

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLYDACH

YSGOL GYNRADD GATHOLIG SAN JOSEFF, CLYDACH

October 9th 2026

School Attendance: 93.8%

Reception: 95.7% Year 1: 95.2% Year 2: 98.5%
Year 3: 91.6% Year 4: 91.3% Year 5: 93.8% Year 6: 93.2%

Winning Class for Attendance:

Year 2 98.5%

Da iawn!

Upcoming dates:

Monday 12th October: Individual School Photos

Wednesday 14th October: Yr 6 Blessing of the Rosaries Assembly 2:00 pm. Parents welcome

Thursday 15th October: Flu Vaccination Programme – Reception – Yr 6 in hall all day.

Monday 19th October: M & M Theatre production in the Hall: Jack & the Beanstalk.

Monday 19th October: Parents Evening – Foundation and Upper Phase all together. Years 3-6 teachers in the hall, Reception – Yr 2 teachers in Yr 1 Start 1:30pm until 6:00pm.

Friday 23rd October: INSET DAY

Wednesday 4th November: Years 3 – 6 Urdd Outdoor Learning- Bushcraft.

Thursday 5th November: Outdoor Classroom Day

Wednesday 11th November: Service of Remembrance school Hall 2.00pm

School Prayer

*We are together in Christ, Living Learning and growing.
Sharing peace and love.
May God help us through Catholic Education and let us be guided by St. Joseph who protected Mary and their Son Jesus.*

Amen
Gweddi'r Ysgol
Rydym yn un yng Nghrist, yn byw,
Yn dysgu ac yn tyfu.
Yn rhannu heddwch a chariad.
Boed I Dduw ein helpu drwy
Addysg Gatholig a boed i ni gael ein harwain
gan San Joseff a fu'n amddiffyn Mair a'u mab Iesu.
Amen



Our Virtues September & October



Faith-filled: We are faith-filled when we are living life as God inspires us to live it, putting the Gospel into action through our actions. We have to build on it every day through prayer.

Hopeful: We are hopeful when we are optimistic about the future, we trust ourselves and others, and we don't give up. Our faith teaches us that God is hope.



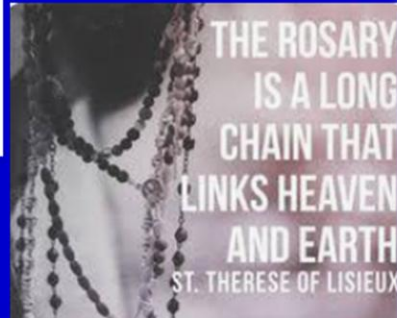
October: Month of the Holy Rosary



Month of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary

As the Feast of Our Lady
of the Rosary falls on
7th October, the whole month
of October is dedicated to the
Holy Rosary of the Blessed
Virgin Mary.

The Rosary is a special way of praying
and thinking about the life of Jesus.
It is a gift shared with us by
Mother Mary so that we can know
more about God's love for us.



4 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY OCTOBER 7

1 TITLE OF MARY

This title honors the Blessed Virgin Mary as the one who leads the faithful to Christ through the prayer of the Rosary.

2 BATTLE OF LEPANTO

The feast originated after the Christian victory at the Battle of Lepanto (1571), attributed to the intercession of Our Lady through the Rosary.

3 FEAST DAY

The Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7, highlighting the power of prayer and Marian intercession.

4 PRAYER OF THE ROSARY

The Rosary is a meditative prayer that reflects on the mysteries of Christ's life, death, and resurrection with Mary as our guide.

SAINT OF THE MONTH St. Francis of Assisi

OCT
4
FEAST DATE

FACT # 1 St. Francis' real name was Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone. He was baptized and named after John the Baptist. His father did not like this so he renamed him "Francesco" after the country of France.

FACT # 2 St. Francis was the first saint to receive the "stigmata" (which is the appearance of the wounds of Jesus Christ in the body of a person.) He received it during the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. He endured it and died after 2 years.

FACT # 3 He started the Christmas tradition of setting up the scene of Jesus' birth. He used a wax figure as the baby Jesus, with real people dressed up as Joseph and Mary and real animals in a cave. This is to explain that we can always relate to Jesus because He was also born poor and simple.

