



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 14th June 2024



Rounders Match

This week the Year 7's played their first rounders match, they played against St Bernards. St Bernards won 12 rounders to 6. It was a great effort and they all learnt a lot from a competitive match. Well done to Bianca, Orla, Coco, Arianna, Leila, Florence, Marta and Michalina.

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well. Link to the latest video is:

[\(1\) Headteacher Message - 14th June 2024 - YouTube](#)

Please like and subscribe to be made aware of all new and exciting St Josephs content.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton



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

Theme of the Week – Mustard Seed

Over the course of the last year, Jesus has referred to a vineyard on three different occasions. The first of the themes, *'I am generous'*, Jesus explained in the parable that the vineyard symbolized the people of God, and the owner is God Himself. The second theme, *'Produce fruit'* Jesus uses the parable of a landowner fencing off the vineyard and leasing it to tenants but when the landowner comes back the tenants keep the spoils for themselves. The Chief Priests and elders failed to realise that the Kingdom of God will be for those that produce fruit for the Lord, not to keep for themselves. The last was the week we celebrated St Joseph's day where Jesus explains he is the vine and God is the vine dresser. All three refer in some way to the Kingdom of God and the abundance of goodness and care that comes from it. In Sunday's Gospel Jesus uses the Mustard seed in his parable to illustrate the Kingdom of God. The seed does not rely on a gardener's constant attention – it is quite capable of growing wonderfully on its own, simply because it is a living seed. Whenever we sow the seed of God's love or God's Word in someone's heart, God will continue the work of growth there, using all the circumstances of that person's experience to develop the growing and goodness that can come from it.

The Gospel passage on Sunday seems to be a response to those who are discouraged as nothing seems to be happening. Jesus has explained the Kingdom of God on many occasions but here he needs to explain how the Kingdom of God comes about. (Could such small beginnings really be the start of and grow into a kingdom?) The image of the growing seed emphasises the helpless role of the farmer - the forces of nature working quietly away and mysteriously without any intervention from him. So the kingdom grows in people's hearts, in God's own way, whether we are aware of it or not. The greatness of the kingdom grows from a small beginning; its size can be compared to that of the mustard seed. It is for the benefit of all people; it is not the exclusive domain of any one flock; Acknowledged where Jesus says "birds of the air" within the Gospel. This was a traditional Jewish expression for the Gentiles - all the non-Jewish people. Compare the small beginnings of Jesus' ministry in Galilee with the spread of his message throughout the world and appreciate the vast growth that has taken place over the years. God's kingdom grows of its own accord, in its own way, often unseen.

The little seed of God's kingdom is someone opening themselves up to the possibility of God being real and active in their lives. Gradually it grows in them. Perhaps they ask more questions about God, or try to seek more meaning from the Bible, or go to church more often. Maybe they begin to talk more to God in prayer or seek help from God with questions about their lives. Possibly a verse from scripture hits home with a new and deeper meaning or perhaps there is a realisation that their life needs to change. Maybe they receive some special kindness from someone in a time of difficulty or sorrow. When we look at the Catholic Social Teaching of Stewardship, we can look at the Gospel above and other scripture as to what God has given us. "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it." Genesis 2:15. Pope Francis say "Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home" Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* 13 and "...the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us." Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* 159. Allow yourself to show the Kingdom of God to others so they too can see the wonders from a very small beginning but also grow it so all of our brothers and sisters can thrive from it.

Mustard seed

Weekly Reflections
16th June 2024



A reading from the Gospel of St Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

Day 1

Why do you think Jesus uses the illustrations of vineyards and a mustard seed to explain the Kingdom of God?

Day 2

Sometimes we can become frustrated when we do not see instant reward for our faith. What does the mustard seed tell us about our Faith and our place in the Kingdom of God?

Day 3

Where do you see yourself opening up more to God's Kingdom in your life? How can you help to open the hearts of the children to the surprises and small beginnings of God's plan for their lives?

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father,

Open our eyes to the countless blessings and riches you have freely given us and help us to show our appreciation by being faithful stewards of your creation.

Loving Lord

Hear our prayer



Catholic Social Teaching of Stewardship

Stewardship is all about caring for the many gifts that God has given us. These can include our school, our homes, local community, the environment, our talents and all other resources. All living things are connected so we must use God's gifts responsibly to meet the needs of everyone, now and for the future.

Please watch the video on the next slide about Stewardship and reflect on how you can look after and share the gifts God has given us.

*How can we be more:
Active and Curious*

Confirmations

Congratulations to all the students from St Joseph's who are about to make their Confirmation in the next few weeks or have recently done so. Confirmation has been celebrated in either St Anthony's, St Ethelbert's, Holy Family, Our Lady of Peace or Miłosierdzie Boże i Matka Boża Królowa Polski. We hope you enjoy your special day in deepening your connection with Christ and allow The Holy Spirit to bestow the seven gifts of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, fortitude, counsel, piety, and fear of the Lord—to assist you in your mission and witness.

No	Name	Form	No	Name	Form
1	Olivier Torok-Pena	9 Jerome	28	Sofia Shah	9 Peter
2	Amrita Kaur Dylak	9 Veronica	29	Thomas Stritch	9 Peter
3	Carmen Kaur Dylak	8 Veronica	30	Melissa Pala	13
4	Abeni Abomide	8 Mark	31	Amber Nunes	8 Cecilia
5	Jessica Sobala	10 Cecilia	32	Declan Fagan	9 Mark
6	Victoria Sobala	13 Cecilia	33	Patrick Lopez	9 Jerome
7	Coco Janot	8 Cecilia	34	Daniel Karczewski	10 Teresa
8	Apollona Grzeskiewicz	11 Mark	35	Dove Ohol	10 Veronica
9	Matilda Greskiewicz	8 Jerome	36	Esinam Deynoo	10 Peter
10	Karolina Ceberek	8 Teresa	37	Finora Souza	9 Cecilia
11	Amellia Pace	9 Teresa	38	Lionel Mascarenhas	10 Cecilia
12	Fabian Lukomski	9 Jerome	39	Nysa D'Souza	10 Cecilia
13	Oliwier Remfeld	9 Jerome	40	Simona Tekle	10 Peter
14	Emma Powell	9 Peter	41	Shawn Travasso	10 Jerome
15	James Mpungu	9 Jerome	42	Skyve Carvalho	9 Cecilia
16	Altaire Ricalde	9 Peter	43	Sydelle Vaz	10 Veronica
17	Oliver Stacey	9 Peter	44	Sweenal Fernandes	10 Teresa
18	Tymon Zygmuntowicz	9 Veronica	45	Jolisha Silva	11 Mark
19	Joshua Basaran	9 Teresa	46	Shaquille Michalewilz	12 Cecilia
20	Wiki Banasik	9 Jerome	47	Lena Kuczunska	9 Jerome
21	Maja Kordaczka	9 Jerome	48	Kamila Cebulska	9 Jerome
22	Zuzanna Makar	9 Teresa	49	Wiktor Szmulewicz	9 Cecilia
23	Mikolaj Ignatowicz	9 Mark	50	Dominik Szczepanek	9 Mark
24	Natalia Zaworska	9 Cecilia	51	Emilia Malczewska	9 Cecilia
25	Roksana Lydzinska	10 Cecilia	52	Nicole Podoba	10 Jerome
25	Grzegorz Kuczynski	12 Cecilia	53	Victoria Palczewska	12 Peter
26	Kornel Wojcik	10 Jerome	54	Jessica Kulesza	11 Mark
27	Jose Gomez	9 Teresa			

Year 7 News

Despite the weather not being at its best in June when we would usually see bright sunshine, this has not knocked the Year 7s spirits and engagement in everything that they do. A massive shout out to our Year 7 students who will be representing Slough at the Track and Field Championships in Reading on the 27th June, well done to - Wiktor, Marcus, Florence, Chibs, David and Amelia, they did exceptionally well at Districts and have rightfully earned a place in the squad.

Please be aware that for those going on the rewards trip a secondary letter will be released soon with more information about the trips/costs. Have a great weekend all!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

HPV Vaccinations Year 8

The Berkshire Immunisation Service will be visiting St Josephs on Wednesday 19th June 2024 for the Year 8 HPV 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. Please read the attached letter for further details.

Year 8 News

A very exciting week this week as those who were selected for the rewards trip at the end of July got to choose their options such as the beach, paintballing or Chessington. Behaviour has been the best it has been since September with the lowest amount of X's and lates being achieved, congratulations to 8 Veronica for gaining the least amount of XH'S. Enjoy the weekend and keep it up in to next week.

Miss McCormack – Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

This week Year 9 students showed great attitude to learning accumulating over 820 positive points from Monday. This reflects the hard work and positive attitude of all students.

Year 9 also sat their Maths and English progress test this week, again conducting this in an excellent manner. Well done to all students and excellent week, keep it up.

Mr Hunt

Year 10 News

Wonderful first week of PPEs everyone! We were amazed at how well they have been studying, how organized they are and we know you have been revising hard in your free time. Keep going please remember that its matter of consistency and discipline. You have made us all very proud.

Mr Romero – Head of Year 10

Girls Cricket Taster day

Well done to all the girls who represented St Josephs on Thursday in the Girls Cricket taster day. As part of the event students received coaching from Berkshire cricket coaches to improve their bowling and they played a number of cricket matches against other schools in Slough. A special mention to Phoebe for her excellent batting skills. In one over she managed to hit 3 4's.



Congratulations to this week's winner of the Year 10 Spanish Grammar Challenge:



Adriel Dias

Amazing work!



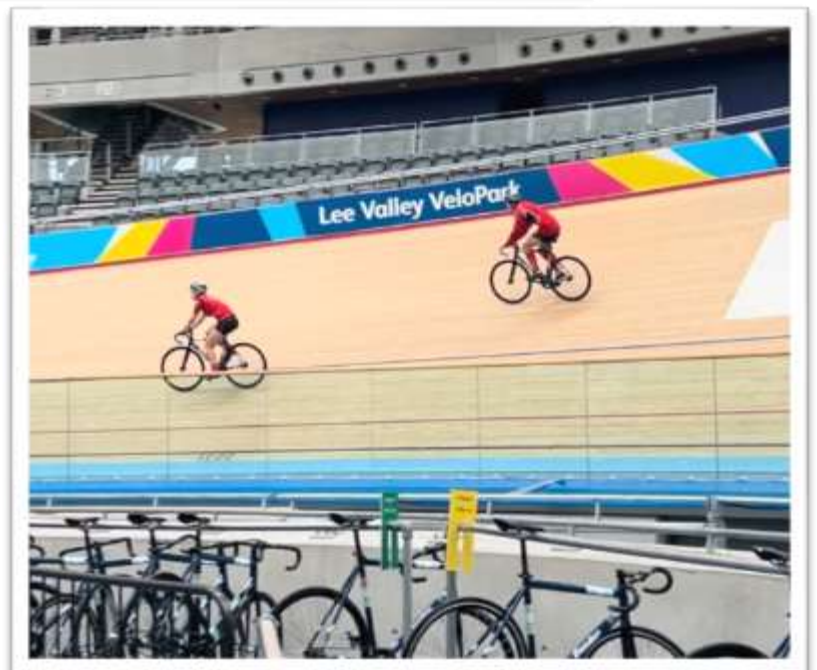
Well done to all Year 7s who have joined the DuoLingo League! Current top 3:

- 1. Ria Basli: 6674XP**
- 2. Vanessa Blicharz-Singh: 4480XP**
- 3. Michalina Pieczak: 2736XP**

There will be prizes for everyone who is in the top 5 by the end of next week, and a positive point for everyone who joins. If you'd like to join, check ClassCharts for instructions or speak to Miss Dannatt!

Olympic Velodrome

This week a group of students visited the Olympic Velodrome in the Olympic village in Stratford, to have a go at track cycling. All students started off nervously after realising there are no brakes on the bikes! After a couple of laps of the track the students grew in confidence and started flying around the track getting higher and higher up the 42degree slope on the corner of the track. All students did exceptionally well and there was only a couple of falls.



Period Product scheme

As part of the Period Product scheme, the government has provided free period products to all learners who need them in our school. Accordingly, this half term all girls have been given these free products. Pupils have had the option to opt out from it.

