

St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 8th December 2023



Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

Please enjoy the latest St Josephs newsletter.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton

Slough Music Service Carol Concert

On Tuesday 5th December, 10 of our lovely students attended the Carol Concert at St Mary's Church in Slough, hosted by Slough Music Service. It was a wonderful, heart-warming event, with music provided by primary and secondary schools in Slough, including Herschel Grammar, Claycots and St Mary's primary. Students, Staff and Parents alike all sang beautifully, and it was a wonderful evening. Many parents and staff from the other schools commented on how well behaved, tidy and polite our students were, as well as how beautifully they sang. They were an absolute credit to our school. More photos inside the newsletter...



"The glory of God is a human being fully alive!"

Theme of the Week – Peace

In last week's Gospel, we hear Jesus tells us to 'Stay awake'. Jesus told us to be prepared and in this week's Gospel, we hear something very similar from John the Baptist. Our lives are in the hands of a merciful God and John resonates the same message of 'prepare a way for the Lord'. In the 2nd week of Advent, we again have to remind ourselves; our lives are busy, chaotic, and manic with lots of things to do but we must prepare a place for the Lord.

Isaiah (remember some call the Christmas prophet) in the first reading writes as the people of Israel go back to their homelands after exile. There is a feeling that something good and magnificent is about to happen and that the entire landscape will change to accommodate this coming. A voice cries, *'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert....then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken'*. In Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist proclaims the coming of the Messiah.

Both the readings from Isaiah and the Gospel of Mark describe the image of making a path straight for the Lord. For us we can use this message for our own lives. If we take our minds back to the Vineyard used by Jesus in the Gospel a few weeks ago to grow fruit. In order to grow in a Vineyard we must prepare the vineyard, make it level, take out any weeds that might exist, care for the soil we are about to sow seeds into and keep the rows straight so we can pick the harvest. This is the same for our lives; we must prepare ourselves for the seed of Jesus' Word in our lives. By listening to the word with close attention and living it out as intended we can harvest the Good News. The Gospel begins by talking about good news, what is the good news it refers to? Jesus is the Good News, God's Son coming into the world. And in order to fully understand the Good News we must prepare for it. Last week there was reference to waiting and excited expectation for a given event; John the Baptist was God's messenger and he dedicated his whole life to one thing, "preparing the way for the Lord", he was sent to tell the people to change their ways and to turn back to God. He told them to make a fresh start by asking for forgiveness and to lead lives filled with goodness and love. Last week we remember that Jesus could return at any time, now we are being asked to prepare also, to make a space in our hearts for God, allowing time for prayer and thinking about God and the great work of Jesus.

We can prepare ourselves just as people did in the time of John the Baptist, by putting right what is wrong in our lives and living as Jesus taught us. Advent is a good time to look carefully at ourselves and to make a fresh start if we need to. What are you sorry for? What might you ask forgiveness for? In this second week of Advent, continue to prepare for the coming of Christ but also reflect on when we have got things wrong. Ask for forgiveness from God so we too can greet the Lord with a loving heart.

Peace

Weekly Reflections
10th December 2023



A reading from the Gospel of St Mark (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptized by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Prayer for the Week

God our Peace, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Saint of the week – Maria Di Rosa

15th December



Her early education was at the convent of the Visitation Sisters, but after her mother's death, she left school and worked in her father's spinning mill. Here she took notice of the poor and the working conditions around her. She made an effort to improve the living and working conditions of the female employees. When a cholera epidemic swept Brescia, she tended the ill at a local hospital. She founded a school for the deaf and later established a religious order. Maria was:

Loving and Compassionate

Day 1

Why do you think Advent is a good time to think about our lives and examining what we do right and what we can improve on?

How in this season of Advent can you reflect on your mistakes or where you may have made wrong decisions?

How can you ensure the decisions you choose now are the right ones?

Day 2

John the Baptist tells us to make the path straight for Jesus. Why do you think he uses this example in order to prepare for Jesus?

What Good News do you think he refers to?

Day 3

In this second week of Advent, how has your preparation for Christ gone so far?

Remember it's not too late, can you make any changes in your life as to welcome Jesus more fully?