FACT # 4 He was declared as the patron saint of nature and animals by Pope John Paul II. He looked at all things as God's creation, and called all creatures as his brothers and sisters. He even preached to the birds to let them know how much God loves them.



CFC-KIDS FOR CHRIST

PARENTS OF ST. THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS
Talavera, Lipa City - Archdiocese of Lipa

Updates of the week:

On our school website important dates are on the calendar and photos are on the

<https://www.stjosephscatholicps-swanea.co.uk/>

News & Events' area. You can also keep up to date with events on our school Instagram page.

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DZ9_t7dotBV/?igsh=OGdpOXNsbHdsb3F4



This year marks six decades of Catholic secondary school provision in Swansea! With Bishop Vaughan Catholic School having opened in 1966, 2026-27 represents its 60th Jubilee Year!

To mark this special milestone, a commemorative **Jubilee Magazine** and accompanying **online archive** are currently being produced, celebrating the rich history and enduring legacy of the school. We warmly invite current and former pupils, staff, governors, clergy, parents and friends of Bishop Vaughan to contribute photographs, documents, memorabilia, anecdotes and personal recollections that help tell the story of our school through the generations. These treasured memories will help create a lasting record of the people, events and achievements that have shaped Bishop Vaughan over the past sixty years.

Contributions can be sent to **BishopvaughanH@Hwbcymru.net**, or if you would like to discuss potential material for inclusion, please contact **Mrs E.J. Gwyther** on **01792 772006**.

Bishop Vaughan have recently commenced their year of Jubilee celebrations. The next event in this programme will be a **Sixtieth Jubilee Mass** celebrated by His Grace, Archbishop Mark O'Toole. This will take place on **Friday 6th November at 6.30pm in Bishop Vaughan's Main Hall**.

Current and former pupils, parents, staff and governors, as well as our partner primary schools and parish communities, are warmly invited. We hope that this will bring together past and present members of the Bishop Vaughan family to honour our shared heritage and celebrate the future with hope and gratitude.

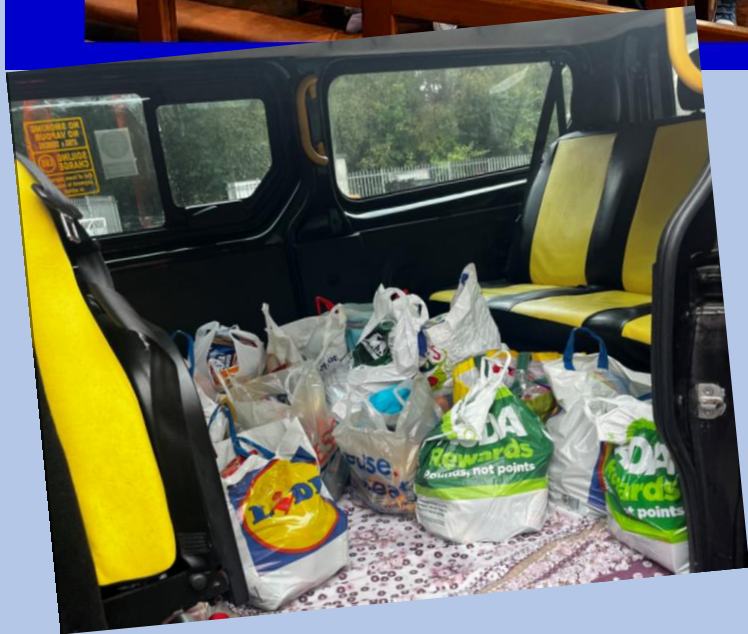
A huge thank you to the pupils, families and staff who joined with us as a school family to celebrate a Harvest Family Mass. We presented some of our food collection during the offertory and St Benedict's SVP have taken all of the food to distribute to those less fortunate than ourselves.



We filled a quarter of our stage with food donations as well as raising £270!

Thank you so much for your generosity. St Benedict's SVP (St Vincent De Paul Society) have collected the food to distribute to the hungry.

"When we share the harvest, we spread the warmth."





There was a bit of excitement on Thursday!
We had a Lockdown practise!
Well done to all the children for being so sensible and listening carefully to their teachers and teaching assistants.
The Lockdown was very smooth and therefore ended quickly.



