

St Joseph's School

28th February 2025 Newsletter



Royal Gunpowder Mills

Year 3 had a fantastic trip to the Royal Gunpowder Mills this week and were introduced to concepts such as gravity, friction and acceleration through a series of exciting experiments. These included making and launching air-powered rockets, exploring how forces dictate the path of their rocket and what other variables can affect their flight path. As expected, year 3 were fantastic ambassadors of our school.

Together we grow
in God's love,
learning to be the
best we can be.

North Road, Herford
SG14 2BU

Telephone: 01992 583148

Email:
admin@stjosephs255.hertsch.uk

diary@stjosephs255.hertsch.uk

Upcoming date for the diary!

March

4th – Reception dental screening
5th – Ash Wednesday service
11am
6th – **World book day – reading challenge begins (information to follow)**
7th – Yr 1 library visit
w/c 17th – Book fair. - *more information to follow.*
19th – St Joseph's day mass
time 11am
26th LIFT session. Reading focus.

April

4th – End of term. Collection at 1:15pm
7th – **21st Easter Holidays**
22nd – Return to school
23rd – LFT session. Maths focus.

Dear parents and carers,

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful and restful half-term break. We have many exciting events planned for this term.

Next week, we begin with Ash Wednesday, marking the start of Lent—a time for reflection and spiritual growth. As we journey through this season, let us focus on the Gospel message by making time to **GIVE, ACT, and PRAY**, focusing our hearts on God. We also keep Pope Francis in our prayers and wish him a swift recovery from his current illness.

This week, our Year 6 students embarked on their school journey, arriving at *Hilltop* in Norfolk on Monday afternoon. Over three fantastic days, they took part in a range of activities, from a coastal erosion workshop to abseiling. The staff were incredibly proud of the children, who represented St. Joseph's as exemplary ambassadors.

Martin Maloney
Headteacher

'Rainbow Friends'

We have been made aware of the game 'Rainbow Friends' which is played within Roblox. There are also video compilations on YouTube that some of our younger pupils in Reception and Year 1 are accessing. Rainbow Friends is described as a horror experience is similar to popular games such as 'Five Nights at Freddy's' and 'Poppy's Playtime'. Rainbow Friends takes place over a five-day loop and players take on challenges. While doing so, players must avoid enemies. You play as a kidnapped child taken to an amusement park called 'Odd World' and are stalked by scary characters. Whilst there is no age restriction for rainbow friends, it is advised that parents exercise caution due to the nature of rainbow friends and that it is more suitable for older children.



Here is a link to an article on the NSPCC website that helps parents decide if Roblox is appropriate for their child, and if so, steps that can be taken to keep children safe while playing: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/roblox/>

Notes from the SENCO

Welcome back 😊

I hope that everyone had a restful half term and a good first week back.

Updates

- PINS- We are carrying on our work on developing sensory toolkits for all classes and if anyone has any sensory aids such as ear defenders, weighted blankets etc that they are no longer using and would be happy to donate, they would be gratefully received.
- Through our work with PINS, an SEN group has been started by one of our parents. If you are interested in becoming part of the group, please contact me on senco@stjosephs255.herts.sch.uk and I will pass on your details.
- Again, through PINS, we are involved in training around Masking and spotting signs that a child is Masking in school- please contact me (senco@stjosephs255.herts.sch.uk) if you would like further information.
- The next PINS coffee morning is on Friday 21st March. I will send out invites nearer the time. If you are interested in attending, please contact me (senco@stjosephs255.herts.sch.uk) and I will send an invite to you.
- **SALT**- Shona (our Speech Therapist) Imrana and Tanner (our Speech therapy students) have set up talking interventions in Reception and Nursery and we are very fortunate as both Imrana and Tanner will be supporting us weekly until Easter. After Easter, both of them will be in 3 days a week, which means we will have further scope to support language needs across the school.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SUPPORT

From the 1st of April, Hertfordshire County Council will be funding a county wide creative therapy service for 5-18year old's through a company called **Signpost**. I am attending a meeting on 20.03.25 to find out more about what this will look like and the referral process. If you would like to discuss this further please contact me (senco@stjosephs255.herts.sch.uk).

