

St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 29th November 2024





Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well. Please click on the below image to be directed to this week's Head Teacher Message.

<u>Headteacher Video Message 29th</u> <u>November 2024</u>

Please like and subscribe to be made aware of all new and exciting St Joseph's content.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton



"The glory of God is a human being fully alive!"

Christmas Market Trip to France

Some of our students have had the opportunity today to visit a traditional Christmas market in Lille to complement their French studies.

Theme of the Week – Hope

On Sunday we marked the start of Advent, the preparation of the coming of Jesus at Christmas. And in the gospel on Sunday, Jesus starts by speaking about the strange signs in the sky for when the Son of Man comes again. This gospel will sound familiar because only two weeks ago, we hear the same passage but from the Gospel of Mark. We can't really be sure what Jesus meant when saying this but what we do know is Jesus will come again and we know this because God loves us dearly. The message from two weeks ago was: to live in anticipation of the end of our own life or times and to always make sure we do so with God firmly in our hearts. And just as we spend a lot of time getting ready for Christmas, so too must we spend time getting ready for the time when Jesus comes again. Advent is a special time the church sets aside for us to prepare. The Advent wreath that you will see is a good way of seeing the weeks passing — a circle of evergreen branches, with three purple and one pink candle. One candle is lit in each week of Advent (each candle represents a different theme: Hope, Peace. Joy and Love) with the pink candle lit on the third Sunday. We know that Jesus came to share love, forgiveness and peace with the world. If we share these gifts of his love each day by small acts of kindness, then we will be ready to enjoy the celebrations of Christmas and for when he comes again.

In the gospel, Jesus speaks of the end of time in metaphorical language. He is reminding his listeners that our own lives and our own time on earth will not last forever. Jesus' words are not there to make us fearful despite the fact that his words describe some devastation. His message is positive, because all the readings from Sunday point to the reality of peace and fulfilment. The promises made to a needy people who long for peace, are ones filled with **hope**, and tell us more about the God who makes them than those to whom they are made: a loving and provident God who offers us unlimited chances.

Some of the signs of turmoil and suffering described in the Gospel of Luke are the same as the signs surrounding the death of Jesus: disturbances in the heavens, darkness and menace. These indicate the same type of distress that accompanies any major upheaval — times that shake us completely out of our complacency. We are invited to stand before the Son of Man to receive the blessings promised by God.

During this season of Advent, we are invited to take a watchful attitude in our lives, to keep our destination in mind, so that we don't become preoccupied solely with the things that distract us from what is really important. We need to spend time on the important things, prayer and the work that we are called to do, so that we can stand confidently before Him. What are the things in your life that might hinder you from standing confidently before Christ? The season of Advent it is also important to remember that we can bring **Hope** to others? Through our commitment to our Catholic Social Teaching Principle of the 'Preferential Option for the Poor' we ask all to continue to support our Christmas Hamper appeal. How can you be more **Faith-filled and hopeful** to others who are poor this Christmas so we can bring Christ into their lives?

Hope

Weekly Reflections 1st December 2024 1st Sunday of Advent





From the Gospel of Luke (21:25-28, 34-36)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

Prayer for the Week

Loving God, help us through this season of Advent so we can gain a new sense of expectation, and have confidence for the future. Help us to catch sight of the wonder of Christ, and so may we be ready to greet him when he comes again.

Come to us now, we pray in His name

Amen

Day 1

How many candles do we light during the season of Advent? What does each candle represent? Why do we show these gifts to others during Advent?

Day 2

What is a metaphor?
Why do you think Jesus uses
this language and asks his
disciples and us to stay awake
and prepare ourselves?

Day 3

How do you prepare yourself for the future? How are you preparing yourself for your future career for instance?

How then can you prepare for Jesus?

How can you be more Faith-filled and Hopeful this Advent?

Catholic Social Teaching - Option for the Poor

A preferential option for the poor means that we think first about the needs of those who are the most vulnerable. Jesus taught that when we feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, look after the sick and visit those imprisoned, we are looking after Him. We work wherever the need is greatest. We refuse to accept the suffering of our brothers and sisters. No one should be beyond reach of the love and support they need "The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty!"