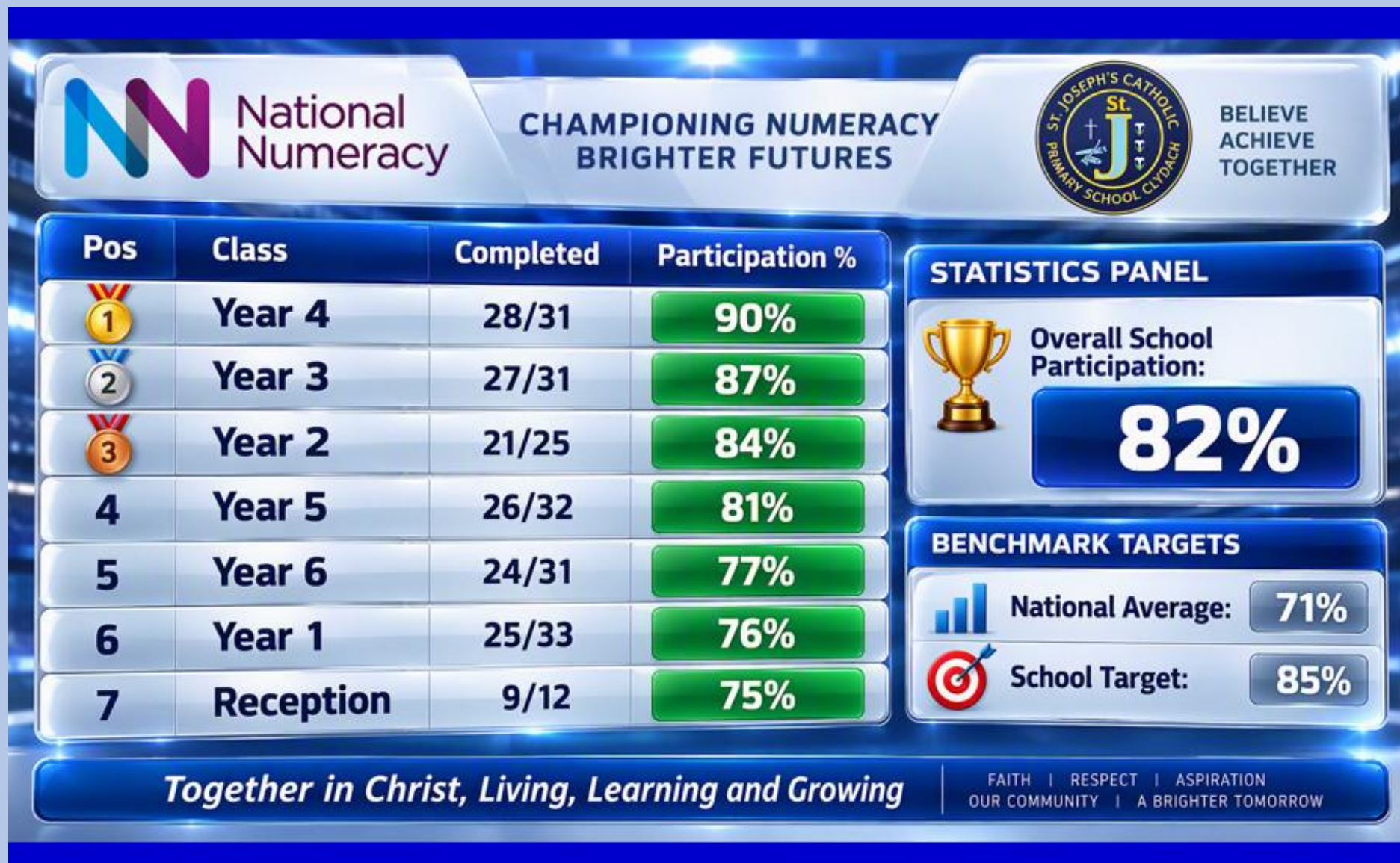
Year 6 met with Mr Stephen Cook, from Clydach Veteran's Network, to talk about Clydach's links with WW1, WW2 and other wars.



Years 3 & 4 girls had a great session on the field with Nicky from Vadre Girls Rugby.



