



ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

AUTUMN TERM

As the Advent season draws to a close, and we are all well into our Christmas season in school, it is a good time to look back at the term we have had so far. The children have done remarkably well despite the uncertain times they find themselves in. We have had some limited chances to return to normal, but then I'm not sure the children even remember what normal in school looks like now!

We have been pleased that we were able to take the children out for trips and visits this term and have seen them making great use of the museum visit experiences to bring their learning to life. Year 6 rose to their personal challenges during their trip to Kilve and they were a fantastic group to take away for their first night away with school. Our Chaplains have been able to begin working in classes again and did a super job leading events including 'go green for CAFOD' and preparing acts of worship. We have held inter school competitions in PE and have planned out what our sports leaders will be doing. We have also managed to get in a football tournament and cross country.

I would like to thank all the staff and the school community for their continuing hard work, dedication and understanding during this most challenging of times.

We hope that the New Year brings some more positive news for the children and that we are able to continue in a positive way.



We had a very special visitor fly over St Joseph's - can you tell who it was?

Thank you to the RAF Yeovilton and the family involved in helping to organise this special surprise for the children



We would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. Take care and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!





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CHAPLAINCY

Our new School Chaplains were commissioned by Father Frank on Thursday 2 December.

Year 4 and 5 Chaplains visited Corpus Christi Primary School, Weston for a Chaplaincy training day. They learnt how to lead collective worships, discussed prayer activities and other activities to try in school.

We celebrated the Harvest Festival on 5 October and the Chaplains led the school assembly. In their assembly they explained what Harvest is and why it is important. Thank you for your generous donations of food items and toiletries which were gratefully received by Bridgwater Food Bank.

They also asked everyone to wear green clothes to raise money for CAFOD. CAFOD are a charity that help people all over the world who are in need.

We raised £287.05 - thank you so much for your generosity.





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FRIENDS OF ST JOSEPH'S

Our Friends (PTA) have been working tirelessly hard to organise activities for the children to enjoy despite the challenges faced in not being able to run the usual events.

I'm sure you will join us in thanking them for their time, effort and dedication. Their recent fundraising efforts including the Christmas Raffle has raised an incredible £1,571 for the school - fantastic!

Don't forget the Winter Wonderland Trail will begin on Saturday 18 December until Sunday 9 January. The trail is around the local area and consists of finding 29 letters and pictures to spell out a Christmas song. The trail ends at the Quantock Gateway Pub and for each sheet handed in a free treat will be given and entered into a prize draw.



Here are the lucky winners from the Fidget Advent Calendar Raffle!

FUNDRAISING

We raised £290.75 for Children in Need and £277.17 for the Poppy Appeal. Thank you for your generous donations.





SPORTS LEADERS

Year 6 children were successful in their application for the position of Sports Leader. They were asked to think about what makes a good Sports Leader and why they would like to be one. Miss Bax will be working with them in the Spring and Summer Terms when we hope to be able to organise sport activities and events for our younger pupils in festivals and lunchtimes.



We have been able to take part in some sporting activities this term. The Cross Country Event took place at Brymore Academy. Pupils in Year 3 and 4 ran 1km and pupils in Year 5 and 6 ran 1.5km. There was great enthusiasm and effort from all!

HEDGEHOGS CLASS

In Hedgehogs Class, the children have been feeling festive and getting creative. In Maths they have been learning about shapes and patterns and have used these to inspire baubles. They have used their drama skills and managed to fit each child inside a snow globe. They have acted out the birth of Jesus and have learnt how to welcome someone.

There was much excitement and anticipation for the Football. It was the first Football fixture for St Joseph's in 2 years! We hosted St Mary's and Northgate (3-3 draw with St Mary's and a 2-0 win over Northgate).





Merry Christmas

OWLS AND DEER CLASS

Deer Class along with Hedgehogs and Owl Class had a wonderful winter walk collecting letters to spell a Christmas word. At the end of the walk they went via the Quantock Gateway to meet Father Christmas! Each child spoke to him and told him what they were hoping to have for Christmas whilst receiving a little gift. Thank you so much to the Quantock Gateway for hosting!

