

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 23rd July 2021

A MESSAGE FROM MISS CHOMA

Hi everyone,

I cannot believe a year has passed and I am writing the final newsletter of the school year (at 11:30pm) whilst waiting for Y6 to fall asleep at their camp over – I do not think they have many intentions of sleeping! We will see. We say our farewell to Y6 as they move on to the next stage of their school life. They have ended the year with a magnificent performance of their Y6 production, 'Wow! What a Year!' which was a reflection of time during Covid. They reminisced about the long queues, the shortage of food and supplies, the joy of home learning and the fantastic Sir Captain Tom Moore who raised over £32million by his 100th birthday. Y6 led a beautiful Leavers Mass and reflected on their time at St Joseph's. They have been a wonderful Y6 with many gifts and talents, and I know they will go forth to serve others in their adult life. God bless Y6 – remember the words to your song 'Running Free' – you can strive to be whatever you want in life. Use the gifts you have and take all the chances you are given.

As I type this letter to you all, I think of each and every one of you and the amazing journey you have been on this year: your resilience, hard work, fabulous smiles, and kindness and generosity. I have truly enjoyed every day with you – our little chats throughout the day or at lunch time. You all have super personalities. I cannot wait to hear all your stories from the holidays. This year has been a year of team work – children; staff, parents/carers, extended family and friends all working together to support each other through the pandemic. I cannot thank you enough.

I would like to thank all the staff for their tireless efforts this year. They have taken on many roles and always with a smile on their face. The staff are dedicated and hardworking and always have the children's interests at the heart of everything they do. I feel privileged to work alongside such a great team.

We would like to thank the parents for their kind words and beautiful gifts – they are much appreciated by the staff.

You will receive a letter regarding arrangements for September later in the holiday.

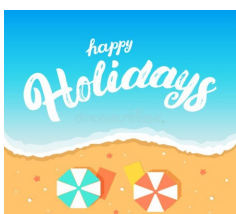
I would like to wish you all a fabulous and well-deserved summer holiday. I hope you enjoy lots of time with family and friends making special memories.

From all the staff - be safe; be kind and be happy.

God Bless



HAPPY HOLIDAY



We would like to wish every single one of you a happy and healthy summer holiday! We will be retuning back to school on **Tuesday 7th September 2021**.

Monday 6th September is a staff training day.

Enjoy your time off and we look forward to see you all ready and raring to go for the next school year in September!

KEY INFORMATION

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK

Goodbye and good luck to Miss Robertshaw and Miss Milnes as they move onto their new schools. We would like to thank them both for being part of St Joseph's and wish them every success for the future.

We welcome back Miss Chappel and Mrs Dalton following their maternity leave. They are looking forward to meeting their new classes in September.

Thank you to all the children and parents for your kind words, cards and gifts. We look forward to moving to our new classes in September.

SCHOOL LUNCHES - SEPTEMBER 2020

Meals remain free to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 as part of the Universal Free School Meals scheme.

For Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, the cost is £2.40 which is payable on ParentPay.

The new school lunch menu is now available on the school website. If your child is in KS2 and would like to make a change to their school meal pattern in September, please email office@stjosephsotley.org as soon as possible.

Y2 Parents - please make sure you have indicated whether your child will be on school dinners or packed lunches in September. Thank you.

UNIFORM SWAP SHOP

Bridge Church, Otley have announced Free School Uniform Swap sessions on Friday 13th, Tuesday 17th and Friday 20th August from 10.30 am - 2.00pm. The announcement reads: "We must operate controlled entry to comply with current Covid restrictions. Adults must be masked. Free tea/coffee/juice available outside for those needing to wait for entry. **PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BAGS.** Any changes in plan will be shown on the church notice board in August so please take note." This is a great opportunity to reduce waste and come together as a local community.



CLASS CHARITIES

Well done to everyone who has taken part in their class charity events. We have raised a fantastic amount of money for charity, and we are astounded by your generosity. Well done to all the children for their creative fundraising ideas.

Here is a selection of photo's from this week's charity events.



FREE PIANO

Well maintained piano needs a new home, will need to be collected. If you are interested please contact Miss Armitage via the school office, or Keith Foster on 01132842871.



CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Your light is the only light I need
as I travel through life's journey.

Your word the only voice I hear,
that still small voice that leads me
to the place where I should be.

Your presence is the only company I need,
as I walk this narrow road.

