

St. Joseph's Weekly News

Friday 31st January 2025



Our School Value Respect - Self-belief - Faith - Friendship - Resilience - Self-control - Perseverance - Aspiration

A prayer for every child

Dear Lord,
Always guide me to be the very best me I can be.
Know who I am.
Believe in me.
Guide me.
Empower me.
Let others always see me.
Let me be me.
Amen

ATTENDANCE
AWARD
Year 2 100%

HOUSE POINTS
John

Dear Parents,

It is with a really heavy heart that I write my last newsletter. I have been privileged to be here at St Joseph's for 11 years and to say that I have been blessed is an understatement. St Joseph's is a very special school, the whole community does come together as a family. In life, change is necessary and for me this is the right time. It is also the right time for the school. Our journey of academic progress and curriculum development has been one that has been quite bendy, never straight forward. Covid in the midst of development challenged us and me, but still we came through, so, so much stronger.

I am so proud of every child and staff member who has been a part of St Joseph's over the last 11 years. Relationships last and friendships remain. Every child is a gift, to you parents I thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of their lives. Leaving them is the hardest part, they make me smile, give me purpose and allow me the creativity to ensure they are happy. My aim was to create an outstanding school where every child achieves, is seen, grows and is believed in and I know I have done that through my belief in the team I work with, hard work, persistence, constinecy and expectation.

It has been an absolute joy to be here and I know I will be a part of its future in a different way, that makes it a little easier. In achievement there is change and none more so for me. I will be back for leavers events and special moments. Thank you all be being a part of my journey, supporting, challenging, being patient and committed to our values. Thank you for Trusing in me to lead your school.

Love Mrs O'Connor

In January 2019 when I became head I made a pledge to this school.

Together I want us to be an outstanding Catholic School that Inspires all to achieve and succeed with aspirations for the future.

Our children, their voice and their love of our school, which I see and hear everyday is proof that I have done my job. (As well as an exceptional ofsted report).



STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery
Aliyar & Aylin

Reception
Maryam & Maia

Year 1
Oseyemere & Shamiso

Year 2
Mary & Dogan

Year 3
Sara & Dreinan

Year 4
Tadiwa & Hope

Year 5
Elnathan & Precious

Year 6
Aimee & Alissa

WRITER OF THE WEEK

Year 1
Sofia

Year 2
Sofia

Year 3
Phoebe

Year 4
Thomas

Year 5
Adele

Year 6
Saoirse

At St. Joseph's we live, love and learn by the example of Jesus.
Aspiring for excellence for all, together as a catholic community.

Mrs O'Connor's Favourite song.

This song I have played at leaver's assemblies for many years. With my own classes and as a leader. The words are very special, so much so that they were strategically placed for guests to read at my wedding. Never forget the difference we all make in each other's lives.

For Good (From Wicked)

I'm limited
Just look at me - I'm limited
And just look at you
You can do all I couldn't do, Glinda
So now it's up to you
For both of us - now it's up to you...

I've heard it said
That people come into our lives for a reason
Bringing something we must learn
And we are led
To those who help us most to grow
If we let them
And we help them in return
Well, I don't know if I believe that's true
But I know I'm who I am today
Because I knew you...

Like a comet pulled from orbit
As it passes a sun
Like a stream that meets a boulder
Halfway through the wood
Who can say if I've been changed for the better?
But because I knew you
I have been changed for good

(It well may be
That we will never meet again
In this lifetime
So let me say before we part
So much of me
Is made of what I learned from you
You'll be with me
Like a handprint on my heart
And now whatever way our stories end
I know you have re-written mine
By being my friend...

Like a ship blown from its mooring
By a wind off the sea
Like a seed dropped by a skybird
In a distant wood
Who can say if I've been changed for the better?
But because I knew you

Because I knew you

I have been changed for good

In this lifetime
So let me say before we part
So much of me
Is made of what I learned from you
You'll be with me
Like a handprint on my heart
And now whatever way our stories end
I know you have re-written mine
By being my friend...

