



# St Joseph's Catholic High School

# Newsletter

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023



## Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

Please see Headteacher video message on our YouTube Channel.

Link is also below:

[Headteacher Message - NEWSLETTER 15th December 2023 \(youtube.com\)](#)

Please enjoy the latest St Josephs newsletter.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton

## Shrek Production

After three consecutive sold out nights this week I have been immensely proud of all the students who have taken part in Shrek whether it be on stage or crew. As most of you know I have been directing productions here for many years and this has been one of the most technically challenging we have done. Lots of fantastic photos are inside the newsletter...



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

# Theme of the Week – Joy

Bishop David, our Bishop, has emphasized the term 'Mission' for Northampton Diocese. *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations"* (Matthew 28:19) This being when he said *"We need to build communities of missionary discipleship around the diocese. These should be able to access oases of refreshment, renewal, and nourishment"*. In order to do this, to be Missionary disciples, we need to know the need for forgiveness and can confidently approach Jesus knowing that his mercy is freely available to us through his death on the cross and rising to life. Missionary disciples are Spirit-filled, relying on the power of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives. Missionary disciples are outward looking, always seeking opportunities to serve and help others in word and deed both within the Christian community and outside of it. Missionary disciples give generously of themselves and of what they have to others. Missionary disciples are fruitful; they display the fruits of the Spirit in their lives: 'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.' (Galatians 5:22–23)

In the Gospel on Sunday, John the Baptist outlines his purpose and mission. We pray that we can be more like John; sure, of the path that God wants us to walk and to carry out his mission through us. If we are not sure of our mission or may have strayed away from it, what better time than in Advent to find the path once more and set our feet back on it with renewed resolve.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist explains that he is not the Light but a witness to the Light. The Light being the revelation of God. In Christ, we see clearly who God is and where we should follow to be true people of God. John, the writer of the Gospel, makes sure that John the Baptist is made subordinate to Christ and he does this through John's own words. *"I am not the Messiah... 'But there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap."*

The readings on Sunday speak of being sent, of being full of the spirit of God, of responding to that spirit with action and joyful hearts. The psalm on Sunday speaks of God as having done great things for us. It speaks of a merciful God who redresses the imbalance between rich and poor, advantaged and disadvantaged, the mighty and the lowly. The 1<sup>st</sup> reading from Isaiah tells us how we are to respond to the coming of God into our lives. It is like a song of joy, a hymn of rejoicing. We have been called by our baptism and we in turn are to give the good news of God's message to whomever we meet. We are to respond with joy.

The single pink candle of Advent that we light today, reminds us of the pink sky before sunrise that a new day is almost upon us. The waiting that is this Advent time reminds us that we are but awaiting the day when in time Jesus will come again in glory.

So as we break for our Christmas holiday let us make it our Mission to bring Joy to those around us.

Thank you for all your support with our Christmas hamper appeal. Your generosity will bring joy to a family most in need. Please spend this holiday thinking of others and where possible do something that can bring Joy to a family member, a friend or better still someone you don't know and least expects it. What greater gift can you give someone but Joy!

Have a Happy, safe and Holy Christmas.

# Joy

Weekly Reflections  
17<sup>th</sup> December 2023



## A reading from the Gospel of St John (1:6-8,19-28)

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you - unknown to you - the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

## Prayer for the Week

Dearest Father, for  
whom we watch and  
wait, you sent John the  
Baptist to prepare the  
way of your Son: give  
us courage to speak the  
truth, to hunger for  
justice, and to suffer  
for the cause of right  
so we too can bring Joy  
to others, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## Saint of the Week

St Anastasia



22<sup>nd</sup> December

She is said to have been married  
to a Roman nobleman, Publius.  
When Publius discovered she was a  
Christian and had been secretly  
baptized, he ordered her to be  
treated like a slave. She rejoiced  
at this opportunity to serve Christ.  
She devoted her life in ministering  
to those Christians imprisoned for  
their faith, performing numerous  
works of charity.

St Anastasia was

**Grateful and  
Generous**

## Day 1

Why do you think Bishop  
David has put so much  
importance on Mission?