NATIVITIES AND CAROL CONCERT

Just a reminder about the Nativities for KS1 and Carol Concert for KS2. The recordings are now available on Showbie. Please do not make any copies of the recordings or share the content on any other platforms.

These recordings will be taken down on Monday 20 December - we hope you enjoy them.



BADGERS CLASS

Badgers Class visited the Taunton Museum this term to learn about the Stone Age. They made jewellery, had fun creating cave paintings and even got the chance to dress up as if they were in the Stone Age!

There were plenty of artefacts to see and they even learnt that Somerset had Woolly Mammoths!



RED SQUIRRELS CLASS

Red Squirrels Class have been busy writing defeat the monster stories that were based on the structure of Little Red Riding Hood. Once planned, written and edited, the children published their final versions as an eBook.

Please have a look:

Book Creator - World War 2

Book Creator - Aquarium Adventure

Book Creator - My life, Sugar Cookie!

Book Creator - Rose Mary and the Yeti



OTTERS CLASS

Otters Class have finished the term by reflecting on the Christmas story and on their Christmases at home. They have also been learning about Haiku poems and have created some of their own.

A Saviour is born
Men follow the big bright Star
Christ has now arrived

Candles crackling,
The star on the tree glowing,
Welcoming friends in.

SEAL CLASS

Seal Class visited the Taunton Museum as part of their topic work on the Vikings. They took part in workshops about the Viking Invasion on England, created their own runes, and decorated 'King Alfred's Jewel'.



Earlier in the term the children stayed for two days and a night at Kilve Court. During the day they enjoyed team building activities, grass sledging, climbing and fossil hunting. In the evening, they went on a night walk!

St Joseph's Church, Bridgwater

[Please click here to view the Advent, Christmas and New Year Schedule for St Joseph's Church, Bridgwater.](#)



ONLINE SAFETY

Talking to your children about Online Safety

Many parents and carers worry about their children staying safe when using technology. Research shows that one of the best ways to keep them safe is to talk to children about the technology they use, when they are using it. But knowing how to talk to children about technology can be challenging.

This [saferinternet.org.uk](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk) blog sets out five tips for talking to children of all ages about their technology use. These are:

1. Play games together
2. Read together
3. Explore the online world together
4. Watch shows and films online together
5. Laugh together

Read the full details of these tips at:
Five tips for talking about online safety with young children - UK Safer Internet Centre



UK SAFER INTERNET CENTRE

[You can visit the UK Safer Internet Centre's website by clicking here](#)



PARENT GOVERNORS

We are pleased to confirm Steven Rybaruk and Verity Weston have been elected unopposed as Parent Governors.

Somerset School Terms and Holidays 2021/2022 Academic Year

WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK



September 2021 M 6 13 20 27 Tu 7 14 21 28 W 1 8 15 22 29 Th 2 9 16 23 30 F 3 10 17 24 Sa 4 11 18 25 Su 5 12 19 26					October 2021 M 4 11 18 25 Tu 5 12 19 26 W 6 13 20 27 Th 7 14 21 28 F 1 8 15 22 29 Sa 2 9 16 23 30 Su 3 10 17 24 31					November 2021 M 1 8 15 22 29 Tu 2 9 16 23 30 W 3 10 17 24 Th 4 11 18 25 F 5 12 19 26 Sa 6 13 20 27 Su 7 14 21 28				
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Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	INSET

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 06 September – 22 October 2021 (35 days)
 Term 2: 01 November – 17 December 2021 (35 days)
 Term 3: 04 January – 18 February 2022 (34 days)
 Term 4: 28 February – 08 April 2022 (30 days)
 Term 5: 25 April – 27 May 2022 (24 days)
 Term 6: 06 June – 26 July 2022 (37 days)

TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2021/22 – Revised to include the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	27 December 2021*	Easter Monday	18 April 2022
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	28 December 2021*	Early May Day Bank Holiday	02 May 2022
New Year's Day Holiday	03 January 2022*	Spring Bank Holiday	02 June 2022
Good Friday	15 April 2022	Platinum Jubilee	03 June 2022
		Summer Bank Holiday	29 August 2022

*Replacement Bank Holiday day when the bank holiday falls on a weekend

Academy, Free Schools, Foundation & Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates and may differ from ours. Please check with individual schools for their term dates