The [Option for the Poor] affects the life of each Christian as he or she seeks to imitate the life of Christ." St Pope John Paul II, <u>Sollicitudo</u> Rei <u>Socialis</u>, 42

How this half term can you promote the Common Good in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?

Free school meals

Am I eligible for free school meals?

You will be able to claim free school meals for your child if you receive one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have a net income from employment of no more than £7400 per year). For more information on how the government calculates your earnings from employment whilst claiming Universal Credit, please check the "Eligibility under Universal Credit" section below.
- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Please give on the link below to apply. If entitled, Slough Borough Council will inform you and the school of this.

https://www.slough.gov.uk/xfp/form/244

Pupil premium at St Joseph's

If you have any enquiry about Pupil Premium whether it be how we can support your child or whether to know whether your child is eligible for Pupil Premium please do email Mr Gibbons at j.gibbons@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk. Attached to the newsletter is a letter regarding Pupil Premium that will have some more information.

Flame 2024

Flame is the largest Catholic youth gathering in the UK and it returns 15th March 2025! Over 8,000 young people are expected to attend the OVO Arena, Wembley for a day of inspirational speakers, world-class Christian musicians and moments of prayer and Adoration. Bishop David will be also be giving one of the keynote talks.

Pope Francis has declared 2025 the Jubilee year of: 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Pilgrimages are journeys with a sacred purpose, often full of challenges. To embark on a pilgrimage is to be unstoppable in one's faith, believing in God's guiding hand throughout the journey. Just as many saints and martyrs have shown, faith and hope make one unstoppable against adversities.

If any student from Year 10-13 would like to attend please can they see Mr Gibbons where he will arrange to buy some discounted tickets.



Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year 7

Elizabeth Popa for an extraordinary start to her St Joseph's life and to Keith Ahabwe more consistently demonstrating our Pupil Profile Values

Year 8

The Y8 Students of the week are. Danna Torok and Michael Garncarek

Year 9

Beryl Tiero and Eliza Butler for achieving the most positive points this week

Year 10

Isla Slessor and Ryan Passos-Wiggs for getting the most positive points this week.

Year 11

Marlena Michalowska and Julia Lutecka for achieving the highest amount of positive points this week.

Year 12

Nathaniel Basa and Oliwia Mroz for helping another member of staff and excellent attitude to learning.

Year 13

Acklee Pereira and Luke Pleace for working hard in all subjects and making excellent progress.

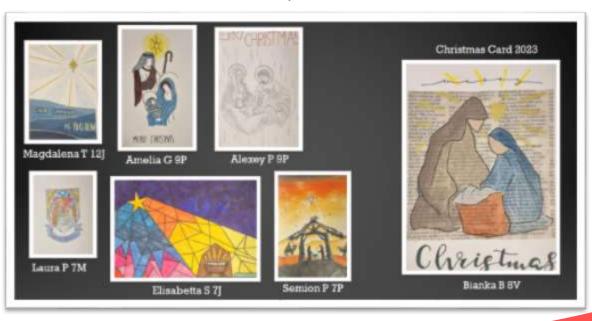
Homework Superstars



Violet	Bodor	7 Veronica
Danna	Torok	8 Cecilia
Brianne	Barrozo	9 Veronica
Leah	Radomyska	10 Cecilia
Marlena	Michalowska	11 Peter
Vanessa	Anane	12 Mark



Art Superstars



EXAMS 2025

Please attached the timetable for the January Exams. The bright yellow are A level exams, The pale yellow is GCSE and the red is official exams.

If a candidate has a clash between an official exam and a PPE they must attend the Official exam and they will move their PPE to a catch up day. If a student has a clash between two PPEs then they must undertake the longest exam in the first slot and then a catch up exam for the missed exam.

Please note that in the Summer 25 Exams there will be no chance for students to catch up on missed exams.

