



St. John's RC Primary School

Love one another, as I have loved you

Newsletter: Issue: 4 Friday 3rd October 2025

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, September came to an end and we drew a close on the Season of Creation. What a wonderful month of celebration it has been, through singing, prayer, the eco-warriors recycling initiative and focusing on God's beautiful world. The Eco-Warrior team have got off to a brilliant start in raising awareness of how to look after and protect our world.

I have continued to spend more time in classes this week and it has been an absolute joy to see the children's pride, determination and enjoyment in their learning. There is such a wonderful 'buzz' of enthusiasm throughout the school.

On Tuesday, we held the first of our SEN parent/carer coffee afternoons and our first PTFA meeting. A huge thank-you to all who could attend. We have now established a PTFA committee and are looking forward to the first event. We discussed lots of exciting events we hope to hold over the year - keep a look out for more information in the coming weeks.

On Wednesday we celebrated Harvest Donation day and the children enjoyed showing a variety of artwork, songs, prayers and poems they had produced for this. A heartfelt thank you to all our parents and carers for your generous Harvest donations. Your kindness helped us collect a fantastic range of food and essential items, which have now been shared with The Banbury Young Homeless Project. Your support made our Harvest celebration truly meaningful and has made a real difference to those in need within our local community. On Thursday, the Chaplains took the donations to the BYHP, where they talked to them about the work they do and how their donations will make a real difference. We are so proud of how our school has come together in the spirit of giving - thank you!

We have continued to expand our lunch time activities with girls' rugby as well as hotshots' basketball. This has been a great success, and children are all really enjoying these activities. We ended the week celebrating all our learners of the week in our celebration assembly. Within the assembly Miss Page and Miss Callan also launched Black History Month and the children will be doing a range of work linked to this over the next few weeks.

Mrs McGeehan

On October 4th we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Francis, which marks the end of our focus on creation. As we enter the month of October, we think of Our Lady, as this is the dedicated month of the rosary.



Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen



Chaplaincy Team

This week the chaplaincy team went to the Banbury Young Homeless Project to give our Harvest Donations They were greeted by staff and told how our schools Harvest donations had made such a difference to their charity.



Parent Open Afternoon

On Wednesday 22nd October, the school gates will open at the slightly earlier time of 3:05pm. Parents/Carers are invited to come into their child's class to view some of the work they have been doing this term.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Attendance

Year	Present R/C: Marks (%)
Reception	97.89%
Year 1	96.21%
Year 2	94.83%
Year 3	99.2%
Year 4	95.55%
Year 5	98.75%
Year 6	98.33%

Our whole school attendance for the week is: 97% Thank-you for your continued support in ensuring children are at school and on time each day.

♥ ★ The class with the highest attendance, at 99%, this week is Year 3. ♥ ★

Attendance Matters



(Over one academic year)

Reminders....

We kindly ask all parents and carers to ensure that children (and younger siblings) exit the school grounds via the playground path and not through the wooded area. This helps us keep everyone safe and we thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe and respectful of the environment.

As you may know we like to support and encourage the children to celebrate their birthdays when they fall on school days. We are a healthy school and actively seek to promote healthy lifestyles. Just a reminder that we ask parents/carers not to send cakes/sweets into classes with your children on their birthday. However, we would still like children to have the opportunity to celebrate their birthdays and if parents would like to do so we are encouraging you to send them in in their own clothes to celebrate the day and bring in a favourite book to share if they'd like to, in order to make them still feel a little special on their birthday.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Oracy Question of the week

World Mental Health Day (10th) If you could design a 'mental health kit' to help people feel calm and strong inside, what would you put in it?



Catholic Life



This term's values are:

Catholic schools help their pupils grow by developing an eloquent language which they can use to understand and articulate their emotions, beliefs, and questions, encouraged by the example of their teachers to be truthful in the way they represent themselves and speak about the world.

Please see our new website page for more information on the Jesuit values and how we are encompassing these as a school.

Catholic Social Teaching - Stewardship of God's Creation - We are agreed that the Earth is there for us to share and that God created it for us all to enjoy. Children will think of ways in which we can look after our World and our Eco Council will also share ideas and projects across the year. During the month of October, we focus on Our Lady.

Catholic Social Teaching - Family and Community - We know the importance of our family. It helps us each and every day. We are all part of God's family, the Holy Family. We have a family at home and in our school and within the Parish. As a school community, we can come together for special events. It is fantastic to be able to invite our families into school. See dates highlighted in the newsletter of upcoming events for our families.

Certificates and Celebrations

This week's awards go to

EYFS Nursery Reception	Leo Lionel
Year 1	Amayah
Year 2	Takunda
Year 3	Veronica
Year 4	Irena
Year 5	Aswathy
Year 6	Amelia
Headteachers Award	Year 6
Attendance Award	Year 3
Wrap Around Care Star of the week	Margaret

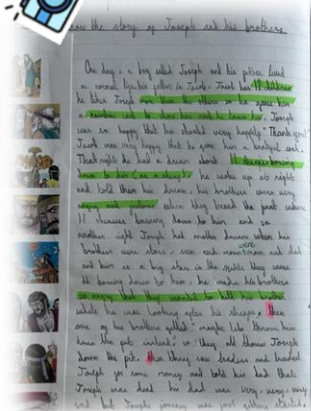
St. John's in Pictures



We've made some wonderful new buddies in Year 1 — the Year Sixes! They've been amazing at looking after us, especially in the playground and the library, and we're so lucky to have + help. 🥰 😊



