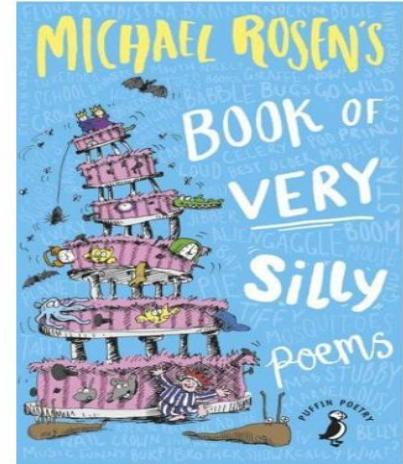
## The Secret of Black Rock by Joe Todd-Stanton

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 "Fester 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.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Newton Abbot

## LANTERN PARADE WORKSHOP

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December

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

**Public workshop held at**

The Avenue Church, Newton Abbot

**Tickets available from Newton's Place 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**