What was John the  
Baptist's mission when  
speaking to the priests at  
the time?

How can you ensure we fully  
fulfil the Mission of God in  
our words and deeds this  
Advent?

## Day 2

The readings from Sunday  
give us a sense of joy God  
will bring us. We light the  
pink candle on our Advent  
wreath for the theme of joy.  
How can you bring joy to  
others this Christmas?



## Christmas Hampers

Thank you for all your support with the Christmas hampers for SVP. Your contributions will make a real difference to families this Christmas. If you still do have something please bring to the Chapel by 12pm on Monday as they will then be collected and delivered.



### Reindeer Run 2023 Y7, Y8 & Y9

We have been pleasantly overwhelmed by the positive and festive response to the Reindeer Run this week. Students in Years 7-9 took to the field to have some fun and run as many laps as they could for the Thames Valley Hospice. Congratulations to Lucas Passos, Jean-Marie Tiero and Kasper Gazda who ran records of over 20 laps in the hour! May I kindly remind those students who still have their sponsorship forms to return them to myself, Mr. Gibbons or the office before we break up so that we can donate the money ready for Christmas time. It will truly make a difference.

Happy holidays and thank you SO much for all your support - Miss Crabtree





## Christmas Dinner Day!

On Monday the 18th December, we are excited to bring you the much-loved St Joseph's Christmas Dinner Day!

What's included?... Christmas dinner for all!

**A mufti-day (Christmas attire greatly encouraged!) for £1 donation on Parent Pay (ahead of the day).**

A star-studded line up of dinner-time entertainment.

The canteen will be running a breakfast service but not a break time service (in order to prepare for the Christmas dinner) and so students may wish to bring a break time snack to school on that day.



## Year 7 News

It has been a very lovely last week, students have been in a wonderful Christmas Spirit in our last full week!

A couple of reminders: Tuesday the 19th will be a half day and on our first day back on the 4th of January it will be Academic Review Day, all students are expected to attend. Please book your 15 minute slot with your child's tutor.

Have a lovely weekend all!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

## Year 7 – TVLP News

This week, Jeanette Kemp from the TVLP attended the Year 7 awards assembly to present certificates and prizes to the participants and winners of the 'Design a Book Cover' competition. Arianna Lacson was awarded first prize for her cover design for 'Private Peaceful' and won a £25 Amazon voucher. Aleksander Sapinska also won a box of a chocolates for her highly commended lion cover design. Well done to everyone that took part- the standard was very high. The next competition in the New Year will be a creative writing piece- so keep an eye out for details to come in 2024!



### Year 7 History News - Windsor Castle School Trip

We are excited to propose a school trip to Windsor Castle to support our medieval curriculum and to enhance local studies for our Year 7 students. There are 45 spaces available which are offered on a first come first served basis. However, please note that should students demonstrate poor behaviour in the run up to the trip, they will be prohibited from attending.

Below are the key details of this trip:

Travel by coach

Departs St. Joseph's at 9.30am

Departs Windsor Castle at 2.00 pm

Returns to St. Joseph's at approximately 2.30pm (traffic dependent)

The cost is £15.00 per pupil. This price covers bus, entrance to the castle and learning session. This is available to pay through ParentPay.

Over the course of the day, students will have the opportunity to explore the castle, learn how it developed over time and will attend a learning session entitled "1066. What happened next?"

Students need to wear their school uniform.

Students need to bring their lunch with them. However, Free School Meals will be provided to the relevant students on the day.

Should you have any questions or queries about the trip, please do contact Ms. Pesce ([c.pesce@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:c.pesce@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)) or Ms. Weir ([e.weir@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:e.weir@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)).

### Year 7 – Geography News

On Monday 4th December 15 of our year 7 geographers were given the opportunity to go to the Living Rainforest in Newbury as a reward for their progress and efforts in geography lessons. We had a great day looking at the plants and animals, and learned about why we need rainforests and how humans impact them. We found out how we can be more sustainable, including the importance of recycling and that eating insects would be better for the planet than eating beef!