Like a ship blown from its mooring
By a wind off the sea
Like a seed dropped by a skybird
In a distant wood
Who can say if I've been changed for the better?
But because I knew you

Because I knew you
I have been changed for good
And just to clear the air
I ask forgiveness
For the things I've done you blame me for

But then, I guess we know
There's blame to share

And none of it seems to matter anymore

Like a comet pulled from orbit
As it passes a sun
Like a stream that meets a boulder
Halfway through the wood

Like a ship blown from its mooring
By a wind off the sea
Like a seed dropped by a bird in the wood

Who can say if I've been
Changed for the better?
I do believe I have been
Changed for the better

Because I knew you...
I have been changed for good...

Goodbye & Thank You! – Mrs O' Connor

Today, we are not just here to say goodbye to Mrs. O'Connor, but to celebrate the extraordinary journey we've all had together over the past 11 years.

While Mrs. O'Connor might be quick to tell you that this success was a team effort—and indeed, it has been—there's no doubt that her passion, her vision, and her unwavering belief in every single one of us have shaped this school into something remarkable. As she leaves St Joseph's, her legacy is already embedded in the heart of this school. It will live on in the values she instilled, the relationships she built, and the community spirit she nurtured.

So many visitors have remarked, "What you have here is special." And Mrs. O'Connor has always known that. She has been a tireless advocate for a school where every voice matters and where every child is valued. She has created a place where every individual—staff, pupils, governors, parents—feels part of something meaningful.

It all began back in 2013, when Mrs. O'Connor joined us as Deputy Headteacher. She spent those early days observing, learning, and soon, leading us into a future where nothing felt impossible. It didn't take long for her to show us that her passion for education was matched only by her dedication to making this school the best it could be.

When she stepped up as Headteacher in 2019, the school began its most transformative chapter. Her leadership brought challenges, yes—but also triumphs, growth, and countless moments of joy.

Then came 2020, a year none of us will ever forget. When the pandemic hit, Mrs. O'Connor led us through that storm with a steady hand, always putting the wellbeing of our children and staff at the forefront of every decision. It was a time of fear and uncertainty, but with Mrs. O'Connor at the helm, we found stability and resilience.

In 2021, we embarked on a new journey as part of the St. Francis of Assisi Trust, and that's a direct result of her leadership. Today, we're part of a growing, thriving network—a legacy she helped build with foresight and dedication.

As Executive Headteacher in 2023, Mrs. O'Connor continued to inspire us all. And, of course, in 2024, when Ofsted visited, their report confirmed what we already knew: this is a school on the rise, and with Mrs. O'Connor's leadership, an Outstanding future is ours for the taking.

Now, in January 2025, she begins a new adventure, leaving behind a school stronger and more united than ever.

While we'll miss her presence here, today we celebrate everything she's done and the extraordinary impact she's had on each of us—pupils, staff, governors, and parents.

Mrs. O'Connor often reminds us, "We are all caretakers." But she has been the ultimate caretaker of our vision, our values, and our sense of community. Her leadership has been the heartbeat of this school, inspiring us to always strive for more with faith, aspiration, friendship, and perseverance at our core.

If you know Mrs. O'Connor, you know that her focus has always been on the children. Every decision she made, every challenge she faced, was always for their benefit. Because of that, we've all become better versions of ourselves.

Mrs. O'Connor has challenged, supported, and pushed us all to become the best we can be. We all owe her a debt of gratitude for her unwavering belief in us.

So today, we don't just say goodbye to a headteacher or a colleague. We say goodbye to a friend—a friend who has made a profound impact on every single one of us.

Mrs. O'Connor, thank you for your dedication, your belief in us, and your endless passion for St. Joseph's. The legacy you leave behind will inspire us for years to come.

As you embark on your next chapter, know that we wish you nothing but the best. And remember, you will always have a place here at St. Joseph's.