



# The St Joseph's Journal

ALL ABOUT THE SCHOOL WE GO TO

EXCLUSIVE NEWS TODAY

## Citizens of the World!

By Bianka, Laibah and Iliana

**The week before half term saw the whole school embarking on an adventure into different religions of the world**

Years 1 to 6 all worked in house teams for the week and each day they focused on a different religion. Everyone took time to find out more about Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism.

It was great fun, and lots was learned about the different religions. Each day lots of crafts and research were done and everyone got a chance to cook, do art, make models and investigate the different beliefs and daily lives of the followers of each religion.

The most memorable parts of the week were:

Making little people from the story of Moses parting the Red Sea for a whole school model.

Making Diva lamps.

Yoga in the library

Learning about the ten Gurus and the Golden Temple

Cooking chapattis

We can't wait to see what next year's Citizens of the world week will have in store!

## Reading Revolution – Free books for all!

By Xavier, Bianka, Laibah and Iliana



**This year we have lots of fun reading activities happening in school and out of it too!**

The Big Book Swap can be found on our playground before and after school, children and adults can take the books for free, returning them after they have read them or keeping them if they loved it! We are always happy to receive new donations of books.

We also have a Reading Café which is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month. This happens in the hall, straight after school. All the books are free and there are books, magazines, comics for children and adults alike. Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits are served as well. "It's lots of fun!" Said Elvey. Once a term there is also a shared story in the hall after school.

Every week on Friday afternoon, a class visits the local library. We walk down and spend time choosing books to read in our classroom. After returning the books we have already borrowed we can check out our new ones! After lunch we all have time to explore the new books. "Reading in class every day is actually my favorite thing!" said one Year 4.

This edition has been created by the Newspaper Club and Ms Wortley

# Year 4 visit Salcey Forest

By Xavier and Davyson

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November Year 4 took a trip to the lovely Salcey Forest

We trekked through the forest taking our time to look at all there was to see. "Salcey Forest was so much fun, I loved the amazement on everyone's faces when they saw how tall the trees were!" Said Mrs. Parker.

After walking for a long time, we found a camp to have lunch at and played lots of

Games, we also tried to make stone age tools and build camps. "Salcey forest is a wonderful place to be!" said Ava.



# Christmas Lunch

By Michelle

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December the whole of St Joseph's school celebrated Christmas by coming together for a delicious lunch.

Lunchtime was longer and a lot more fun according to the children, "It was epic!" said Roxana. "I enjoyed sitting together and chatting." Said Tyreese.

The staff had laid the tables with table clothes, napkins and crackers and the teachers served the children their lunch while they chatted and played with their cracker toys. We were all in such a good mood!

We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas holiday and look forward to more fun things next term!

# Sports at St Joseph's

By Emma and Kyren

**This term has seen lots of brilliant developments in our sports skills!**

On 15<sup>th</sup> November the brilliant netball team went to the BGN tournament and had a very successful day winning every match! We've also taken part in a Year 3 football tournament.

New wall bars were installed just after half term and every class has enjoyed getting to grips with their climbing and gymnastics skills using them.

Finally we received the excellent Gold Sports Award for excellence in PE teaching and learning. Miss Maycock said "It's extremely difficult to achieve, lots of work is involved from teachers and pupils. Hopefully we will continue achieving the Gold Award next year!"

# Fencing Club

by Elvey

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December saw us host our first ever fencing competition.**

The fencing club have spent 5 weeks learning their skills until the games began. Two people took turn to fence. There were two groups: older and younger children. The winners of each group went head to head. The school champion is Summer, with Elvey as runner up.

# Christmas Fayre

By Leika and Maisey

**On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December St Joseph's hosted it's annual Christmas Fayre.**

The event was opened by the school choir singing an acapella version of Once in Royal David's City. After that the stalls were open for business. There were refreshments organised by Year 6, a bottle tombola and a lot of beautiful Christmas decorations to buy. There was also a free book stall.

Father Christmas came to visit and lots of children got a chance to meet him.

Every class had planned and produced Christmas goods for selling on the day. Year 1 had made pompom angels, year 2 had created lollipop stick stables. Year 3 made stockings and cookies, Year 4 made tree decorations and Christmas puddings and Year 5 made clay angels. Early Years made iced biscuits to sell.

The fayre raised £1020 and everyone was really pleased at how successful it was. We are already looking forward to next year's!

# No Pens Day by Leika

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October saw St Joseph's taking part in an event called No Pens Day. No one in the school was allowed to pick up a pen or pencil at all!

Every class created alternative ways to record their learning for the day.

Year 3 and 4 investigated a Stone Age camp that had sprung up on the school field, they created cave art and made Stone Age bread. Year 5 enjoyed exploring the Royal Family Tree while Year 1 explored the story of the Gingerbread man by doing lots of drama and cooking.