Have a lovely weekend.

Rachel Mayes - SENCo

Sports hall starts

A group of year 5 and 6 students represented St Joseph's at the Wodson park, Sports hall Athletics event this week. Mrs. Moffett reported that the children all did so well. They placed 6th overall but were incredibly close to coming 5th. There were only a few points between 1st place and 6th so it was a tight competition. Well done everyone!



Our Jubilee journey!

Following on from our last newsletter, we have been continuing our Jubilee journey for Jubilee year 2025. You will now see our entrance hall has been transformed with the children's progress so far. Last week we had a Jubilee day so that the children could explore the logo and make their pledges.

Gold Book Winners

Well done to all our Gold book winners this week:

- R: Cole
- Y1: Dylan
- Y2: Daniel
- Y3: Whole class
- Y4: Ethan
- Y5: Thea
- Y6: Whole class

A Prayer for Pope Francis

Loving and merciful God,
 We lift up our Holy Father, Pope Francis, in prayer. Grant him strength, healing, and comfort during this time of illness. Guide the hands of those caring for him, filling them with wisdom and compassion. May he feel Your presence, bringing him peace and restoration. Lord, we entrust him to Your loving care, asking that You bless him with renewed health so he may continue to lead with faith and humility. We also pray for all those who are sick, that they may find hope and healing in Your grace.

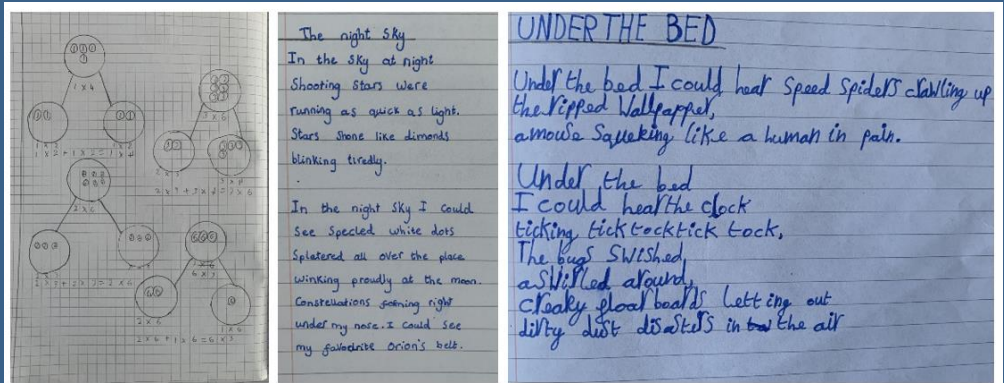
Amen.

Year 4 news

In Year 4, we have looked at our spotlight artist 'William Morris'. We researched him and his style of art, then recreated one of his nature themed pieces.



In Maths we have been using part-part whole models to partition one of the factors in a multiplication equation. We had to set our work out clearly and carefully so we could use the representation to write an equation to match. We have also been writing free verse poems in class based on a setting.



HERTS LIBRARIES · 100 YEARS · HERTS LIBRARIES · 100 YEARS · HERTS LIBRARIES · 100 YEARS

Sanskruti Dance presents...
The Tree of Life
 Wednesday 12 March
 4.00pm - 5.00pm
 Hertford Library
 Family Theatre for ages 7+
 £3 per ticket

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries
 0900 123 4049

HERTS LIBRARIES · 100 YEARS · HERTS LIBRARIES · 100 YEARS · HERTS LIBRARIES · 100 YEARS

HERTS LIBRARIES · 100 YEARS · HERTS LIBRARIES · 100 YEARS · HERTS LIBRARIES · 100 YEARS

HERTS LIBRARIES · 100 YEARS · HERTS LIBRARIES · 100 YEARS · HERTS LIBRARIES · 100 YEARS

Our fantastic dancers from the competition before half term. Well done all!



Year 6 residential

Year 6 had fabulous time at Hilltop. The children demonstrated resilience, perseverance and made us feel very proud: their support for each other and politeness were exemplary!



Have a great weekend!