Well done to all of the families that took part in this. The feedback was very positive and everyone enjoyed spending time together problem solving. If you didn't take part last time have a go with today's problem! Huge thanks to Mr Maddock and all staff for enabling this home/school partnership work.



Year Group	Week	Winner	Comment
Reception	9/10/26	Noah O'Donnell	For showing how he perseveres with lots of things – even when he finds things really difficult.
Year 1	9/10/26	Stella <u>Challacombe</u>	Fantastic enthusiasm finding things at home to count.
Year 2	9/10/26	<u>Devjot</u> Singh	Excellent thinking, showing and telling!
Year 3	9/10/26	Noelia Morgan	Excellent problem solving – working with Base Ten place value
Year 4	9/10/26	Christina Albin	Great work involving the whole family into playing the Roman Numerals game.
Year 5	9/10/26	Marina <u>Bagnariol</u> -Rolfe	A fantastic and clear way of working out Roman Numerals.
Year 6	9/10/26	Abel Anthony	Excellent family engagement with converting prices into different currencies.



Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to let you know that we are launching a new home learning initiative using National Numeracy resources alongside our new Problem-Solving Journals.

At St Joseph's, we believe that developing strong numeracy skills is about much more than learning facts and methods. We want our children to become confident, resilient, independent problem-solvers who are willing to have a go, explain their thinking and learn from mistakes. A strong partnership between home and school is key to achieving this.

How the programme will work:

National Numeracy Activity Books (Problem Solving Journals) will be sent home once a fortnight on Fridays. Please complete the activities together over the weekend or early in the week. Books should be returned to school by Wednesday each week. Children will complete practical, open-ended problem-solving activities with support from family members. We encourage children to record their ideas in any way that works for them, using drawings, diagrams, calculations, photographs or written explanations.

Working Together:

However you might feel about maths, you can make a huge difference to your child's numeracy learning. Research consistently shows that talking about everyday maths helps children develop confidence and positive attitudes towards maths and problem solving.

When completing activities together, you might like to follow the school LOOK, THINK, DO, TELL problem solving framework and ask some of the following questions:

What do we need to do?

What information do we have?

What do we need to find out?

Would any equipment help?

What do you notice when...?

Shall we make a guess and see if it works?

What could we do if we get stuck?

If we were doing this again, is there anything we could do differently?

Make It Your Own

You can adapt these activities to suit your family's interests and use whatever items you have available at home or while out and about. Children might choose to:

Take photographs

Draw pictures

Write calculations

Create diagrams

Record their ideas in creative ways

There is no single "correct" way to show thinking. The most important thing is the discussion and problem-solving that takes place together. Please use the comment boxes provided in the books and journals to reflect on your discussions, strategies and discoveries. We love reading about the different approaches families take when solving problems together.

Thank you for your continued support. We are excited to strengthen our learning partnership with parents and carers and to help every child develop the confidence, resilience and positive disposition needed to succeed in numeracy. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your class teacher.

Kind regards, Mrs Mort

We have launched our

"Parents carer national numeracy programme"

Which is a Schools & Families Programme by the charity [National Numeracy](#) and is an initiative designed to boost number confidence and engagement among children, parents, carers, and school staff.

Please read the information. Your children will be bringing home 'National Numeracy Activity Books' once a fortnight and it is important that you take some time as a family to improve your child's Numeracy.



Please remember that the closing date for the Parent Governor role ballot is Wednesday 14th October. Please note the voting is **one vote per family. Slips have been sent out – ONE PER FAMILY – to the youngest member of the family. No extra ballot slips can be given out if lost etc., as they were all counted as they went out.** Please select one candidate and return the slip to the ballot box by the school office no later than **Wednesday 14th October.** Any votes received after the above date will not be considered. This will be a secret ballot.