Your friendship the strength I need
to help me on my way.

Amen

OUR LADY & ALL SAINTS CHURCH

MASS TIMES

Due to Covid-19 Restrictions, Mass times have
changed for Our Lady and All Saints Otley.

Please see bulletin for changes to Mass times

[Click here](#)

Please book a place for Saturday evening or Sunday
morning Mass - [book here](#)

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

On Thursday, we had our last whole school collective worship together where we took time to reflect on what we were thankful for this year. Even though it has been an extremely difficult year, there are still lots of things to be grateful for.

Here are some of the things the children said: friends, family, homes, football, teachers, NHS workers, school, spending time with grandparents, cricket, the world and God.

END OF YEAR MASS

Well done to Year 5 for leading our Mass today. The theme was journeys and although many of us will not be travelling as far as we normally do, we will all be undertaking various journeys.

We ask God to keep us all safe over the summer and bring us all back together in September.

We also thought about our life journeys, some of us will not be returning to St. Joseph's in September (Year 6, Mrs Shakespeare, Miss Milnes & Miss Robertshaw) and we wish them all the best as they continue their life journey.

The rest of us will also be continuing our life journeys as we start new classes in September. It can be a little bit scary starting new schools, new classes and new jobs but we take comfort knowing that Jesus is with us on every step that we take.

CONFIRMATION UPDATE FOR YEAR 5 PARENTS

Children currently in Year 5 will hopefully be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation next year when they are in Year 6. Father Lawrie is hoping that this will take place in the autumn term, but we are waiting to hear updates from the Diocese due to the current situation.

The preparation classes take place after school in the Year 6 classroom led by Mrs Harvey and Mrs Russell. We will try to let you know any further information when we have it but please start talking with your child as to whether they would like to receive this Sacrament. Thank you.

THANK YOU FATHER LAWRIE

A special thank you to Father Lawrie for everything he has done throughout this year: seven Holy Communion Masses, two Confirmation Masses, Reconciliation for all of KS2, and class masses for each year group as well as two masses this week for us. He is an absolute star and always willing to go the extra mile for the children and adults in the school. We wish him a lovely holiday!



CLASS NEWS



YEAR R NEWS

This week, we have enjoyed our final week together in Reception! On Tuesday, the children enjoyed taking part in their very first sports day. The children joined their peers and participated in a running relay, balancing the beanbag and egg and spoon races. They did a super job, especially in the heat!

To prepare for the holidays, we have also been learning about water safety. We spoke about some of the dangers of water and ways to keep safe whilst out and about. We also learnt about the role of the RLNI and their role in keeping people safe whilst at the beach; the children then created their own posters to display what they had learnt.

I'm so sad to be leaving the children. They have been an absolute delight to teach this year and I've loved every second of it! Despite learning online and in school, each and every one of them have shown a positive attitude towards their learning and have done everything asked of them with a big smile on their face. Thank you all so much for your kindness, support and generosity — Mrs Hart and I feel very loved! We wish you a relaxing, restful and fun summer holiday with family and friends.



YEAR 1 NEWS

This week in Maths, we have been learning how to tell the time when it is o'clock and half-past the hour. On the clock we know that the big hand (minute hand) is pointing to 12 and the smaller hand (hour hand) is pointing to the hour and that the opposite applies for half-past. The minute hand has travelled to the 6 and the hour hand is now halfway between.

In English, we have been editing and improving our writing. We have used our best handwriting, finger spaces, capital letters and full stops.

In RE, we listened to the The Feeding of the 5,000 which is also known as the "miracle of the five loaves and two fish"; the Gospel of John tells us that Jesus used five loaves and two fish supplied by a boy to feed a multitude. This miracle teaches us that Jesus is big enough for any of our expectations.

On Tuesday, we had Sports Day; we enjoyed participating in the Egg & Spoon race, the Running race and the Obstacle race. In the afternoon we sat outside in the shade and listened to a story whilst enjoying ice-lollies from Miss Choma.

On Friday, we rounded off our wonderful year by handing over a cheque to Neil Griffin from Otley Friendly Wildlife. He was delighted with our fundraising efforts and thanked us for raising money that will go towards protecting and helping our local wildlife and by encouraging and educating people and organisations to be more wildlife friendly.



Thank you to all the children for their kind words and gifts. We wish you a safe and happy summer!