Please do everything to make sure students attend all exams even if they are feeling a little unwell they should still attend school and sit the PPEs. If you have any questions please do email me a.euden@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk



English Department News

The English Department would like to congratulate our KS3 winners of the Benjamin Zephaniah creative writing competition. Well done to our winner Sasha Gumbs for her uplifting response. Our compliments also go to our runners up: Sasha Niles, Janet Ernest and Jacub Surrandor. Entries were of a very high standard and the Department had difficult decisions to make. We enjoyed reading all of the entries - thank you to all students that entered. Mrs Ward





Year 7 News

It has been a lovely week this week despite the cold weather. Please can we ensure that all the students have got a coat ready for the next few weeks as it is starting to turn really cold.

Lots of students are still in with a shout of receiving one of the end of term prizes which is extremely exciting so please continue to praise and motivate from home!

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 9 News

Not so much sport this week but an opportunity to celebrate other successes such as Jessica Lysiak with TVLP and also the amazing effort of Year 9 with the pillowcase Appeal to Ukraine. This week the Year 9 reports have been sent home, which will allow parents to gauge a better understanding and support students with Options Choices before CIAG Evening in January, I hope you have a fantastic weekend Ms McCormack

Year 9 Meningitis ACWY & Td/IPV Immunisations

The Berkshire Immunisation Service will be visiting St Josephs on Tuesday 21st January 2025 for the **Year 9 Meningitis ACWY & Td/IPV Immunisations**.

Parent/carers are required to complete a consent form as soon as possible if you would like your child to receive their vaccination at school. If parents/carers do not wish for their child to be vaccinated, please advise them to complete the form as a non-consent. The consent letter is a separate attachment along with the newsletter.



A Year 9 Special Mention:

David Gheorghita who is currently 3 weeks in to his Academy Trial with Southampton Football.

We are proud of you!!

Year 10 News

Another positive week for Year 10s getting 757 positive points, with a huge percentage of the points awarded for Excellent Homework so well done! During tutor time the Year 10s have been writing letters to business asking if they can assist with our campaign to help people less fortunate.

Have a lovely weekend- stay warm!

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 10

Year 11 News

It's been another busy week for our Year 11 students, and I'd like to highlight some key points. This week, we awarded an excellent **843 positive points**—a clear reflection of the hard work and dedication many students are putting in.

However, we also recorded **89 negative points**, with **lateness (18)**, **incomplete homework (20)**, and **disrespectful behaviour** being the main reasons. These areas need urgent attention. As Year 11 students, it's vital to set a positive example, demonstrate maturity, and stay on top of all commitments, especially as we approach mock exams in January. Let's all work together to ensure these issues are addressed quickly.

Sixth Form Taster Day – Tuesday, 5th December

Next Tuesday, Year 11 students will have the exciting opportunity to participate in our **Sixth Form Taster Day**. This is an invaluable chance to experience life in Sixth Form, explore potential subject choices, and start thinking about the next steps in your academic journey. Lessons will run during **Periods 1 to 4**, followed by an assembly during **Period 5**. I encourage all students to make the most of this opportunity—ask questions, engage in lessons, and begin planning for your future.

For parents, your support in helping your child prepare for this day and reinforcing the importance of their studies is greatly appreciated.

Moving Forward

As we head into the final weeks of term, let's keep up the momentum. Positive attitudes and consistent effort now will set the foundation for success in the months ahead. I look forward to seeing continued improvement across the year group. Remember PPE1 in January 2025!

Thank you for your ongoing support, and have a restful weekend.

Mr Romero – Head of Year 11

Year 12 News

This week Year 12 have been busy completing their profiles and organizing online courses to attend on Unifrog. We have also had a strong focus on organizing work experience in the aftermath of our very successful Careers Fair. A big thank you to the students who contributed so generously recently to the Pillowcase Appeal – the girls in 12 Peter designed and decorated a pillowcase themselves which will make a lovely gift for someone in need. Well done!

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 12

Year 13 News

A great week for Year 13. Positive points have been on the increase this week reflecting the amazing work students are doing both in and outside of the classroom. Students who have complete their UCAS applications have started to receive offers from universities already which is fantastic. If you know you son or daughter is looking to apply to university please could you encourage them to be completing their applications, the earlier they can send it the better.