Christmas Hampers

Over the course of the next three weeks all tutors groups are asked to make up a Christmas Hamper for the St Vincent De Paul (SVP) charity to support those less fortunate over Christmas. Please can parents and guardians support this and encourage their child to bring in at least one item for their form hampers.

Please see the poster below outlining more details




SVP Christmas Hampers

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done (Proverbs 19:17)

Help families and vulnerable people in Slough this Christmas- donate to your forms Christmas hamper!
All forms are asked to put together at least one hamper.
Hampers should include non-perishable food, toiletries and Christmas items

Please ensure items donated have a use by date of no earlier than February 2024

Your hampers should include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christmas card or festive message - Christmas pudding, biscuits or cake - Christmas selection boxes - Cereal - Soup - Pasta/Rice - Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce - Lentils, beans and pulses - Tinned meat - Tinned vegetables - Tea/coffee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tinned fruit - Fruit juice - Instant mash potato - Noodles - Sugar - Shower gel - Shampoo - Soap - Deodorant - Toothpaste - Toothbrush - Flannel - Towels - Scarf/Gloves/socks
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All hampers to be completed and delivered to the school hall (under the tree) for Friday 15th December

Thank you!

Attendance Notice

This is a polite reminder that the Attendance Policy at St Joseph's Catholic High School changed recently. All absences at the end of any term / half term will be marked as an unauthorised absence unless this is accompanied by medical evidence. This can be in the form of a named, dated & stamped appointment card, letter or text from a medical practitioner.

Please speak to the office if you are planning on taking your child out of school for a reason other than illness so that the registers can be marked accordingly.

Year 7 News

Moving into our last full week before Christmas, the Year 7s have continued to do amazingly well! Lots of positives and very few negative points have been given.

Please remember that Academic Review Day is happening on the 4th of January, please ensure that slips are given to your child's form tutor to confirm attendance. Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 7 Sports News - Power League Report

The Year 7 Football team entered two teams into the annual District Power League tournament. With great promise, both teams having star quality. It was set to be an exciting afternoon.

A fantastic evening showed great potential from both teams. The alligators winning all of their group matches and the Broncos lost their first two matches but won out and managed to qualify for the semi-finals.

Because the Alligators came top of their group and the Broncos came 2nd in their group. It was an all St Joseph's semi-final. The Alligators secured the victory and progressed into the final against Ditton Park Academy.

The final finished with St Josephs on top of a thrilling game. Amazing work to both teams, showing the quality and depth of football talent in Year 7.

Year 8 Basketball News

The Year 8s had a game against Wexham on Monday, it was a fairly confident win from them with us taking the win 13-0.

The Year 8s remain unbeaten in the Slough Basketball League.

Man of the Match - Edzio Stacey

More fantastic photos on the following page...





Year 7 Netball News

Well done to the year 7 netball team who beat Bayliss 5-0. Well done Layla, Rachel, Florence, Mia, Antoinette, Amelia, Eva, Thea, Coco, Millie and Michalina. A special well done to Amelia who got player of the match.



Year 8 Netball News

Well done to the the Year 8 netball team, Annabelle, karolina, Victoria, Myah, Chloe, Joanna and Emilia who beat Bayliss 17-1. A special well done to Myah who got player of the match.



Year 9 News

Only 7 school days left until we break up for Christmas! Over the next week we have some exciting things happening around school. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the production of Shrek will be happening after school in the hall. If you haven't already purchased your tickets on ParentPay! During PE lessons, Year 9 will be taking part in a reindeer run to raise money for Thames hospice. X band will do their run on Tuesday and Y band will do their run on Wednesday. You may wear something festive as long as it is appropriate to run in.

Tutor group with the least amount of xh's for homework and currently in the lead to win a box of Krispy Kremes are 9 Teresa! Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 9

Year 9 Meningitis ACWY & Td/IPV Immunisations

The Berkshire Immunisation Service will be visiting St Josephs on 12th March 2024 for the Year 9 Meningitis ACWY & Td/IPV Immunisations .

Parent/carers are required to complete a consent form as soon as possible if you would like your child to receive their vaccination at school. If parents/carers do not wish for their child to be vaccinated, please advise them to complete the form as a non-consent. The consent letter is a separate attachment along with the newsletter.

