

# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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## Newsletter January 2026

# MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL



**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

Despite an extremely wet January, school life has been as busy and vibrant as ever. The classrooms and corridors have been buzzing with exciting learning opportunities, and it has been a pleasure to see our children so fully engaged.

Behaviour for learning across the school continues to be excellent. Our pupils consistently demonstrate positive attitudes, kindness and respect, creating a calm and purposeful environment where everyone can thrive. We are also continuing to support children in being good friends to one another, developing the important skills of negotiation and learning how to rebuild friendships when misunderstandings occur.

Pupil leadership roles have been further strengthened this term. Our Play Leaders have taken on additional responsibility, with specific areas of the playground to oversee and a range of exciting and varied activities to run. This has helped ensure playtimes are active, inclusive and enjoyable for all.

Let's hope the sun begins to shine brightly again soon — but whatever the weather, learning and fun at school certainly won't be dampened!

**Best Wishes and God Bless**

**Sarah Pascoe and all the St. Joseph's team**

# THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL

We gathered together as a school community to celebrate Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany. The children reflected on the story of the Wise Men and the important message of light, hope and generosity that Epiphany brings. Pupils participated respectfully and thoughtfully, through readings, prayers and hymns, making it a meaningful and prayerful celebration for all who attended.



## BUCKFAST CHAPLAINCY DAY



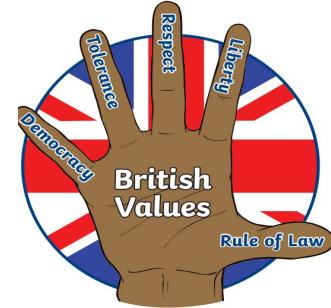
Our GIFT team had the most wonderful day at a Pupil Chaplain Day @ Buckfast Abbey.

They took part in a range of activities learning different ways in which to pray, the monastic way (super interesting and worth a visit!) and a trip into the abbey.

As a team, there was time to reflect on the day and come up with an action plan of ideas to implement in school. There were some great ideas and our GIFT team can't wait to share this with you all and continue the amazing work they have been doing for our school community.

# THE BRITISH VALUES OF OUR SCHOOL

British Values have been clearly demonstrated in action through recent planning meetings between Mrs Pascoe and our House Captains. During these discussions, pupils confidently shared thoughtful ideas about how they would like to improve school life. We were extremely impressed by the maturity, respect and appropriateness of their suggestions. These meetings have already led to the further development of Play Leader roles at lunchtimes, an increase in house events led by the House Captains to strengthen pupils' sense of belonging, and the exciting early plans for a sensory garden in our courtyard area.



# GREAT ATHLETES EVENT

**GB Pro-Surfer Oli Adams Visit** - on Friday 30th January we had a visit from Oli who lead a fitness circuit with all the pupils, followed by a motivational assembly and lastly a Q&A session. Everyone really got involved and Oli was impressed with the enthusiasm of the pupils



# STARS OF THE WEEK



# VALUE GUARDIANS

Whole Class Noah M		Bentley Brianna
Heather-Bobbi Thea Maks Tobias		Jack Alesha Isaac C Izzy

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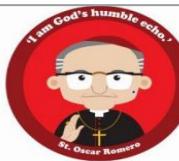
# VALUE GUARDIANS

Amelia  
Arlo  
Kensi



Matilda C  
Matilda D  
Violet  
Lilia  
Samanta

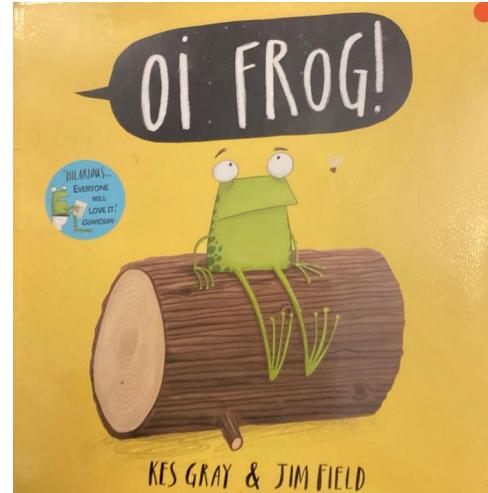
Eliza  
Michael  
Gracie



Kyleigh  
Leo  
Frankie



# CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



**Happy New Year Everyone!**

## January in St Francis

This month, we have been learning about what we want to be when we grow up. We have had some very special visitors this half term.

A police officer came to talk to us about her job and showed us some of her equipment. We even got to hold handcuffs and try on a police hat!

We also had a visit from Becky, a community nurse. She told us all about her role and let us listen to our heartbeats using a stethoscope.

In English our focus story has been "Oi Frog". The children have been learning about rhyming words and have loved this story.

## January. Part 1

This month has been so jam packed it has had to go on two pages!

This month in Geography, we have been exploring Newton Abbot using Google Maps and atlases. We have also been learning about the countries that make up the United Kingdom, as well as identifying human and physical features.

In PE, we were lucky to have Miss Brown visit us to deliver an exciting enrichment session, where we learned some amazing dinosaur-themed dancing! The children had great fun moving and expressing themselves.

In Science, we have been learning about the different groups of animals, as well as exploring the human body and our senses.

In Music, we have had a go at becoming pro ukulele players! The children have enjoyed learning how to hold the instrument and play simple tunes.

# CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



## January. Part 2

We have also had some exciting visitors and activities this month. A police officer came to visit and told us all about their job - the children were fascinated and loved seeing everything from the badge to the hat! In Art, we explored watercolour techniques and took inspiration from a local artist. We have played lots of games to help us sort animals into different categories, building on our science learning. We also enjoyed a trip to NAC, where we had the chance to experience a wide range of sports games. In DT, we have been working hard on designing and making a moving robot, while in Computing we have been busy creating a working rocket.

# CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