It was such a successful day we would like to plan more over the next few terms.



Year 3 and 4 explore the Stone Age camp. "It was really cool to actually see the new things and explore it rather than just looking at pictures!" Emily said.

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## Elf Visit

by Lacey, Helen, Julia and Maria

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December we had a surprise visit to our school!

Nursery, Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 all went into the hall for an assembly. However, soon after they arrived they spotted a very special visitor coming in the front door. An Elf had come to drop off some presents!

The Elf had bells on her toes and a told the children lots of stories, including one about how her tooth came out eating a candy cane! She also taught us Santa's favourite song which is Jingle Bells.

When it was time for her to go we all got a present which was a really cool book. We said thank you and then she went off to visit some more children.

We really hope she comes again next year!

## Should Children be given homework? By Summer

### What is homework?

Homework is a task given to pupils by teachers to be done outside school hours and may be done with a parent/guardian or an older relative's help. This can be based on many varieties of subjects including: numeracy (maths), English, Science and reading. The homework is usually relevant to recent activities already taught in school.

### Good vs bad homework

There are many types of homework, so it is crucial that teachers select the right activities to help pupils in lessons. Well chosen homework can help with more understanding in the subject, encourage independent learning skills and improve pupil's fluency. Although, when homework is chosen badly it can affect the pupil detrimentally, causing anxiety and stress.

### What do people think?

The majority of parents (98%) say that homework is important in both secondary and primary school and that they should spend around 1 hour a day on homework in primary, and 2 – 3 hours in secondary. Ms Clare Smith, headteacher of St Joseph's school in Banbury believes that at all Levels, it adds around 5 -6 months to a pupil's progress. Although the majority of pupil's say homework is unnecessary, they think that projects are a great homework and should be the homework more often. Experts say homework should be given only if its is well chosen, otherwise the result could be worse than no homework. The government believe that year 5 and 6 children should spend a minimum of 30 minutes on homework.

# Shine Star Shine

By Xavier

This term KS1 have been working really hard to put on an excellent nativity play.

The children have had to learn songs words and actions to accompany their singing. We thought their singing, dancing and actions were really good – they sounded amazing.

They deserved the big clap they got for their hard work and good acting. They showed lots of enthusiasm and worked hard to make it really good.

Early Years also put on a great performance of Christmas Eve in the Toy shop, their singing was good and they looked great in their costumes.

# Children singing for Children

By Sophie S

The annual Children singing for Children concert was held on 8<sup>th</sup> November this year and our choir had a starring role.

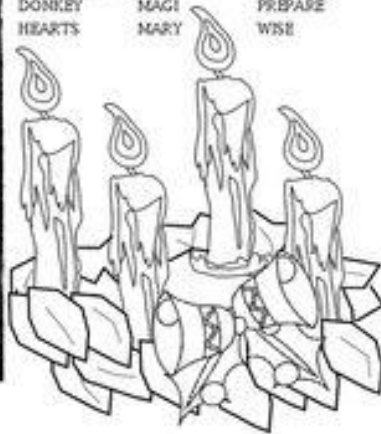
“It was an exciting experience , I felt nervous but I had to be brave.” Said Sophie. The concert was held at St Mary’s church and rehearsals took all afternoon. In the evening the audience was made up of lots of people who had paid for tickets. We sang Seek Ye First and Love is Easy.

School later received quite a few messages about how beautifully the choir performed and we are very proud of them for doing such a fantastic job. They were later invited to open the Christmas Fayre which they were very happy to do!

## A Time To Prepare

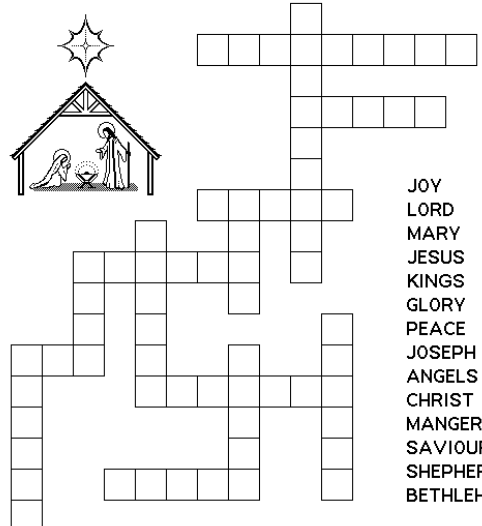


ADVENT	JESUS	MANGER
ANGEL	JOSEPH	NAZARETH
BETHLEHEM	LORD	PRAY
DONKEY	MAGI	PREPARE
HEARTS	MARY	WISE



## Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.  
Each word is only used once.



JOY  
LORD  
MARY  
JESUS  
KINGS  
GLORY  
PEACE  
JOSEPH  
ANGELS  
CHRIST  
MANGER  
SAVIOUR  
SHEPHERDS  
BETHLEHEM