### Year 7 Netball News

The Year 7 netball team continued their unbeaten record with a 10-0 win against Herschel Grammar School. Well done to Rachel, Eva, Michalina, Mia, Florence, Amelia, Malaika, Millie, Antoinette, Coco and Leila. A special well done to Florence who got player of the match.



### Year 8 Football

The Year 8 football team opened their cup football campaign against Beachwood at Slough Town Football Stadium. The game quickly turned into shooting practice for St Josephs. The team showed control and discipline. With the final score finishing 13-1! Goals: David G x6, Tobi L x3, Sewerin, James x1 and Rio x2.



## Year 9 News

1.5 more school days until we break up for Christmas! This week where we had our celebration assembly (see below for all of the winners). Next week we have jam packed last few days with Christmas dinner day on Monday and mass on Tuesday. On Monday students are allowed to wear their own clothes and Christmas jumpers are welcomed! Currently 9 Teresa have the least amount of xh's and are in the lead to win a box of Krisy Kremes. Have a lovely weekend! Miss Joseph – Head of Year 9

**St. Joseph's Catholic High School**

**Student who have demonstrated the Pupil Profile**

<u><b>Eloquent and Truthful</b></u> Alex Baptista and Phoebe Tomar	<u><b>Grateful and Generous</b></u> Wiktor Sztuba and Ela Suleyman
<u><b>Active and Curious</b></u> Jean Tiero and Iga Szustorowska	<u><b>Intentional and Prophetic</b></u> Mikah Aungon and Antoni Tobjaszewski
<u><b>Attentive and Discerning</b></u> Mateusz Stroczyński and Paulina Walczyk	<u><b>Learned and Wise</b></u> Afonso Reis Gomes and Lena Kuczynska
<u><b>Faith-Filled and Hopeful</b></u> Oliver Krolczek and Licia Triumph	<u><b>Compassionate and Loving</b></u> Ryan Passos-Wiggs and Isabelle Stacey

**St. Joseph's Catholic High School**

**Awards for Outstanding Performance**

<u><b>Art</b></u> Zuzanna Makar <u><b>Computing</b></u> Kamila Cebulska <u><b>English</b></u> Ava Bellamy <u><b>French</b></u> Antoni Tobjaszewski <u><b>Geography</b></u> Maksymilian Wedrzyk <u><b>History</b></u> Jayona George <u><b>Maths</b></u> Michal Kundys	<u><b>Music</b></u> Antoni Tobjaszewski <u><b>PSHE</b></u> Arina Pavlovskaja <u><b>PE</b></u> Andrius Trinova <u><b>Religion</b></u> Emma Powell <u><b>Science</b></u> Mikah Aungon <u><b>Spanish</b></u> Lena Kuczynska <u><b>Design Technology</b></u> Lena Kuczynska
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**St. Joseph's Catholic High School**

**Awards for Most Progress**

<u><b>Art</b></u> Mikolaj Ignatowicz <u><b>Computing</b></u> Arina Pavlovskaja <u><b>English</b></u> Dawid Kocolek <u><b>French</b></u> Mikolaj Ignatowicz <u><b>Geography</b></u> Dorian Kubiak <u><b>History</b></u> Ela Suleyman <u><b>Maths</b></u> Anna Wydrych-Kang	<u><b>Music</b></u> Amrita Dylak <u><b>PSHE</b></u> Benja'Min Dobos <u><b>PE</b></u> Licia Triumph <u><b>Religion</b></u> Wojciech Markowski <u><b>Science</b></u> Marco De Jesus <u><b>Spanish</b></u> Isla Slessor <u><b>Design Technology</b></u> Patrycja Szczepanska
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### Year 10 – Y13 History Trip Winchester Markets



Last Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December, thirty-six students across Years 10-13 visited Winchester with the History Department. We started with a short walking tour which commenced at King Alfred's Statue, visited the Great Hall where lies the remains of Winchester Castle, and concluded at Winchester Cathedral, before students explored the markets. It was brilliant to see everyone so excited about the trip and our students were well complimented

by both the bus driver and public. Some even helped members of the public with their Christmas shopping! Thank you so much to our students for being so well behaved and making us all so proud!