Charles Betney –*“As an active parent in the FOSJ (you’ll have seen me at all the events), and Dad to Ollie in Year 3 and Henry in Year 1, I’m always there at drop off and collection and know many of you already. I feel I’d enjoy and make a good governor for the school”.*

Harriet Williams –*“With long-standing connections to the school and currently contributing to the FOSJ, I want to support positive change that keeps children’s wellbeing at the centre of every decision. I’m committed to representing parents openly and fairly, raising concerns constructively whilst having a clear understanding of the school’s values and community”.*

Sharon Barnes –*“I’m the mum to Moses in Year 5 and Elias in Year 2. A former primary deputy headteacher, I now run three church children’s groups, coach Clydach U7’s football and support Friends of St Joseph’s. As governor, I’ll listen to and represent your views, and work with parents and staff to benefit all our children”.*

The role of a Parent Governor helps to bring the views and experiences of parents and carers to work alongside the Governing Body and school leadership team, to continue to develop our school.

We would like to thank the parents/carers who have put themselves forward for the role and wish them all good luck in the voting process. We encourage all families to take this opportunity to participate and look forward to notifying/announcing the new Parent Governor soon.

Flu Vaccination Programme 2026/2027

This is the information we have been asked to share, by the School Nursing Department.

As we approach flu season, we want all families to have the information they need to help protect their children's health.

Flu can spread quickly in school environments and can cause serious illness in children. This autumn, all school children from Reception to Year 11 (inclusive), will be offered a free and quick, nasal spray flu vaccine at school.

The flu nasal spray vaccine is safe, painless, and helped protect over 220,000 school-aged children in Wales last year.

Giving consent for your child to have the flu vaccine, helps keep them healthy reducing the risk of illnesses that could disrupt their learning, play and your family life.

The nasal spray flu vaccine is the recommended vaccine for children and young people, but if they can't have the flu vaccine or you'd prefer a gelatine-free vaccine, they can have the flu vaccine by injection instead.

Give your consent for your child's flu vaccine to help keep them healthy this winter.

For more information about the flu vaccination visit: www.phw.nhs.wales/flu vaccine

Thank you for supporting your child and our school community.

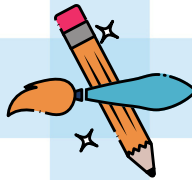
[2026/27 School Nasal Flu Vaccination form – Fill in form](#)

<https://youtu.be/KIbPEFRJz1o>



Merit Award & 'Seren Yr Wythnos'



Class	Seren Yr Wythnos	Merit Award
 Nursery		Faith and Gia
Reception	Eddie	Penny and Zephaniah
 Year 1	Henry	Sienna and George
Year 2	Isra	Aiden and Roman
Year 3	King	Lincoln and Rosie
Year 4	Aiden R	Grace and Selena
Year 5	Mel	Harley and George
 Year 6	Jiya	Abel and Ishal

Growing Independent Learners for Life

Our Vision



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Clydach

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we believe education is about much more than reading, writing and maths. Our role is to help children develop the skills, confidence and resilience they need to thrive, both now and in the future.

One of the most important things we can teach children is how to become independent. Independence is not simply about doing things on your own. It is about learning how to make decisions, solve problems, persevere when things are challenging and take responsibility for your own learning.

Parents may have noticed that we are increasingly encouraging children to take ownership of many aspects of their day. In our younger classes, rolling snack encourages children to make choices, manage their time and develop self-help skills. Through continuous provision, children are given opportunities to explore, create, investigate and engage in meaningful learning experiences independently. Across the school, enquiry-based learning encourages pupils to ask questions, investigate ideas and find solutions for themselves rather than always relying on adults to provide the answers. We want children to become curious learners who are confident in thinking for themselves.



Another important part of developing independence is our outdoor learning provision. When learning outdoors, children are often faced with real-life challenges that require teamwork, creativity and resilience. They learn to assess risks, solve problems, adapt their thinking and persevere when things do not go to plan. These experiences build confidence in a way that is difficult to replicate within the classroom. Children are also encouraged to take on leadership roles within our school community. Whether serving as School Councillors, Digital Leaders, Eco Committee members, Mini Vinnies, Cŵm Cymraeg representatives or taking responsibility for classroom jobs, pupils learn that they can make a positive contribution to school life. These opportunities help children develop responsibility, confidence and pride in their achievements.

Developing independence can sometimes mean allowing children to struggle a little before stepping in to help. While it may feel quicker for adults to do things for them, children gain confidence when they realise they are capable of completing tasks themselves. Every small success contributes to building self-belief and resilience.

