

St Joseph's Newsletter

09/01/2026

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year. We hope that everyone has had an enjoyable holiday.

On Tuesday Year 6 and Year 3 attended Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, marking the visit of the Magi to baby Jesus.

Lledr Hall, on Monday our Year 6 children and several staff will be travelling to the Snowdonia National Park for 3 days of outdoor activities, maybe in the snow! Hopefully the weather forecast for milder weather will be accurate.

Happy Birthday To...

Sam

Gillian

Bobby

Luca

Noah

God of all, help us to listen to your word and to live our lives as you ask us to – with love and respect for all people. Amen.



At the beginning of the week, the Gospel we listened to was John 1:1-18. Throughout the reading, there was lots of talk about the Word. From the very beginning of time the Word was with God and the Word was God. And the Word brought life and light to the world. The Word is another name for Jesus. So throughout this Gospel reading it is talking about Jesus, who is the Son of God.

What Has Been Happening In Class This Week?

Nursery

It was wonderful to see all the children coming back to school after the Christmas break with big smiles and excited for the new term. The first thing we did was get our waterproof suits on and go for a play in the snow. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough to make a snowman, but we made snow angels and drew pictures with sticks in the snow. This week we have been celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany, when the three kings came to visit baby Jesus. The children told the story using the crib figures, and we sang a song about their journey to Bethlehem. The children painted pictures of stars and made some playdough with frankincense oil in it. We made crowns and star biscuits to take home, as one of the children said "it is so we can follow the star home like the three kings followed the star to find baby Jesus."



Reception

This week reception celebrated the feast of the epiphany.

We read the Bible passage about the three kings travelling from the east in search of baby Jesus and then completed a number of wonderful activities, such as creating 3 kings out of shapes, sequencing the story and painting the three gifts the kings gave to Jesus.



Year 1

Welcome back year one! We have missed you. This week we have explored all sorts of 3D shapes. We traced their sides, built some amazing castles, and stamped their faces into play dough. We discovered lots of 2D shapes. We found all sorts of 3D shapes around our classroom as well.

We started a new story in English. We are reading Dogger by Shirley Hughs. In the story the children get an ice cream after school. We used this as an excuse to eat ice cream in the classroom. While we ate our ice cream, we thought about what adjectives we could use to describe our ice cream. It was cold, creamy, sweet, sticky, and delicious.

In science we are asking the question 'why is it cold in the winter?' We read a story about a girl who had to get to her car on a hot summer day. We found a path back for her using shadows and puddles. She was able to use the shadows because it was cooler in the shade. We will use this later to discover why it is always so cold in the winter.

Year 2

Year 2 have started 2026 off amazingly, we started off the week looking at The Epiphany, we talked about why we thought the Wise Men gave Jesus gifts and the children decided it was because Jesus was a special new king. In English we had a penguin come into class! We think he is lost and is looking for a new friend. We have started our new story of Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers. In Maths we have started our new topic of Multiplication and have been working really hard looking at groups and repeated addition before moving on to the multiplication sign. We also talked about our goals for the new year and how we can share Jesus' light with others.

Year 3

Welcome back Year 3 and we hope you have a restful break and are ready to get back to learning. We have begun a new text in English this week, The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark. A great book that explores facing our fears. We have been measuring both mass and volume in math and understanding where we can use this in our lives. Year 3 had a fun introduction to their new science topic of forces and magnets, where we explored what a force is. They are all very excited to use some magnets! We are all pleased to be back in school and routine, Let's make this a great and productive term Year 3.

This Week's Attendance

Nursery	84.8%
Reception	89.5%
Year1	89.3%
Year 2	87.7%
Year 3	97.5%
Year 4	93.2%
Year 5	87.7%
Year 6	87.9%
School Total	89.8%

Year 4

Year 4 have returned to school looking rested and happy, ready to dive into the spring term! We've hit the ground running and have been working hard across all subjects.

In English, we have started our new class read, *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell. This exciting book links really well with our geography topic, the rainforests. We have also started working on an information leaflet about Brazil. The children conducted thorough research about the country, and I can't wait to start the writing process.

In Maths, we have looked at the 9 times table and learned different strategies to recall multiplication facts and solve word problems.

In Science, we started the spring term with another invertebrates hunt to compare our findings with those from September.

In RE, we started a new topic, Community. We looked at different communities that we belong to and thought about what makes our class community work well.

It's been a fantastic start to the term, and we're excited for the weeks ahead!



Year 5

It has been a nice first week back in Year 5. Our class have begun thinking about our Shakespeare production of *Hamlet*, we have explored the different characters, and the children have all auditioned for the roles they would like to play. They have really shown off their acting skills. In maths, the children have been working hard to solve problems using short division. The children have also begun fencing lessons in PE this week, a skill that a couple may be able to use in their upcoming performance of *Hamlet*. The class have also enjoyed learning all about how women's roles in society have changed throughout history. Finally, our class celebrated and developed our understanding of the symbolic importance of the feast of the Epiphany.

Building Update

Building update – the foundations for the new main reception area have been poured and the walls in the new classroom block are being built.



Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that week one is over already, the children have worked very hard this week especially in maths, where they have been working on long multiplication - why not challenge them over the weekend to show you what they can do! In English, we have started to read *The Giant's Necklace*, which is setting us up nicely for our Lledr Hall trip next week. In science, the children have started the topic of electricity so we will be making lots of circuits over the next few weeks. We are having a big push on home reading this term and Doodle Maths, we expect the children to read to an adult every night and for an adult to sign their reading record to say this has happened, they should then complete an Accelerated Reader test on the book they have read - at least one test per week, which they can do at home or in school. For Doodle maths, they need to be in the Green Zone. Thank you for your support with home learning. Finally, we will see the children packed and ready for Lledr on Monday morning at normal time - you are welcome to stay in the hall with them until we leave and wave us off!

Dates to Remember

Date	Event
Monday 12 th – 14 th January	Y6 Lledr Hall
Friday 13 th February	School closes for half term
Monday 23 rd February	School opens
Thursday 2 nd April	School closes for the Easter Holidays