



Dear All,

It has been a busy start to the second half of the Autumn Term and I can't believe that we are nearly in December! The children are now busy preparing for their Christmas Concert as well as continuing with their fantastic learning in class. Since arriving at St Joseph's, I have been very impressed with the behaviour of the children and how well-mannered they are - da iawn pawb!

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone - children, staff, families and governors - for the lovely warm welcome I have received since joining the school in November. I already feel very much part of the school family and can see that St Joseph's Infants is a very special school community indeed!

What's been happening in our classes - [Beth sy'n digwydd yn ein dosbarthiadau](#)

Nursery



In Nursery the children had a 'Silly Scissors Week.' We focused on developing our fine motor control, hand-eye coordination and physical strength. During the week the children used scissors, pegs, tongs and tweezers, in a fun and engaging manner. On Friday, every child made a face with their own 'crazy hair.'

Reception/Year 1

We've had a busy month in Reception & Year 1! We have welcomed Mrs Torrance to our classroom every Thursday and it has been wonderful for her to meet the Reception children properly. November is the month of Holy Souls and we began by reflecting on the lives of the brave soldiers who have fought in wars all over the world by reading the story, 'Where the Poppies Now Grow'. We made our own Poppies and laid them at our cross in a very moving Remembrance Day Collective Worship. We continued our theme of Bravery by learning about a famous Welsh legend - Gelert the brave dog and wrote some fantastic character descriptions. Some excellent reflective work - *Gwaith da bawb!*



Year 1/Year 2

Concept - Bravery

Books studied: *Wolf's Colourful Coat*, *The Great Explorer*, *Zog and the Flying Doctor*

In the Autumn term we created lists for a variety of reasons, we used our lists to create simple instructions (yr2), while in Year 1 we constructed an email / message to send to 'the great explorer' Tom. The class enjoyed writing for different purposes. In the second half of the term, we looked closely at materials and their uses. Sorting and describing helped us to make sensible predictions for our investigation. Our investigation was to design a new umbrella for Draig du/coch, he doesn't like the rain. We decided on a variety of materials to test, what we needed for a fair test and evaluate our findings.





Year 2

It's been a busy few of weeks in Year 2. We have been working hard on our Christmas concert and the children are looking forward to performing it. In this month of November, we have been remembering those in our families who have gone to Heaven. We have made chocolate sparklers for Bonfire night as well as working hard on subtraction and RWI.



Attendance - Presenoldeb

Well done everyone on working so hard with attendance during the last month - remember that our attendance target is 95% so keep up the hard work as we go into December! Weekly attendance is shared with the children every week as well as on our Instagram account. The class with the highest attendance receives an award chosen by the children. This could be Golden Time on the yard, bikes or doing a particular colouring activity.

Attendance for the month of November:

Nursery	93.09%
Reception/Year 1	92.83%
Year 1/ Year 2	95.52%
Year 2	94.77%
Whole School	93.72%

Health and Safety - Iechyd a Diogelwch

A gentle reminder to all:

Please can we ask that NO cars drive through or park in the lanes at the start or the end of the school day. This is to ensure the safety of the children and their families as they make their way into school. Many Thanks!

Diary Dates - Dyddiadau'r Dyddiadur

Monday 1st December	Concert dress rehearsal. Please can children be dropped off at St Joseph's Junior school at 9am. We will then walk children over to the Comprehensive school
Wednesday 3rd December	Concert 1.30pm at St Joseph's Comprehensive School
Sunday 7th December	Family Mass 10am at St Joseph's Church - children are to wear PURPLE.
Monday 8th December	INSET day
Tuesday 9th December	Toy mine trip
Wednesday 10th December	Nursery Nativity at 9.30am in the Dining Hall.
Thursday 11th December	The children can wear their Christmas Jumpers to school and there will be cooked Christmas dinner provided.
Tuesday 16th December	The children can wear their Christmas jumpers again in readiness to meet Santa! We will also be providing cold buffet party food for the children to celebrate Santa coming to school.
Wednesday 17th December	Carol Service 1.30pm at St Joseph's Church. This event takes place alongside the Junior school and is a wonderful way to get into the Christmas spirit.
Friday 19th December	Last Day of Term. The children can wear their Christmas party clothes.
Monday 5th January	Spring Term begins - back to school for all

Family Mass - Sunday 7th December 10am at St Joseph's Church

It would be lovely to see as many children as possible at this Mass, the theme of which is HOPE and the children are invited to wear the colour **PURPLE**, the colour of the Advent season. The children have come home today with a sheet for you to fill in together. What are we hopeful for during this Advent time? Please complete and colour these, returning them to school as soon as you can. We would love to share the children's thoughts and ideas during the Mass.

Christmas Raffle

We are also still collecting prizes for our Christmas raffle. Please send in RED, GREEN, GOLD and SILVER prizes which will be made up into hampers. We need volunteers to help with the sale of tickets in the yard at the end of the day - please let the school know. The raffle will take place on Tuesday 16th December. Gentle reminder- no child is to carry glass or alcohol - please give them directly to a member of staff.



E-safety Zone November 2025



Website of the Month: Common Sense Media

Common Sense Media - We rate, educate, and advocate for kids, families, and schools

"Find age-appropriate movies, books, apps, TV shows, video games, websites, and music that you and your kids will love. Browse our library of more than 25,000 reviews by age, entertainment type, learning rating, genre, and more using the filters in the left column."

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/game-reviews>

Find out whether a game, app or film is really appropriate for your child.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Parent and Carer Toolkit

The Welsh Government have produced this fantastic resource to help parents and carers understand the additional learning needs (ALN) system in Wales and the support available for children and young people.

Please find this toolkit at:

<https://www.gov.wales/additional-learning-needs-aln-parent-and-carers-toolkit>

Parent Survey

Many thanks to all who have taken the time to complete our parental survey. At St Joseph's Catholic Infant School, we appreciate that the education of our children is a joint effort between school and home. We value your views on how the school is doing and use the information collected from this survey to make further improvements and developments.

You can access the survey using the link below and the closing date for this is WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER.

[Parent Questionnaire 2025 - Fill in form](#)

Headteacher Awards - *Gwobr y Pennaeth*

Throughout the month we have had a number of children receive our Headteacher Award for great learning and fantastic behaviour. Llongyfarchiadau to each of you!



Nursery	Noah, Eli, Sienna
Reception/Year 1	Annie, Mya, Lily, Gabe, Connie and Elora
Year 1/ Year 2	Aayansh, Betsie, Elis, Frankie, Romy and Aspen
Year 2	Ann, Georgie, Herbie, Carter P, Theodore and Chris

Advent - Adfent

Sunday (3rd Dec) marks the start of Advent. Advent is the start of the new liturgical year. The word Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus,' which means 'coming' or 'arrival' to signify the birth of Jesus. During Advent, we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Jesus.



Week One: The Candle of HOPE

The first week of Advent we remember the gift of **Hope** we have in Christ. The prophets of Israel all spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a saviour would be born, a king in the line of David. They spoke of how He would rule the world wisely and bless all nations. As followers of Christ, we wait with hope for his return. As we light this candle, we remember that it was from the manger at Bethlehem that he came and gave light to the world. As we light this candle, we are reminded to be alert and to watch for the light of Christ even in the most unlikely places and people.

Mission at Home: Family members share one way they have experienced hope this week.

Let us pray -

Loving God, we thank you for the hope you give us. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by being open seeing to the light of Christ in others. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

Amen

Diolch am dy gefnogaeth

Mrs Murphy