YEAR 2 NEWS

This week in year 2 we gathered our Great Fire of London work to showcase to Ms Choma, we then took our houses outside to the KS2 playground and recreated the Great Fire of London (with real fire!!). We had some very mixed emotions as the houses slowly went up in flames, but this was a fantastic way to show how heart breaking it must have been for those people back in 1666.

We finally got to participate in sports day this week: Year 2 chose the events hurdles, egg and spoon and running. We had lots of fun cheering on our friends and enjoyed receiving our participation sticker! Everyone did such a fantastic job and should all be proud of themselves!

Year 2 have been such a super star class this year, they have all worked so hard, made lots of progress in their learning and made Mrs Deyes and I laugh and smile the whole year round. We want to give a massive thank you to you all (and your parents) for working super hard and making my NQT year one to remember! We wish you a well deserved, restful and relaxing summer holiday.



YEAR 3 NEWS

We have made it to the end of another eventful school year, and myself and Mrs Walsh are so impressed with the progress the children have made and the resilience, optimism and hard work that they have brought to everything we have done in Year 3.

In English this week we wrote an adventure narrative based on 'Spy Fox', and used all of the features and language we have focused on this year. They were a treat to read and listen to for our last day isolating before we were back in school.

The children strived their hardest and had fantastic fun on Sports Day; they coped well with the heat! We have had a busy week crafting - finishing the canopic jars for our Ancient Egyptian topic, creating pencil cases with buttons, and decorating biscuits to sell for our chosen charity, Otley Action for Older People.

We would like to thank the children and parents for their very generous gifts, and hope everyone has a happy and peaceful summer holiday. We will see you in September to do it all again!

YEAR 4 NEWS

Considering the difficult times we have all been through, Year 4 have blown us away with the progress and achievements they have made. Myself and Miss Earley are so proud of all of the children.

This week all the children enjoyed taking part in Sports Day. Thank you for coming to support us in this glorious weather.

As an end of term treat, we enjoyed watching The Spiderwick Chronicles. As a class, we have been reading this book and have worked very hard to develop our comprehension skills. The film was a good way to end this unit of work. We also enjoyed a treat of popcorn, sweets and juice!

Finally, Miss Earley and myself, would like to say a huge thank you for the very generous gifts we have received this week, they are very much appreciated. We would also like to thank you for your continued support this year.

Good luck to Year 4 as they move into their new class. Keep working hard and keep smiling!

YEAR 5 NEWS

It has been lovely to be back in school this week and see the children in person! On Tuesday, the children enjoyed Sports Day - taking part in a sprint race, obstacle race, football race and an egg & spoon race.

On Wednesday, we were able to perform our Samba drumming. The children were brilliant at playing the different instruments and keeping the different rhythms! It was nice to see the other children enjoy the music and get up and dance to it! A massive thank you to Mrs Shakespeare and Mr Fletcher. We also held our charity event which involved Year 5 using a water pistol or throwing wet sponges at myself and Mrs Russell. Afterwards, the children also had fun getting each other wet. The great news is that as well as having fun we have also raised over £100 for Dementia UK.

We would like to wish all the children and their families a very happy summer. Thank you to all of the children this year for being absolute superstars! We have loved working with them and they have made us smile every day. Thank you for all your kind gifts and messages; it was very generous of you all. We will miss teaching you next year but we know that you will be a fantastic Year 6 class and we look forward to watching you grow and develop the many gifts that you have been given.

YEAR 6 NEWS

We've had a fantastic final week at St Joseph's! On Tuesday, we took part in our annual Sports Day. This year, we took part in a whole class relay race, a running race and an obstacle course. We also performed our end of year production—Wow! What a Year! The children put on an Oscar-winning performance and they should be very proud of themselves.

On Wednesday, we enjoyed leading our Leavers Mass in church and our final class assembly. It was an emotional service as we reflected on our journey throughout primary school. Thank you to Father Lawrie for leading Mass and for all he has done for the children throughout their time at St Joseph's.

On Thursday, we held our Sports Morning charity event. The children loved playing rounders, football and rugby. We have raised over £300 which is amazing! On Thursday night, we returned to school for our camp-over experience. We sang lots of karaoke, danced around a campfire, joined in a Miss Wilkinson quiz and settled down for hot chocolates and a film.

Miss Kealey and I would like to thank you for all your kind words and gifts. It has been a pleasure teaching this class over their time in KS2 (three times in fact!) and I will miss them and hope they continue to have lots of success and happiness at secondary school.