

October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this month's newsletter. The new school year has well and truly started and the children have been working very hard in lessons. It has been a pleasure welcoming our new families in Early Years and those families who have joined us in other year groups. I hope that you will enjoy being part of our special school community. Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our recent Parent Information Evenings. It was a wonderful opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher and share key information about your child's learning.

Mrs M Murphy

## The Rosary:

October is the month of the Rosary. In school during assemblies and class collective worship, we have been exploring and praying parts of the Rosary with the children. We ask parents and children to continue to pray the Hail Mary at home as a family.



*Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.*

*Amen*

## Diocesan Schools' Mass

The annual Diocesan Schools' Mass was celebrated on **Friday 11 October** with Bishop David. Pupils and staff representatives from all the schools in the diocese gathered together in St Mary's Church, Dunstable.



This was a wonderful opportunity to gather together to share our faith and to celebrate our Catholic Schools.

## High School Applications!

As the deadline for applications is fast approaching we would like to remind you of the following if you have not already sent in your application:

- ◆ Please state **3 different school preferences** to ensure that you are not allocated a school you do not want.
- ◆ Complete the supplementary form and obtain the certificate of Catholic Practice from your local priest.

Your application must be submitted by 31 October, otherwise it will be deemed a late application and will impact on your choice of school.



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## Let's Get Cooking!

### Mini Pancakes

A Dutch treasure, these tiny pancakes have a few fabled stories on how they became so popular in Europe over the past three centuries. Some believe that these delectable treats have roots in a Dutch Abbey, where the mini-pancakes were used as a type of host for weekly communion.

Find your recipe [here](#)



## Harvest

Millions of families continue to face a food crisis due to a range of factors, such as climate change, conflict and other factors which means that food prices are skyrocketing. All around the world including here, in the UK, families are finding it harder than ever to put food on the table.

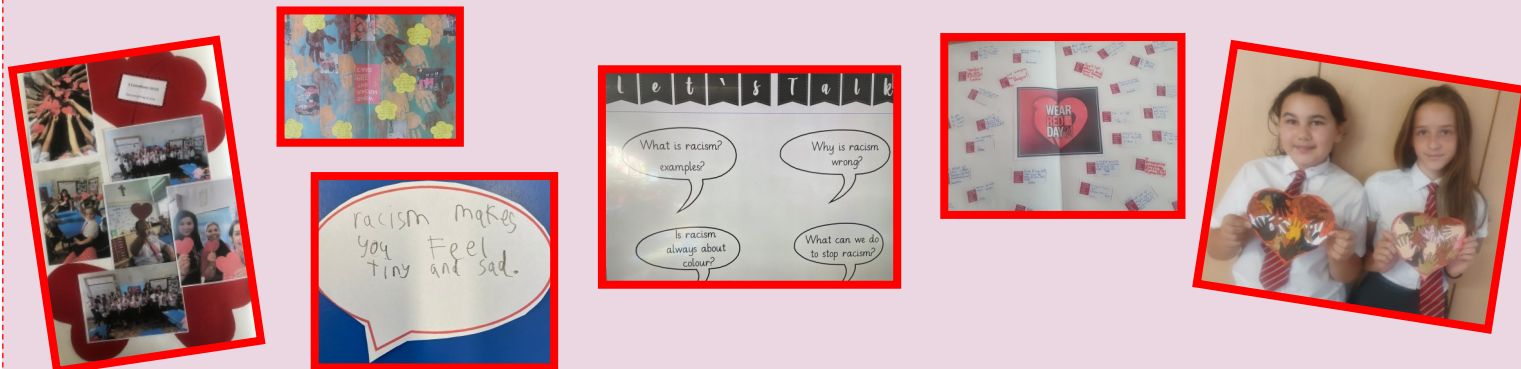
As part of our school Harvest celebrations we asked for donations of non-perishable foods so that we can deliver to NOAH, a Luton based charity who seek to help the most disadvantaged in the local community and Caritas who rely heavily on donations. Thank you as always for your generosity, as we understand how difficult it is for all families at this time.

Every donation is gratefully received and will make a real difference to those



## Wear Red Day

On Friday 18 October the school took part in the celebration 'Wear Red Day' in support of the charity 'Show Racism the Red Card'. On this day, the children were encouraged to wear a red accessory to school along with their school uniform. In both assembly and class, the children engaged in activities that discussed racism, what racism is and what the children can do to reduce and stop racist behaviour. Learning took a variety of different forms that included circle times and art activities. We all had a valuable, informative and fun day.