The scheme aims to address scenarios such as where pupils:

- Have forgotten their products
- Cannot afford products
- Have come on their period unexpectedly

By making these essential personal hygiene products easily accessible, it will reduce any stigma associated with periods. This is all in the hope of removing such barriers to learning.

Many thanks,

Mrs Ossei-Brainoo

Homework Superstars of the Week



Vanessa	Blicharz-Singh	7 Teresa	4
Emilia	Duczek	7 Veronica	4
Brianne	Barrozo	8 Veronica	3
Tesia	Teji	8 Veronica	3
Anna	Wydrych-Kang	9 Cecilia	3



Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year 7

Lena Wilk and Kingston Da Costa for consistently demonstrating our St Joseph's values

Year 8

Brianne Barozzo and Arriana Paulusz for the highest positive points

Year 9

Skyve Carvalho and Ryziah Perello for most positive points

Year 10

Amelia Marszalek and Jerusha Gill for a fantastic first month since joining us at St Josephs
Adriel Dias for winning the Year 10 Spanish grammar challenge

Year 12

Princess Chukwudi and Pawandeep Singh for the most effective use of Unifrog.



#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- B Let the radius of the dashed circle be r cm. Then one of the equal areas is bounded by circles of radii of 14 cm and r cm, whilst the other is bounded by circles of radii of r cm and 2 cm. So $\pi \times 14^2 - \pi r^2 = \pi r^2 - \pi \times 2^2$. Dividing throughout by π gives $196 - r^2 = r^2 - 4$. So $2r^2 = 200$, that is $r^2 = 100$. Therefore $r = 10$ (since $r > 0$).

Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

- E The sum of the interior angles of a quadrilateral is 360° , so $x + 5x + 2x + 4x = 360$, that is $12x = 360$. Therefore $x = 30$ and the angles of the quadrilateral, taken in order, are 30° , 150° , 60° and 120° . The diagram shows the shape of the quadrilateral.



Since $30 + 150 = 180$, we see that AB and DC are parallel. Since it has no equal angles, it is not a rhombus or a parallelogram so it is a trapezium.

Puzzler of the week

The diagram shows four equilateral triangles with sides of lengths 1, 2, 3 and 4. The area of the shaded region is equal to a times the area of the unshaded triangle of side-length 1.

What is the value of a ?

- A 8 B 11 C 18 D 23 E 26



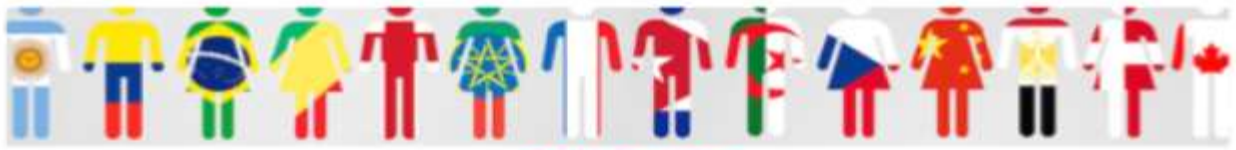
Break-time Teaser

Tegwen has the same number of brothers as she has sisters. Each one of her brothers has 50% more sisters than brothers.

How many children are in Tegwen's family?

- A 5 B 7 C 9 D 11 E 13

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



EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

Frequently asked questions

1. **My English is not very good. Should I speak English with my child?**
It is better to use your home language because you will provide a good model of the language. Besides, your child has many opportunities to hear English and to use it, outside the home.
2. **What can I do when my child does not want to use the home language anymore?**
It is normal for children, especially teenagers to want to use English all the time because they want to fit in with their friends. It is not advisable to try to force your child to use a particular language.
3. **What are the advantages of being bilingual?**
 - **Thinking power:** Learning and using more than one language can improve creative thinking, problem solving and expression.
 - **Culture:** Speaking more than one language means that you experience more than one world: different ways of thinking, ideas and beliefs. The home language is very important for passing on values and traditions and maintaining cultural identity.
 - **Language:** Bilingualism creates a better understanding of how language works and can make learning other languages easier.