🍌 We have been busy celebrating HARVEST this week. Year 2 have explored art work by Giuseppe Arcimboldo who creates face portraits using fruit and vegetables. We have had a go at drawing our own self portraits in this style and creating faces using vegetables they look fantastic! 🥕



Year 4 loved listening to the story of Joseph and his two bizarre dreams and had a go at recreating their own interpretations



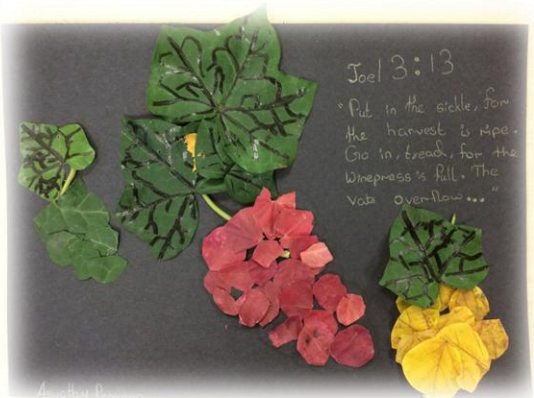
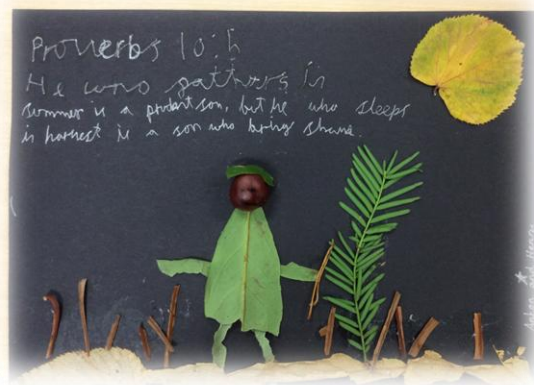
🌿 Harvest Art in the Woods

Year 5 explored harvest Bible verses and enjoyed going outside to find leaves, twigs, and plants from our school woods to create images of the words. Set on black paper with silver scripture, the artwork celebrates God's creation and our children's creativity

In collective worship this week we have been creating our own Rosary's . As it is the month of October we then prayed the first part of the Rosary.



Years and Nursery are loving the role play dentist as part of our Healthy Smiles programme What a busy week !



What a busy week !

👉🏻 🎉 Celebrating Poetry 🎉 👈🏻

National Poetry Day was celebrated on Thursday 2nd October. Children across school are working hard to learn different poems to recite in our assemblies to mark Black History Month.

Why not research these poems and practise at home with your families!

EYFS – Colours (Shel Silverstein)

KS1 – Talking Turkeys (Benjamin Zephaniah)

LKS2 – The Bronze Legacy (Effie Lee Newsome)

UKS2 – Go to the Back Rosa Parks (Rita Dove)

We have also asked staff across school, what their favourite poems are!

Here are some of their responses! Have a listen and see which you like best...

Mrs McGeehan - Please Mrs Butler by Allan Ahlberg.

Miss Bingham -The Sound Collector by Roger McGough 👂

Miss Callan -The Walrus and the Carpenter by Lewis Carroll 🪚

Miss Page and Miss Copp - On the Ning, Nang, Nong by Spike Milligan 🤪

Mrs Trivett - The Lake Isle of Innisfree by W.B Yeats

Miss Sykes - Hoar-Frost Amy Lowell ❄️

Mrs Acanthe - On the Sea by John Keates 🌊

Mrs Avilez - These are the Hands by Michael Rosen 🤝 and Strict by Michael Rosen

Mrs Sykes - The Owl and Pussy Cat by Edward Lear 🦉 🐈

Mrs Jefferies - Please Mrs Butler by Allan Ahlberg

Mrs Butcher - A Smile by Jez Alborough 😊



Important dates

Key Dates	
October	
Monday 6 th	Mrs Alvilez-Year 5 Class Assembly Unique week-details to follow Year 4 Class Mass at St. John's Church
Friday 10 th	Wear something yellow in aid of Young Minds
Monday 13 th	Opera Workshop in school
Tuesday 14 th	Opera Workshop in school Parent's Evening 15:30-17:30
Wednesday 15 th	Parent's Evening 15:30-17:30
Thursday 16 th	PFMAC Concert-Oxford City Hall Whole School Harvest Mass at School 10:30 Rugby Event Banbury Rugby Club
Friday 17 th	Year 2 Royal Banquet
Monday 20 th	Kilvrough Manor Meeting 15:30
Tuesday 21 st	Nursery and Reception New Parents Open Morning 10:00
Wednesday 22 nd	Parent Open Afternoon 3.05
Thursday 23 rd	End Of Term
Friday 24th	Inset Day-School Closed
November	
Monday 3 rd	New Term Year 3 Mass at Church Year 5 Bikeability until Thursday 6 th Year 6 Confirmation Meeting 15:30
Thursday 6 th	KS2 Football Event at BGN
Monday 10 th	Year 3 Class Assembly-All welcome 09.15
Thursday 13 th	Whole School Mass at St. Johns
Tuesday 18 th	Nursery and Reception New Parents Opening Morning 10:00
Thursday 20 th	Year 1 Multi-Skills at BGN
Tuesday 25 th	NCHMP Reception and Year 6
December	
Monday 8 th	Year 6 Kilvrough Trip until Friday 12 th
Tuesday 9 th	KS1 Christmas Production 17:00
Wednesday 10 th	EYFS Christmas Production 09:30
Monday 15 th	KS2 Carol Concert St John's Church
Friday 19th	End of Term-school closes at 13.00