How Parents Can Help at Home

You can support your child's independence by:

- Giving them simple responsibilities around the home.
- Allowing them to solve small problems before offering help and learn from making mistakes.

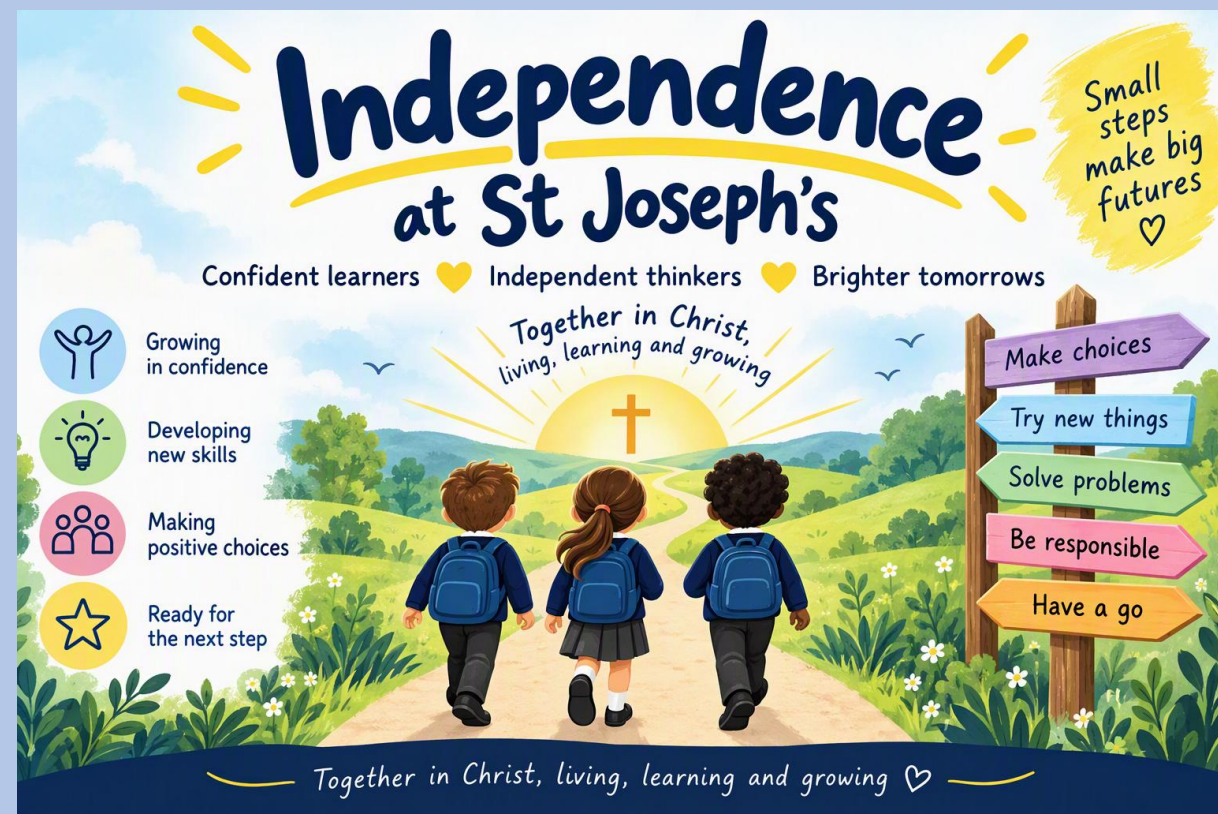
These small opportunities help children develop confidence and a sense of responsibility that will benefit them throughout their lives. At St Joseph's, we are proud to be developing children who are becoming increasingly independent, resilient and confident learners. By working together, home and school can help ensure that every child develops the skills they need to flourish, both now and in the future.



We are making lots of exciting changes to our Teaching & Learning and to our school's curriculum.

All our staff are working really hard to encourage pupils to become more independent, take responsibility for their own learning and to contribute their ideas to what they are learning and why.

Every class from Reception upwards are now working on 'Essential Questions' within an Enquiry Cycle which promotes inclusion, curiosity, resilience and scaffolds thinking.



"Teach me and I may forget. Show me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn."