

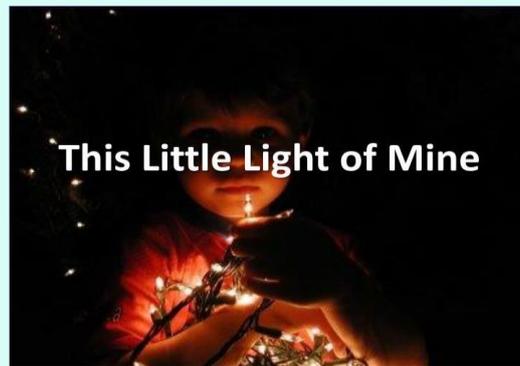
*'Inspired to be our best'*



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Thame

# *Newsletter*

*19 July 2019*



Dear Parents and Carers,

And so another academic year draws to a close! We had a wonderful transition week into our school with our EYU starters last week. Miss Oakley did a fantastic job of both visiting our new arrivals in their pre-school settings and the whole team worked hard on the two induction days. Thank you to the whole EYU team and office for a very successful start for our new arrivals.

At the other end of the school, we had an emotional goodbye to our Year 6 leavers as they move on to secondary school and we wish them the very best on their journey moving on. We also wish our staff leavers all the best as they move on to pastures new.

And for those moving up in school – we had a successful transition day on Monday where the children got to meet their new teachers and spend a morning in their new classrooms. It was lovely to welcome our new teachers on that morning as well and in the afternoon we had a chance to start the planning process for next year.

It has been a busy year at St Joseph's and now is a chance for a well-earned break. We wish you all a wonderful summer, stay safe and we look forward to welcoming all our families back in September.

Warm wishes

Jess Tweedie  
**Principal**



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## Viking Day

No one can say that we don't work up to the wire at St Joseph's – learning right to the last day of term.



Year 3 and 4 were treated to a surprise Viking Day this Thursday. Following a live link lesson with Jorvik Viking Centre up in York, the pupils were asked to put their knowledge into action in working groups to complete two challenges including making a boat that floats and carry the right number of crew members (in this case marbles to represent Vikings) and then recreating Viking buildings using their knowledge. What an inspirational days learning!

## Let's Go Fly a Kite

KS1 had a lovely day yesterday building and flying kites. Our playground was full of colourful, fluttering kites and people standing around unknottting them!



## Sports Day and Sports Week

We had a wonderful sports week – a huge vote of thanks to Miss Cox for thoughtful, topic linked activities and lots of fun. It culminated in Sports Day and fun was had by all. Well done to all our pupils displaying sporting prowess and sports-person-ship!

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### Playground Works

Last Saturday we had an awesome team of volunteers who demolished the fort area and managed to fill two skips! Thank you to our 'strong' parent community as we build a new playground for our school. Mrs Sproat has worked her socks off to get everything ready so that the engineers and builders can start work on our drainage, fencing, pathways and lighting projects on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July! We are aiming for it to be completed in the 6-week holiday period. Can I please give both Mrs McGarry and Mrs Sproat a huge thank you, on behalf of the school community, for all the hard work these projects have entailed.

### Reports and Results

We have sent out reports and results for the SATs and phonics testing. Whilst we are waiting for official publication of results, we 'unofficially' continue to have double last year's National Average for pupils in KS2 reaching Greater Depth in Reading, Writing and Maths (this year's National figures have not yet been published). For the second year running we also double the number of pupils moving to Greater Depth from KS1 to KS2 – showing valued added in KS2. Thank you to the teaching staff for all their support and hard work and, of course, to our pupils for using their growth mind- sets. We are so proud of all their effort.

### School Equipment

The new EYU/KS1 team (going to be called **Primary 1** from September) have asked that pupils do not bring a pencil case to school. Pencils and pens will be provided and the range of '*all singing and dancing*' pencil cases are causing a distraction in class.

They also requested, due to a shortage of cloakroom space, that children are limited to **one regular sized bag** that will take their book bag and anything else. They can also bring in a PE bag. These will fit on the pegs. Please ensure all uniform is labelled so we can get it back to you asap.

The KS2 team (going to be called **Primary 2** from September) have asked that pupils only bring a simple pencil case into school due to the amount of distraction from learning caused by over complicated pencil cases this year.

### Thame Library Summer Reading Challenge

There is a reading challenge this Summer at the library. It would be great if children could take part and keep their reading up over the holidays. The following link will take you to a launch video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czDFvaXX4hl>

Information can be found through this link:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

**Happy Reading!**



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### **Year 6 Leaver Letters**

Year 6 have written some lovely letters to the school community on the impact our School has had on their lives. What particularly stood out was the impact of our School Mission and Values. Three of these were read out at the Leaver's Mass and we have permission to print two of them here. If you would like to read these letters, they are in a bound booklet in the front entrance hall.

Dear St Joseph's,

*As I am preparing to move my journey forward into secondary school, I have been thinking back at the times I have cherished at this school. My life has depended on this school and you have been the ones who have helped me grow to be the person I am now.*

*During my time at St Joseph's, I have been taught all of the values that have shown me how to become an example to others. As I am Catholic, my parents thought that this would be the best environment for my future; this has taught me how to be faith-filled. I have learnt about the blessing of my faith in God and Jesus. I have also been shown how to be curious; this has taught me how to challenge myself and to think outside of the box. The most positive value that I have learned is to be generous; this value will reach high standards in life and will encourage me to be the best that I can be.*

*Another time when I had a great attitude was when I went to Woodlands and Youlbury. Here I learnt skills which will bring me up in the future. These were times when I was introduced to having independence – I was away from my family for 5 days. I was taught never to give up and also to stick with a positive mind-set. On the high ropes in Woodlands, I had to face a fear that I had never experienced before, which was heights. I managed to face my fear; this will help me to build confidence in secondary school with a new environment, new friends and relationships.*

*Whilst I was taught masses out of school, I have also been shown how to develop life skills at St Joe's. This included: accepting ourselves and to be who we are; be the best that you can be – you can't be better than you are. You taught me how to gain confidence in my actions and in what I say by taking me on school trips such as Woodlands, Youlbury and every other school trip.*

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*St Joseph's has been the perfect school for me since EYU. Thank you St Joe's for everything that you have taught me. I hope to come back and visit soon.*

*Yours Sincerely,  
Alice*

*Dear St Joseph's,*

*This school has taught me how to make friends as well as believing in myself. When I reflect over the years, I appreciate all the people who have guided me through the years of Primary School.*

*One of the lessons I have learned is not to rely on my mum or other people because they won't always be there for every other thing. One assembly explained that you need to take responsibility and not blame other people for your mistakes.*

*At Woodlands I learnt how we should be generous towards each other by doing lots of activities together and helping each other get through. I faced lots of challenges but overcame them!*

*When we went to Kidzania I was introduced to lots of jobs and learnt how money works. I understood it more because we went off and did it individually.*

*Thank you again to all the people who helped me and inspired me to be a better person.*

*Yours Sincerely*

*Ollie*

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### Diary Dates

The list of dates below is not exhaustive – please look out for further letters and keep an eye on the calendar on the front page of the school website.

22 July – 26 July	St Joseph's School Holiday Club
22 July – 30 August	Work starts on site. Access to school only through Church car park gate
29 July – 02 August	Lighthouse Thame
06 August – 07 August	St Joseph's Church Holiday Club – please see parish bulletin for more details.
02 September – 03 September	INSET
Wednesday 04 September	School begins 8.40am
Thursday 05 September	Whole School Welcome Mass 9.15am
Thursday 26 September	Open Afternoon