### Year 11 News

Well here we are at the end of term and how quickly it has gone. This week a number of things have taken place from Christmas Hampers to Shrek. A massive well done to all of Year 11 who have taken part (you know who you are!) The most important event this week was the PPE1 assembly on Tuesday. Use the holidays to reflect on your results and what you could do to improve.

On Monday we have Christmas Dinner day, I would love to see as many Christmas Jumpers as possible. Finally we end our year with a whole school mass in the sports hall.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas! Mrs Dunleavy – Head of Year 11

### KS4 & 5 Homework Policy

Students accruing 3 XHs within a half term will be required to attend Homework detention, three one-hour long homework catch up sessions which run the week after the third XH has been accrued from Monday - Wednesday. For every third XH accrued, students are expected to attend Homework Detention

Homework Detention is supervised by Heads of Department who are there to assist and explain tasks, in accordance with the information on ClassCharts.



### Year 13 Winter Wonderland Trip

Today, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December our reward trip for all Year 13 pupils to 'Winter Wonderland' in Hyde Park, London took place. A fantastic time was had by all!



### Drama News - SHREK

This week I have been immensely proud of all the students who have taken part in Shrek whether it be on stage or crew. As most of you know I have been directing productions here for many years and this has been one of the most technically challenging we have done. A big thank you to all the team involved. Miss Ure, Miss Stone, Mr Evans, Mr Robinson, Mr Silver and all the staff who helped backstage.

Now..... on to the next one. Bugsy Malone will start after Christmas. This will be a Key Stage 3 production starting rehearsals in electives. Following that we will be doing Legally Blonde.

No rest for us !!!!! (See lots of fantastic photos on the following page....)

Have a fabulous Christmas everyone!

"God Bless Us Everyone"

Mrs Dunleavy









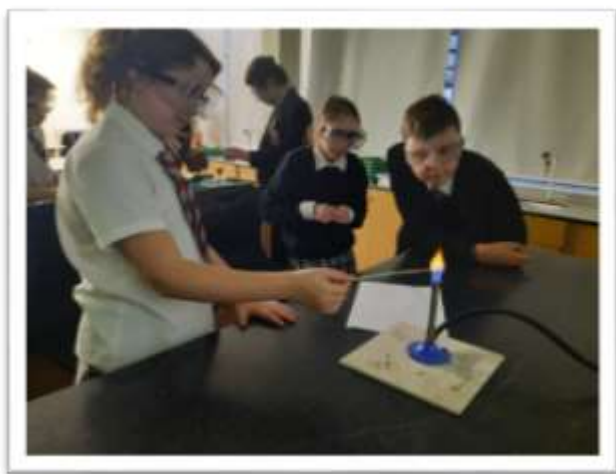
## Science Club

Spectacular display of flame colours done by students to explore the different colours that each metal ion produces.

This technique is used in the firework display!

Next Science club- 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Merry Christmas and Happy New year! - Science Club Team



## Homework Superstars



Paulina Duda - 7 Jerome  
 Brianne Barrozo – 8 Veronica  
 Patrick Lopez – 9 Jerome



Join the **Free** holiday activities and food programme **this winter break**

4 days of fun during the holidays! Including arts and crafts, circus-based activities, fencing, gymnastics, music, nutrition education, and a wide range of sports. All free for kids eligible for benefits related free school meals with HAF codes (you can also pay to join in the fun if you aren't eligible).

**VARIOUS DATES BETWEEN 18 DEC & 3 JAN**

For more info and to book: 





Slough Borough Council

Slough Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Department for Education

100 0000 (December 2023) 10-23

**SPORTS** inc 

Slough Borough Council

**Football Tournaments**

**Winter Junior 5 a side**

**20, 21, 27, 28 December**

**10:30am-2:30pm**

**11-16 years old**

**Powerleague, Ragstone Road, Slough, SL1 2PU**

**5 A SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS**

**BOYS & GIRLS ALL ABILITIES WELCOME**

***It's all about getting involved.***

To register for FREE with a HAF Code: <https://sloughhaf.org.uk/>

No HAF Code, register and pay: <https://www.sportsinc.org.uk/#5>

£3 per day or £10 paid in advance for 4 days

Healthy Hot Lunch and snacks available each day.