Reindeer Run for Year 7, 8 and 9

Students in Years 7-9 have been excited this week by the Reindeer Run – an amazing opportunity to raise money for the Thames Hospice. Your reindeer will be coming home with a sponsorship form – please support them in seeking donations for their run. They are going to set themselves a challenge of a number of laps to run within an hour of a PE lesson. If your reindeer is able to raise just £25 they would be able to fund an hour of vital nursing care.

Please see the video here for more information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3J0tvHbW9VM>

Many thanks for your support - Miss Crabtree



Year 11 News - Taster Day

This past Tuesday our Year 11 pupils become Sixth Formers for the day. They dressed up in their business attire and attended Sixth Form style lessons in order to help them select their future courses. They thoroughly enjoyed the use of the common room and the perks of being a Sixth Former! The day was a great success and we are looking forward to them joining us next year at Sixth Form.

Mr Dann – Head of Sixth Form

Year 11 Sports News

The Year 11 Football squad hosed Pioneer Academy at slough town football stadium. The Boys managed to secure an emphatic win of 11-0 displaying outstanding footballing skills and clinical finishing.

Year 13 News

The rewards trip for all Year 13 pupils to 'Winter Wonderland' in Hyde Park, London is taking place on 15th December 2023. Please make sure you provide consent on ParentPay in order for your son/daughter to be able to attend.

There is a cost involved for the transport and entrance to the event, which is £10.00 per student. Once inside 'Winter Wonderland' students will be free to visit the various attractions so it is advisable that they bring their own money with them on the day. Students may wish to bring a packed lunch with them as an alternative to buying food at the event.

Any students who do not wish to attend will be required to attend school as normal on that day. Students can wear their own clothes for the trip, but please be advised that much of the day will be spent outside so they will need to wrap up warm. I would suggest bringing hats, gloves and scarves as well.

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 13

Drama News - Shrek

The school Shrek Production will take place at 7pm in the school hall for 3 nights only!

Wednesday 13th, Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December. Limited Availability!

Tickets are on sale NOW via ParentPay. Limited availability so please book your places early!



Music Department News

Slough Music Service Carol Concert - Tuesday 5th December

On Tuesday, 10 of our lovely students attended the Carol Concert at St Mary's Church in Slough, hosted by Slough Music Service. It was a wonderful, heart-warming event, with music provided by primary and secondary schools in Slough, including Herschel Grammar, Claycots and St Mary's primary. Students, Staff and Parents alike all sang beautifully, and it was a wonderful evening. Our very own singers sang *Have Yourself a Very Merry Christmas*, and Alessia also lead a reading from the bible to the congregation. They did so well, with many parents and staff from the other schools commenting of how well behaved, tidy and polite our students were, as well as how beautifully they sang. They were an absolute credit to our school. Well done to Dean, Rosie, Bianca D, Marta G, Munachi, Emilia D, Nela, Brianna, Mikah and Alessia!



End of Term Mass

We will be having a rehearsal next week to prepare for mass on Tuesday 19th December. If you haven't done so already, please contact Miss Ure if you would like to play or sing for the music in Mass.

Practice Rooms

Students must confirm and speak with Miss Ure or Mr Orval to use a practice room. Students are not allowed to walk in. If we are not there, you are not there.

No food or drink is allowed in the practice rooms.

This is to ensure safety of all students, but also protection of equipment for lessons.

Homework Superstars



Paulina	Duda	7 Jerome
Emma	Powell	9 Peter
Bruno	Valek	8 Jerome
Oliwia	Foksinska	10 Mark
Anna-Emiliya	Larionova	10 Teresa
Max	Ishchuk	13 Peter



Radio Christmas!

On Tuesday Michal K and Oliver K from Year 9 went to Amersham Free Church and appeared on the Radio Christmas Show along with some other students from schools in our Trust. They were brilliant and made everyone laugh with a few Christmas jokes. We were so proud of them – well done boys! And thank you to Mr Cobb and Mr Hill for taking them.



MFL NEWS

Student(s) of the week:

10V TUTOR - KARA CULLEN and LUCY WILSON for encapsulating those attributes of an SJCS student of loving and compassionate, grateful and generous; also setting a strong example in their calm & caring communication to their peers and teachers.



