So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

Year 4 Visit To Tower Of London

The children in Year 4 recently explored the Tower Of London in preparation for next term’s topic on the ‘Gunpowder Plot’.

The children took part in a re-enactment of the conflict between Catholics and Protestants in the early 17th century which resulted in the Gunpowder Plot. The children played different roles including Guy Fawkes (who was held captive at the Tower Of London), King James I (he was the target of the plotters) and Robert Catesby (he instigated the plot).

Year 4 also saw the Crown Jewels which are displayed in glass cabinets and they enjoyed a question and answer session with a Beefeater who told them all about the feeding habits of the ravens at the Tower Of London! Please support your child this half term break with further research about the Gunpowder Plot.

Reception Parents - Phonics Meeting

On Wednesday 24 October, the middle hall was full to capacity with Nursery and Reception parents attending the presentation about the Early Years phonics learning at St Joseph’s.

Mrs Smith and Mrs Elmarini shared information about how to learn and practice sounds using the ‘Read, Write, Inc’ strategies created by Ruth Miskin. Parents also learned the importance of introducing new and exciting words when sharing a bedtime story or having a conversation with their child.

You are encouraged to visit the ‘For Parents’ section of the Read, Write, Inc website for lots of useful hints and tips which you can enjoy with your child during the half term break and throughout the year.

www.oup.com/oxed/primary/rwi

Coming Soon...Heroes & Villains Theme Day!

There will be a ‘Heroes & Villains’ theme day (date to be announced) to enhance children’s interest and enjoyment of reading and writing. As we will be holding a ‘fancy dress day’ as part of this theme, we are letting you know in advance as you may be able to pick up some bargains in the half term break, just after Halloween! So please look out for outfits on the ‘Heroes & Villains’ theme and take the opportunity to start organising a costume which must be based on a character from children’s literature. We will let you have more information nearer the time.

School Photographs

The school photographer will be at St Joseph’s on Monday 12 November for individual child photographs.

Family groups will also be photographed together if you request this, but please note that this only applies to siblings currently at St Joseph’s. Please check the letter which will be sent after the half term break for further information.

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Attendance

* During week beginning 15 October 2012, Classes 1F, 3A, 3F, 4K, 5M and 6K all achieved 100% attendance. Class 3M and Class 4D were very close behind having achieved 99% attendance.

* Classes 1O, 3F, 4O and 6N had 100% punctuality last week so well done to those classes.

* After half term, we will be preparing for our Christmas learning activities which are always popular with the children. Please ensure that your child has excellent attendance and punctuality so they can benefit from our learning and enjoyment during this very significant and spiritual time of year.

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SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED NEXT WEEK FOR THE HALF TERM BREAK

ALL CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY 5 NOVEMBER
Roald Dahl Week - 5 November to 9 November

During the week beginning 5 November, the whole school will be celebrating Roald Dahl week. Each year group will be learning about a particular book:

**Year 6:** *The Witches*,  **Year 5:** *James & The Giant Peach*,  **Year 4:** *George’s Marvellous Medicine*,

**Years 2&3:** *The Magic Finger*,  **Year 1 & Reception:** *The Enormous Crocodile*,  **Nursery:** *Fantastic Mr Fox*

Please visit the library and bookshops during the half term break to read the book which will be studied by your child’s year group. This support will help prepare your child for this wonderful learning topic.

On **Friday 9 November**, we will have a ‘Roald Dahl character fancy dress day’ so children will be able to come to school dressed as their favourite Roald Dahl character.

Class 6K Assembly

On Tuesday 23 October, Class 6K presented a wonderful assembly about their recent learning on the Victorian era.

We learned about the industrial age, great inventions, the education system of this period, fashion, entertainment, and of course Queen Victoria.

We also found out how much food and fine dining was enjoyed by the wealthier Victorians and this was summed up by the children performing a great rendition of ‘Food, Glorious Food’!

The children wore amazing costumes from the Victorian period and demonstrated their flair for fashion with the hats they had made themselves!

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for this very informative presentation which took us on a journey through the Victorian period and showed all the hard work the children have put into their learning.

Class 2BG Assembly

On Wednesday morning, we were treated to a fantastic assembly from Class 2BG about their learning on the topic of ‘Castles’.

We heard all the facts and information that 2BG had found out about castles, battles, kings and queens. We even had a visit from Queen Elizabeth II (looking suspiciously like Miss Kirby!) who came to the assembly to answer some of the questions the children had written in their letters to Her Majesty. One question was “Did you play with the dolls and cars that we saw on our visit to Windsor Castle?” The Queen replied “Yes, I used to enjoy playing with all the toys when I was younger”. The Queen also thanked the children for their lovely comments about the soldiers at Windsor.

It was wonderful to see so many parents in attendance. We hope this gives you an insight to the great learning experiences at St Joseph’s and we encourage you to ask your children more questions about their learning on this fascinating topic.

Cycle Training

The cycle training continued this week with the children being prepared for their first session on the road.

Well done to all the children who have participated in this scheme which helps to build confidence and safety awareness so children can enjoy cycling for fun or as a means of transport.

Cycle training and basic maintenance will continue to be offered at St Joseph’s as cycling is becoming more popular with our children and parents.