Make sure to use your HAF number if you have one.



Slough Holiday Activities and Food Programme

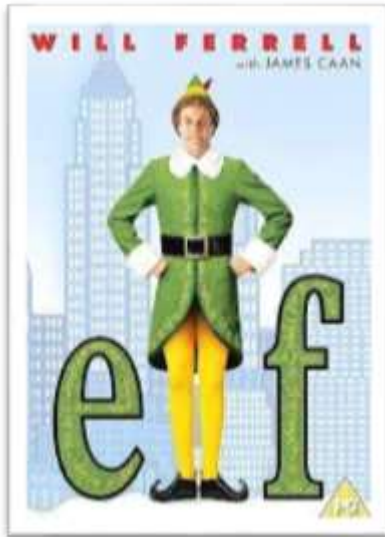
For more information Email: [info@sportsinc.org.uk](mailto:info@sportsinc.org.uk)

Department for Education

## St Josephs Rewards

### ELF Movie!

The top 40 students in each year group with the best positive to negative point's ratio watched Elf! This was a wonderful occasion that really got the students into the Christmas spirit. Well done to those students who earned themselves an invitation for this award!



### Subject Certificates, Pupil Profile Badges and Chocolates!

Students in every year group were awarded subject certificates for outstanding performance and good progress. 'Pupil Profile' badges and chocolates were also given out to students who demonstrate our core values on a day-to-day basis. Thank you and well done!







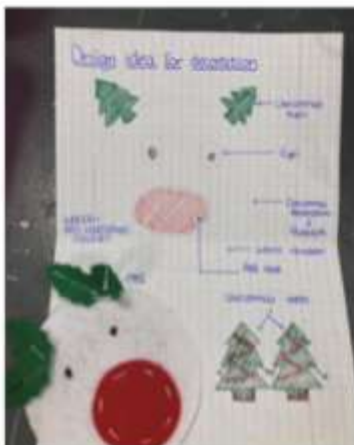
## Design and Technology Department



Another busy fortnight in D&T and Food. Year 7s have been practicing their 3D drawing and some have begun cardboard modelling; Year 8 have been exploring designers and taking inspiration from their work to design and begin making moulds for their designer soaps. Year 9 have come to the end of their materials modules having worked in Timber, plastic and textiles. In food pupils have been focussed on sweeter recipes perfecting Apple slices, Scones and yule logs. Year 10 have been exploring motions and mechanisms. Year 11 have had their PPE exams returned and are well into their NEAs.

### Year 9 Textile products.

Year 9s have been learning about different types of fabric construction and used a die cutter to manufacture quality pieces from which they created a unique fabric Christmas decoration.



### KS3 Food- Sweet treats.

Some of these bakes did not make it home as they were enjoyed in class, always good to have some photographic evidence



## DT Make It Elective

This term's Make It elective makes have taken on a Christmas theme, our makers this week worked independently to finish off or create a new decoration. Pupils have worked with a variety of materials to manufacture some really interesting and rather lovely decorations..... Well done!



## D&T Stars



Alisha Zakayira, Natalia Bednarczyk, Patrycja Artemska Y12  
Coco Janot, for being Active and Curious in electives

## DT social media



We try to post updates and points of interest on our Instagram page we also share some of the great work being done by the D&T pupils in the department....

## Pupil Nominations of the Week

### Year7

Dawid Tershalla and Bianca Danek for having the most positive points through the first half term.

### Year8

Amber Nunes, Coco Janot, Bruno Valek, Matas Overall – for achieving most positive points.

### Year9

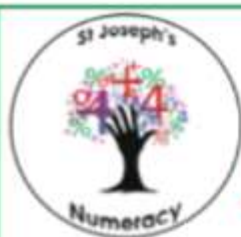
Altaire Ricalde and Krystian Cyran for getting the most positive points.  
Brianna Dankyi for making good contributions in French.