YEAR 11 FRENCH

First: Perase Thomas, Ethan Fernandes & Hannah Anaya for being role models and having an exceptional attitude to learning and attainment in their higher tests.

Then: Julia Lichosyt, Nicole Burakowska, Karolina Woronowicz, Freda Lourenco, Miguel de Jesus, Olisa Ugochukwu and Bartek Wojtala for outstanding conduct and achievement for their foundation level tests.



Merci de Madame Shaw.

Science Club

Students enjoyed watching the appearance of fog and the gradual colour change when dry ice is added to the indicator solutions mixed with sodium hydroxide solution. Also, they enjoyed making bubble volcanoes using vinegar, baking soda and balloons!





EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

Practical Tips for Effective Home Learning:

Set Realistic Goals:

Break down language learning into achievable goals. Celebrate milestones together, and involve your child in setting objectives for their language development.

Use Technology Wisely:

Explore language learning apps, websites, and educational games. Select age-appropriate options that align with your child's proficiency level. Monitor screen time to maintain a healthy balance.

Cultural Exploration:

Introduce your child to the culture associated with the language. Watch movies, cook traditional recipes together, or celebrate cultural holidays to make the learning experience more immersive.

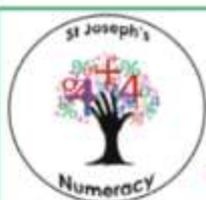
Language Games:

Incorporate language learning into games. Play word games like Scrabble or Bananagrams, or try language-learning board games designed for children. Make it a fun, family activity.

Daily Routines and Rituals:

Establish routines that include language learning. Whether it's a morning greeting, bedtime stories, or a weekly family language night, consistency is key.

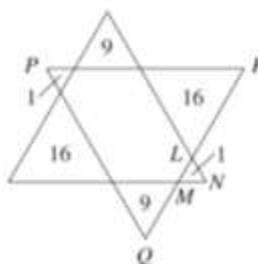




#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- D** The ratio of the areas of the three smaller equilateral triangles which have vertices at N , Q and R respectively is $1 : 9 : 16$. So the ratio of the side-lengths of these three triangles is $\sqrt{1} : \sqrt{9} : \sqrt{16} = 1 : 3 : 4$. Hence the ratio of the side-length of triangle LMN to that of triangle PQR is $1 : 8$ and the ratio of the areas of these two triangles is $1^2 : 8^2 = 1 : 64$. Therefore, as triangle LMN has area 1, triangle PQR has area 64. So the area of the inner hexagon is $64 - (1 + 9 + 16) = 38$.



Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- B** $2021 - 2223 + 2425 = 2021 + 2425 - 2223 = 4446 - 2223 = 2223$.

Puzzler of the week

The diagram shows two rectangles and a regular pentagon. One side of each rectangle has been extended to meet at X . What is the value of x ?

- A 52 B 54 C 56 D 58 E 60



Break time Teaser:

- The angles of a quadrilateral are in the ratio $3 : 4 : 5 : 6$.
What is the difference between the largest angle and the smallest angle?
A 30° B 40° C 50° D 60° E 70°

Send your answers to Mr. Allinson. Complete answers will get positive points on Class Charts.

Christmas at St Josephs

Christmas Jumper Day & Student Christmas Lunch coming soon – Monday 18th December 2023 – more details to follow next week!



CELEBRATE
Christmas
Monday 18th December 2023

HARRISON
food with thought

Roast Turkey with Stuffing, Pigs in Blankets & Gravy
or
Quorn Roast with Stuffing

Served with
Roast Potatoes
Baby Carrots & Peas

Chocolate & Vanilla Ice Cream Tub

Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year7

Julia Dulak and David Bialek for having the most positive points this week.

Year8

Marion Mwangi ,Joanna Balasa, Ephraim Babu, Dean De Guzman most positive points

Year9

Alex Baptista and Vanessa Masna for getting the most positive points

Year 12

Ricky Aman and Emma Tully for the most positive points on Classcharts.
Special mentions also for Patrycja Raj and Zoe Galang for challenging themselves academically in English Language.