

Dear parents and carers,

A harvest service is an annual tradition in many schools, and it's always a lovely occasion. Children singing, the community coming together, and collecting goods to donate to local causes.

But we have been keen to explore the 'why' behind this event with the children. Harvest epitomises many principles of Catholic Social Teaching: being good **stewards of God's creation**; the **solidarity** of standing both with farmers and those who need support; **option for the poor**, as we think first of those who have needs greater than our own. Ultimately, we are called to promote **Human Dignity** and the **Common Good**. These principles are our compass, guiding decisions and responses - our hope is that the children continue to see the world through the lens of how we can serve others and truly live out the teachings of Christ.

Please read the rest of the newsletter to see the huge number of things going on recently! It has been an action-packed end to the half term.

It has been a long half term for everyone; being part of a special, nurturing community makes it a lot easier, though. Thank you for being part of the St Joseph's family - for all of your support and prayers.

Have a lovely week.

God bless

Sam Crome



## IMPORTANT DATES AND KEY INFO

### Coming Up...

INSET DAY  
Friday 24th Oct

### Future dates...

Half Term Week  
Mon 27th - Fri 31st Oct

Parents Evenings  
4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> November

Y3 Natural History Museum  
Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> November

[St Joseph's Instagram](#)

[Full School Calendar](#)

[Book a school tour:](#)  
[01306 883934](#)

## HARVEST SERVICE - THANK YOU

thank  
★ you ★

Thank you for coming to our Harvest Service, and for the foodbank donations. A huge thank you to the staff and children, too! It was a very special way to end half term and we hope you enjoyed it.

For more pictures, see page 4!



## Y4 TRIP - HASLEMERE MUSEUM

Last week, Year 4 enjoyed an exciting visit to Haslemere Museum as part of our History topic on Ancient Egypt. The day began with a fascinating workshop where the children used maps and timelines to discover when and where Ancient Egypt fits into history.

Afterwards, we took part in a range of hands-on activities, including investigating real Egyptian artefacts, learning to write in hieroglyphics, and even seeing a real Ancient Egyptian mummy! One of the highlights of the day was getting the chance to mummify our own toy "pharaohs", which caused plenty of laughter and learning in equal measure.

Our Year 4 pupils were a credit to the school—curious, articulate, and well-behaved throughout the trip.



## SHOEBOX APPEAL - DONATIONS

We are collecting items for a Christmas Shoebox appeal which sends them to children facing hardship. The shoeboxes will be sent to *Children in Distress*, who then distribute them. If you do wish to donate, please send in relevant items to your child's class by 14<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you!

### Ideas for what to include:

#### Ages 0-3:

Soft toys, Board books / cloth books, Teething toys / baby-safe rattles, Baby hats, mittens, socks (new or handmade), Baby toiletries Plastic feeding spoon, soft bibs

#### Ages 4-8:

Colouring/sticker books, Small toys or puzzles, Fun accessories, Warm hats/gloves, Sweet treats

#### Ages 9-12

Stationery, Toiletries, Small games/toys, Water bottles, keyrings Sweet treats

## CST CONFERENCE - YEAR 5

Ten Year 5 students journeyed by train to St Clement's Primary school in Ewell for a Catholic Social Teaching conference. They took part in workshops and collective worship to learn about how we can truly make a difference to the world with our faith. As always, their behaviour and attitude was exceptional throughout.



## AMAZON WISHLIST FOR SUPPLIES



Teachers have updated [our Amazon wishlist](#) in the hope that parents and carers may be able to help donate supplies. They are almost all for curriculum resources that we either need for teaching, or that will enhance learning. Thank you!

## PASTORAL CARE AT ST JOSEPH'S



We care deeply about the wellbeing of our children and families, and invest carefully in this at school. We have a wonderful Home School Link Worker who supports families, we are currently training up a staff member to be an ELSA (similar to counselling), have an incredible team of staff who are continually training to develop our provision, and finally, the member of the team on the left who supports us on a Friday afternoon! Please let us know how we can support you.

## ACADEMISATION MEETING - GOVERNORS

Message from Governors - we are considering whether or not St Joseph's should become an academy and we will be asking for your views after half-term; there will be a meeting for parents about this at **6pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November** at the school to discuss the proposal and answer any questions you may have. Please put the date in your diary and look out for our letter with more details after half-term. Thank you.

## PHOTOS - HARVEST SERVICE



## FOSJ - QUIZ NIGHT!

The annual Friends of St Joseph's Quiz night was a huge success at Meadowbank Stadium, raising over £500! Thank you to all who came, bought a raffle ticket, and enjoyed the quiz. With special thanks to FOSJ for organising, and for the talented Mr Moreau for leading us so well as quiz master! Make sure you come along next year! FOSJ also raised money at the school cake sale on Thursday, and we are so grateful for their support.



## YEAR 2 - MUSEUM TRIP

Year 2 visited Milestones Museum for an exciting day of historical discovery! The children dressed up as World War II evacuees to fully immerse themselves in the experience. Throughout the day, they took part in a range of hands-on activities from rationing food and decoding a spy's message to exploring what evacuees might have packed in their suitcases. Working in teams, the children impressed Miss Cook with their enthusiasm, teamwork, and impressive knowledge of their World War II topic. Thank you to Mr Currie, Mrs Mihaiasa and Mrs Beedle for accompanying the children on the trip.



## ATTENDANCE

## ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Thank you for ensuring your children get into school on time, every day. As I've written before, attendance is vital for lots of reasons and it's important that parents and the school support the children by being committed to excellent attendance. We have had an increase recently in lates to school, so please leave time for traffic, which is terrible in Dorking. If the school gets in touch regarding attendance or lateness, we do so with only the best intentions and to help support you and your children. Thank you.

## THANK YOU, AND SEE YOU IN NOVEMBER!

A huge thank you to the staff at the school for working tirelessly this half term to aid the academic, spiritual, and emotional development of the children. Thank you to the governors for their time and expertise. Thank you to the *Friends of St Joseph's* for their unwavering support and funding, and to all those who support us financially and with their time - from reading with the children, to coming on trips. And of course, thank you to the children. And last but not least, we thank God for his love and presence in our lives as we journey together.