



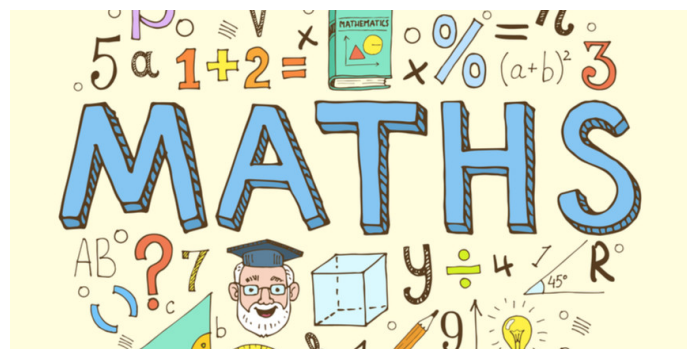
## Head-lines

I write to you for the first time in the new school year in our half termly newsletter. It has been a great start to the new year and it has been lovely seeing all the children again, as well as welcoming new starters. I hope the children are happy to be back in school, with friends and enjoying their learning. As well as welcoming our new St Joseph's starters, I also want to welcome all of the children who attend our pre-school, now run by Em's Stars. It has been an action packed half term, and of course, when we return, we start the run up to Christmas! So lots more to look forward to. I hope you all have a lovely half term break. Mr Turner

## Key priorities for the year

We strive to live by our Vision statement and 'Step up to achieve excellence.' We are always seeking ways to improve and develop and make the school journey as 'excellent' as possible. Each year we set key priorities that as a school we focus on over the course of the year. We identified some areas last year, which we are continuing to work on this year, as well as introducing some new ones.

New for this year will be Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4 using **a new scheme to teach RE**, following the instruction by Bishop Mark for the Diocese. Our new RE scheme is called 'The Vine and the Branches'. Y3 are using it already, and the other year groups will start after half term. Then Y5 and Y6 will use it from next September. The second key area is continuing the work we started last year on **Vocabulary, Communication and Language**, as we want to ensure that our children have the right words to articulate their feelings, as well as the ability to use ambitious language in their writing and speaking to add impact to their thoughts. Then the third area we are focussing on is **Mathematics**. When the children leave Year 6, we want them to feel confident in all areas of maths - from understanding concepts such as money and time, to having the ability to apply their mathematical fluency to reason and problem solve. This approach starts with early maths; recognising patterns and identifying more/less than, knowing their number bonds and being able to apply these concepts to find missing numbers. As the children move up to KS2, there is a focus on learning and understanding times tables facts, and being able to use these to solve problems about fractions, decimals and percentages. By this stage, the children should be really confident with place value, and use their understanding of number to solve calculations quickly, use written methods for longer equations, and apply their knowledge to solve word problems.



We will write to you after the half term with more details about what we will be working on this year within maths, and some suggestions for activities you might want to do at home to further support your child with their understanding of maths.

Also just a reminder that our full curriculum plans are published on our website under 'Our Curriculum - Curriculum Overview' so that you can see term by term what the children are learning about in each subject.

## Welcome....

We would like to say a very warm welcome to the children who have started with us this half term. Kobe, Alfie, Dahamsa, Florence, Eloise, Estella, Neve, Harry, Alfie, Oliver, Amber, Vincent, Teddie, Emily, Masiha, Cassie, Giyana, Evan, Ava-Mae, Caspar, Leon, Theodore, Ivan, Thea and Hallie who have started their journey in St Joseph's in Reception and Elijah, Daniel, Patrick, Aden, Elsie, Billy, Freddie, Enea, Ryan and David who join us further up the school, I hope you have all settled in, made lots of new friends and are enjoying life at St Joseph's.



### ... And Good luck!



Then we also say 'bye for now' and good luck to Natalie who leaves us at the half term to have her baby. We wish Natalie the best of luck and can't wait to meet her new arrival!

### **Prefects and Play Leaders**

After a gruelling application process, I am delighted to share the names of our team of Prefects and Play Leaders for this school year. Congratulations to Mikey, Ella, Nina, Amelia, Ava, Sienna, Arthur, Charlie, Amelia, Sienna, Jonty, Joseph, Maria, Lois, Phoebe, Niall, Oscar, George, Niamh, Skylar, Erin, Alexis, Sarah, Noah, Bella, Joann, Daisy, Charlie, Biya and Daniel who were appointed as Prefects and to Sienna, Daniel, Nuala, Tilly, Thomas and Lacey who were appointed as Play Leaders. Thank you to all the children who applied, you conducted yourselves very well and I look forward to working with you this year.

Mrs Lester has successfully secured a place in this year's London Marathon! As well as requiring astounding levels of fitness, Mrs Lester is running for a good cause: Claire House, and in particular, in memory of Evie, a former pupil of St Joseph's who sadly passed away a few years ago. For anyone who wants to contribute and sponsor Mrs Lester, she has a London Marathon fundraising page -



[https://2025tcs londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/claire-lester?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=qr](https://2025tcs londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/claire-lester?utm_source=share&utm_medium=qr)

Good luck, Mrs Lester!

### **Parking issues**

Please can we remind parents to be mindful of parking, particularly on Fairview Road which becomes quite congested at drop off and collection times. We have received notice from several residents on Fairview that their driveways have been blocked, with cars parked across them. The Parking Enforcement teams from the council have been out and have issued several tickets for illegal or inconsiderate parking. Please can we encourage you to park a little further up Fairview, where there is much more room, and then walk down to school. Thank you for your support.



As we return after half term, we start the build up to Christmas! We have lots planned, with concerts, Carols and even a trip to the Panto! Please look at our dates overview letter on the home page of our website to see what's coming up.

### **Rainbow Room**

Mrs Langan, our school ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) has new Headquarters! Mrs Langan works with children from across the school, helping them with their emotions and resilience. Mrs Langan had created a beautiful space, known as the 'Rainbow Room' full of resources, work space and equipment. The Rainbow Room has been relocated to a larger room, meaning groups can now work together. Thank you to Mrs Langan for all her hard work, as well as the staff (and children!) who helped set up the new space. It looks fantastic and so many will benefit from this amazing space.



**Attendance for the half term is 96.1% Please continue to make sure your child attends school regularly. Thank you**

### *Prayer*

*Thank you, Lord, for our new school year. Pour out your blessings and be with us always as we journey through the year.*