### Sporting News!

#### Key Stage 1

Lots of fun was had at the Year 1 and 2 Multisports. Children took part in games and activities and got lovely medals too!



#### Key Stage 2

Our Year 6 boys got the season off to a great start, winning their first 3 games. Thank you to all the parents for their support and encouragement and to Mr Evans and Mr Ngoro for their coaching expertise.



An active and fun day for our Year 3 and 4 boys at the Tag-Rugby event at Luton Rugby Club. They developed their skills and improved with each match they played.



The Year 5 and 6 Girls' Football League kicked off to great success at Queen Elizabeth School, with our girls doing very well in our first round of the league!



What an afternoon! After our late arrival at Inspire, our Year 5 and Year 6 Sportshall Athletics team performed brilliantly, showing amazing team spirit and resilience. All their determination paid off and they finished second qualifying for the Town finals in January. Our thanks as always to Graham – especially for letting us run our missed event and to Vicki and the Lea Manor Young Leaders for another smoothly run event.



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## OPAL :

In assembly today, we shared our OPAL playground update with the children. After half-term we will begin to 'zone' areas in our school ground which will be available for all children to explore and have fun. It is our hope that this makes their lunch time a really enjoyable time. If they have any time in the holidays, we have invited children to draw or make a list of activities they would like to see on our playground. They can hand these to their class teacher when we return.

As explained previously we will now be outdoors in most weathers, therefore all children must have waterproof coats with them every day. They are also welcome to bring in their wellies (in a separate bag), which of course must be clearly labelled with their name.

As the project begins, we will be asking for donations of resources you no longer use or need at home e.g. pots and pans, dressing up clothes, blankets, cushions etc so please watch this space for more information.



## Everyone a Reader! Everyday Day a Reading Day!

Monday 04 November will see the launch of our school-wide Reading Race! The Reading Race consists of 10 to 15 **core fiction texts** (dependent on year group) that children will be challenged to read across the academic year. The chosen books represent age appropriate, high quality, '**must reads**' for your child and form the basis of a strong literature spine that runs through the school.



Please support the school as we promote reading for pleasure and the benefits it brings by reading at home with your child as regularly as you can.

At St Joseph's, everyone is a reader and everyday is a reading day!

## Black History Month:

Black History Month has been part of the fabric of the UK since the late 1980s and in recent years there has been a renewed need to celebrate the achievements and struggles of Black communities throughout history, right up to the present day.

Black History Month is a time for education and reflection and this year the theme is '**Reclaiming Narratives.**' This theme underscores a commitment to correcting historical inaccuracies and showcasing the untold success stories and the full complexity of black heritage. It's about taking control of our stories and honouring our heroes while challenging the narratives that have often overlooked the contributions and achievements of black individuals both in the UK and globally.

In school we have been taking part in a range of activities to promote awareness.



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## Contact details, pupil medical and food allergen information:

Please ensure that all your telephone numbers and address details **are correct** and **regularly updated**, in particular changes to mobile numbers. **This is extremely important in the event of an emergency.** It is also essential that you advise the school of any medical conditions relating to your child and that you keep the school updated of any changes to medication for our records.

We also need to ensure that allergen information is current and would ask parents and carers to keep us updated for any changes to allergens. This is extremely important and we thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

## Year 6 Norfolk Lakes and Activity Week:



Year 6 have had a busy half term. The children who attended the residential to Norfolk Lakes had a great time and really enjoyed activities such as: stand up paddle boarding, giant canoe, climbing, caving and fencing. Meanwhile back at school the remaining children enjoyed a day at Mead Open Farm, a visit to Cineworld (for a private screening) and pizza making.

What a start to Year 6!



## Times Table RockStars:

We are excited that this useful programme and initiative will officially be starting after the October half-term. This is a wonderful way of practising times table facts which are essential for all elements of maths as well as being a useful life skills.



## ParentMail:

ParentMail is our main source of communication to parents and carers and we would advise, for ease of access and instant notifications, that the ParentMail app is downloaded to all mobile devices.

We would also like to remind parents and carers to update any changes to their email or mobile numbers via the app. If you are having any difficulty accessing ParentMail then please contact the KS2 office who will be happy to help you.