### Year 12

Sachman Sahdra for being accepted onto the STEM SMART program  
Inaaya Ajmal and Aaron Cabasa for the most positive points on Classcharts  
All the year 12 students who performed and helped out with Shrek the musical this week.

### Year 13

Mariam Gomez for excellent work in Economics and Igor Wojtczak for excellent work in Vocational Business.



# #IcandoMaths

## Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- B Since  $VWXYZ$  is a pentagon, the sum of its interior angles is  $540^\circ$ . Now  $\angle ZVW$  is an interior angle of a regular pentagon and so is  $108^\circ$ . Both  $\angle VWX$  and  $\angle XYZ$  are  $90^\circ$ , and the reflex angle  $\angle YZV = 90^\circ + 108^\circ$ . Therefore  $540^\circ = 108^\circ + 90^\circ + 90^\circ + 90^\circ + 108^\circ + x^\circ$ . Hence  $x = 540 - 486 = 54$ .



## Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- D The sum of the interior angles of a quadrilateral is  $360^\circ$ . So the smallest angle in the quadrilateral is  $3 \times \frac{360^\circ}{3+4+5+6} = 60^\circ$  and the largest angle is  $6 \times \frac{360^\circ}{3+4+5+6} = 120^\circ$ . Hence the required difference is  $60^\circ$ .

## Puzzler of the week

The diagram shows six points  $P, Q, R, S, T$  and  $U$  equally spaced around a circle of radius 2 cm. The inner circle has radius 1 cm. The shaded region has three lines of symmetry.

Which of the following gives the area, in  $\text{cm}^2$ , of the shaded region?

- A  $2\pi + 3$     B  $3\pi + 2$     C  $\frac{4\pi + 3}{2}$     D  $3(\pi + 2)$     E  $4\pi + 3$



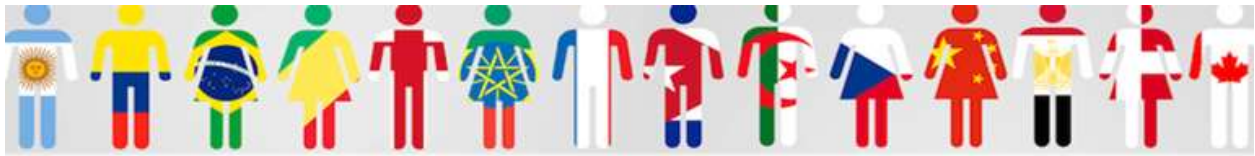
## Break time Teaser:

What is the value of 2019 tenths?

- A 2019    B 201.9    C 20.19    D 2.019    E 0.2019

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





## EAL NEWS

### (English as an Additional Language)

#### Resources for Effective Home Learning:

##### Duolingo:

Duolingo offers an interactive language-learning app designed specifically for children. It includes games, stories, and lessons in various languages.

##### StoryJumper:

StoryJumper allows children to create their own digital books. They can write, illustrate, and publish stories in the target language.

##### BBC Languages:

BBC Languages provides free online courses, games, and videos for learning and practicing languages. It covers a variety of languages suitable for different age groups.

##### Language Learning Apps:

Explore apps like "Lingodeer," "Droplets," or "Rosetta Stone Kids & Family" for interactive language learning experiences tailored for children.

Remember that the key to successful language development is **consistency and making the learning experience enjoyable**. Adapt these tips to your child's interests and age level to keep them motivated and engaged.

Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas.





**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Shaggy Calf Lane, Slough, SL2 5HW**

**Required to start as soon as possible.**

**FOOD TECHNICIAN**

**19.5 hours per week, term time plus 1 week  
insets/during school closure**

**8.30 – 3.30pm Tuesday-Thursday**

**STCAT SCP 6 Actual salary £10,378**

- Be able to organise and prepare the Food Rooms prior to use, ensuring hygiene standards are maintained.
- Assist in practical Food sessions.

An information pack is available from the school or can be  
downloaded from the school website

[www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](http://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)

***Tel : 01753 524713***

**e-mail: [o.mcateer@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:o.mcateer@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)**

**An equal opportunities employer**