



# The St Joseph's Journal

ALL ABOUT THE SCHOOL WE GO TO

EXCLUSIVE NEWS TODAY

## Citizens of the World

By Emmanuel Y5

**This year, in the week before October half term, the whole school took part in Citizens of the World week.**

This year we were learning about stories from around the world and we were really surprised by how much we learnt; from how stories travel to how different cultures use stories to explain the world around them.

Every student had a chance to learn different stories and do different activities; we discovered the Anansi stories of West Africa, the Ancient Greek myth of Pandora's box among others. We also looked at stories from China and Europe. We created and retold stories using puppet shows, drama, art, craft and did lots of research about the countries these stories came from.

It was a great week!



## St Joseph's takes to the Polls!

By Caitlin and Sophie R Y5

**In the week before and during the election, Year 5 and 6 were learning about politics and the parties that were taking part in the election.**

The classes were split into four groups, representing the four parties standing in Banbury. They were given the manifestos of



their parties and sorted the promises into ones they considered important and those they felt were less important. Everyone then wrote campaign speeches and 2 people from each party were chosen to make these in assembly. Then pupils registered to vote and went to the polls on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>. The results were announced on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – the Liberal democrats won.

"It was fun but also nerve-wracking!" said the Labour representatives. "It was nice working with others and we got a taste of what the adults feel too" said Murrin who represented the Conservative party.

## Diary of a Candidate

by Thelma, Y6

My name is Thelma and I was a representative for the Green Party in the St Joseph's election 2019. Unfortunately, my party came third but it didn't matter because I enjoyed the experience of creating manifestos and voting. I especially enjoyed becoming an MP and presenting my manifesto to KS2 to convince them to vote for the Green Party. I hope that next time we can create our own parties and manifestos to present to everyone in KS2. I'd say the best bit was when we got the chance to vote because I experienced what adults have to do in a general election but most importantly, it made me feel I was part of something and even if I didn't win, I know I tried my best and had fun.

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

# Goodbye Mrs Gill!

By Laibah and Bianka Y5

**We were all very sad at the end of November when we had to say goodbye to Mrs Gill, our Year 2 teacher.**

Mrs Gill has been part of some great times at St Josephs; Citizens of the World Week, the Christmas Nativity, Teddy Bears picnic and The Great Day in to name a few.

To celebrate Mrs Gill's time with us Year 2 had a movie night where they watched Alvin and the Chipmunks and ate popcorn, made their own pick-a-mix, decorated cakes and biscuits and danced!

Isabel and Annabella said "It was really good and great fun!"

# Mrs Gill: the best bits

By Laibah and Bianka Y5

**We asked the teachers what they would remember about Mrs Gill:**

One day all the teachers were planning lessons together in the library and Mrs Gill's phone started ringing, we all sang along to the ring tone and everyone laughed a lot – Mr Lewis

She has a lovely smile and we will miss it – Mrs Walsh

We worked on a project together and got very excited, it just made us happy and smiley about all the great things the children at St Joseph's could do, it was great! – Ms Wortley

Mrs Gill has a nice laugh! – Mrs Taylor

# Children singing for Children

By Sophie R and Caitlin Y5

**On 14<sup>th</sup> October St Joseph's Choir took part in Children Singing for Children at St Mary's Church.**

The choir worked hard to learn the words of their songs by heart and added Makaton signs to 'True Colours'. Mr Lewis said "The children sang fantastically and should be very proud of representing the school so well." Members of the choir said it was awesome but scary and a lovely opportunity to meet other schools.

# Nativity Time!

By Bianka and Laibah Y5

**This term the children in EYFS and KS1 have been focusing on presenting the Christmas story to us in their Nativity performances.**

The EYFS performance was on 11<sup>th</sup> December and everyone looked great in their costumes, they sang nicely and performed well. Everyone thought they had done a great job.

KS1 performed in the last week of term, the Year 2 children filled the main roles and spoke clearly, the Year 1 and 2 children sang beautifully, putting actions to the songs, and everyone loved the performance they did to the school. Khizar said "I loved it!"



# Ready for Reading?

By Leika Y6

**At school reading is part of everyday life but we work hard to make it fun by doing different activities like library visits and the Reading Café.**

Every class in school has an opportunity to visit the library every term and pick books, we can pick any books we like, the options are endless!

The Reading Café is held on the first Wednesday of every month. There are books for younger ones all the way to books grown-ups can enjoy. Mats, blankets and tables to sit at and enjoy books or take them home – they are free! Refreshments including biscuits, squash, tea and coffee are served. Not only are there books but comics and Storycraft work is shared too!

Storycraft is a club which creates stories in many different ways. You can act, make comics, write stories and more. Children from all years can participate so some pieces are a team effort and all are displayed at the Reading Café.

The Big Book Swap has been going for over a year now. A bookshelf on wheels is on the playground in the mornings, the books are free and anyone can take them to read.

We are always happy to take book donations to add to our free give away!

# Sporting Success at St Joe's

## Tag Rugby

By Maisey Y6

**On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November Year 6 pupils from St Joseph's and from William Morris came together for a Tag Rugby match.**

The afternoon was led by two teachers from each school. Both classes were split into 3 groups and so 3 matches were played. Playing areas were set up on our field and the games began. Edwin thought it would be easy to succeed but Fatimah told us, "I saw people having fun although it was actually really hard!"

It was an opportunity to play sport with pupils from another school.

## Cross Country Champ!

By Leika and Maisey

**On 26<sup>th</sup> September a group of Year 6's went to a cross-country event at BGN.**

Atena, one of the students competing for St Joseph's against the other schools in Banbury, came in an outstanding 2<sup>nd</sup> place. This meant she qualified for the next round of the competition which took place at Sibford school on 29<sup>th</sup> November. Again, Atena proved her skill by coming 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 130 runners from across North Oxfordshire. The final round (which she had qualified for) was held on 11<sup>th</sup> December in Abingdon at Radley College. Before the event Atena felt confident but stressed, she had worked out a new tactic to get herself away from the crowd but to pace herself. It worked! She came second, which is incredible as she had never run a cross country race before.

## Nailed it at Netball

By David and Dominik Y5



**On a Thursday in November our Netball team travelled to BGN to take part in a Netball competition. Our expert team played 8 matches, winning 7 and drawing 1.**

Miss Maycock and the team had trained hard in preparation for the day, meeting every week on Wednesday after school. The team was made up of players from Year 6 and our reporters went along too. Emma, Roland, Sarah, David, Kamil, Frewyn and Thelma made up the team, with Emma being the strongest shooter and scoring 9 goals in one match!

We played against the Grange, Queensway, St John's, William Morris, Bishop Loveday and Hill View amongst others and were declared the overall winners at the end of the day. This means we will be competing in the semi-finals held in March and if we are 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in that we will move into the finals.

Although our players are focusing on preparing for the matches in March we still have time to be great sportsmen too, as members of our team helped others from other schools when they were struggling in matches.

Emma said "When we were doing a bit of training like passing and shooting it all seemed fine. The nets seemed easy at first but then we realised they were really high and it became a little bit harder and we got worried, but it doesn't matter because we came first. I would say it was definitely worth all the hard work!"

The staff would like to add that they are very proud of the team and how they represented the school, and we would like to thank Miss Maycock for all her hard work in training them all.

# No Pens day Wednesday!

By Leika Y6

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November we had a fun day called No Pens Day where you can not use pens or pencils. Each class has to do lessons where no writing is used!

Year 5 and 6 both did fun teamwork games and they also acted out the Battle of Troy and learnt about democracy and the art of how to debate about topics like no school uniform. Year 3 and 4 did lots of drama activities and Year 2 used different equipment to work out and record their maths work and learnt poems by heart and added actions. Year 1 acted out stories from the life of Jesus.

We wish we could have a day like this more often!

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## Trips and Treats!

By Bianka and Laibah Y5

So far this academic year we have already been out and about quite a bit, with trips to BGN for sports days, library visits and weekly Masses at St Joseph's.

Year 6 also went to an IMPS workshop at Horton Hospital to learn about how their bodies work. They took part in a programme teaching children about what to do in an emergency and to learn first aid skills. The Year 6's learnt to do CPR and took part in drama activities to put people into the recovery position. They learnt a lot of safety tips too.

Year 5 and 6 walked to Banbury Museum to see the Turner exhibition. They looked at his paintings of Oxford and then at black and white versions that had been made with little lines on metal and ink (a print). They then investigated how Turner created perspective in his paintings and had a go at creating their own pictures using his technique.

"I thought it was going to be filled with dinosaurs, and that it would be so big and full of paintings. Actually, it was fun!" Said Emmanuel.

"It was nice to draw our own pictures." Said Michelle.

# Christmas Bazaar

By Emmanuel and Sophie R Y5

The annual Christmas Bazaar was held in our school hall on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December straight after school.

The hall was laid out with lots of stalls selling cakes, raffle tickets, balloons, hot chocolate and lots more. There were lots of games to play as well and everyone enjoyed going around and playing them. The Big Book Swap was set up on the stage and lots of books were given away free.

Poppy said that the Bazaar was "Fun because we got to see Santa and got to do tombolas and lucky dips too!"

Caitlin said "It was crowded but fun."

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## Forest School

By Maisey Y6 and Caitlin Y5

Forest school is an opportunity for children to go out of the school site and learn about teamwork, leadership and resilience. This term the Year 1 children have been taking part in it with Mr Pemble.

Every Wednesday half of the Year 1 class travel by mini bus to the Forest School site. Sometimes they go to Horley Woods and sometimes to Prince William Wood. When they are there, they climb trees, build shelters out of sticks and have fun. They also get to eat biscuits and drink hot chocolate. The children said they had to use their imaginations and forage for sticks, leaves and other natural resources. They loved having the opportunity to learn new skills and play games.

"It was really fun!" Said Khizar.

Kian added "I loved it, it was great"