On December 17th we will be taking Year 13 to Winter Wonderland to celebrate all their hard work, if your son or daughter has previously indicated that they want to attend please could I ask that you have made payment via parent pay by Monday 2nd December so that we can pay for transport and tickets next week.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 13

Year 12 Geography Fieldwork in Notting Hill:



This week, our Year 12 Geography students visited Notting Hill in London for their fieldwork studies. The aim was to investigate the positive and negative effects of gentrification in the area. This was the perfect location to study owing to the rich history of the area- dating right back to when the area was used for industries and piggeries- very different to the wealth and affluence that lines the streets today! From their investigations, including questionnaires and environmental quality surveys, students were able to analyse the data and draw conclusions for their enquiry questions. A great day was had by all and the students represented our school beautifully- we are very proud of them.

Science Club

KS3 science club with their own little chefs making ice cream. Brilliant participation and attendance from the students.









Candle making Elective

These are some beautiful mini cake candles made by our Candle-making elective students.

They worked well in creating their own candles with strawberry and raspberry topping. Well done for your amazing work and enthusiasm! - Mrs Rodrigues













Powerleague Football Tournament

On Thursday the under 14 girl's football team played in a 5 a side tournament at Powerleague. The girls played some tough teams such as St Bernard's, Eden, Wexham and Langley Academy. However they played some amazing football and showed great resilience to finish in 2nd place out of 13 teams! Well done to Loikita, Myah, Beryl, Chloe, Jessica, Vanessa and Eliza.



Design and Technology Department



Year 10 Designers

Year 10 have completed their pencil challenge to design, model and create a solution for holding pencils in the DT room.













Year 7-mini-me





Over the next couple of weeks the mini-me Homework project is coming to end. We are really looking forward to welcoming the new year 7 mini mes and seeing the characters you have made to represent you. A few year 7s have already brought in their brilliant creations- Can't wait to see more.

Year 9- Mini Quiches

The quiches made by year 9 chefs have been really tasty- We hope that the students recreate some of the dishes they make at school so that you too can enjoy them.











D+T Make It Elective

The countdown to Christmas can begin in earnest for some of our DT elective members who finished and took home their countdown calendars; the rest will go home next week. Not long now!









D+T Club- KS3 Designeers

The D&T team made cracking progress this week as they narrowed down their designs for the V and A competition.





We celebrated by making some sustainable gems, which we will continue with next week.



If you love a challenge; enjoy solving problems and Designing and Making; please consider joining our D&T team!

We have started thinking about our competition entries and projects this week but would LOVE you to join us!.

Please see or message Mrs Stacey on Teams and join us at DESIGNeers Club on a

Monday afterschool in A3.



REQUEST for RECYCLING help in D&T

HDPE

The D&T department would love to have your number 2 HDPE plastic:



HDPE plastic is often used to make:

- Plastic bottle lids. (Please remove them from bottles!)
- Colourful Shampoo bottles

Please put any you collect into the labelled container in A3.

Thankyou!

Competition Time.

As it is December next week we can officially begin getting excited about Christmas! We have 2 exciting competitions,...... All entries will receive a positive house point.

- 1. Design and make a Christmas tree decoration to hang on our D&T Christmas tree. Make sure you put a tag with your name and form on your decoration so you can have it back and we can give you a positive point before the end of term. Put your named decoration into the box in A3 to e0nter. The competition closes on Thursday 12th December.
- Design a small Christmas decoration using a 3D CAD program (for example Tinkercad or onshape) The decoration should be designed entirely by you and exported as a .stl file. Submit your .stl file to Mrs Stacey in teams chat, for a chance of getting it 3D printed. The competition closes on Thursday 12th December.

We look forward to seeing your entries!

D&T Stars of the week



Jacob Smiger and Jasmine Singh For being **Learned and Wise** and being amongst the top performers in Year 7 DT.

Aine Kelly, Lillie Green, Maddie Robinson Elizabeth Popa, Sophia D'Amaro, Aleksandra Sapinska for being Active and Curious in DT Club- looking forward to next week!

Olwia Mroz and Nataniel Basa – for being generous and kind with their time and helping out the DT staff. **Thank You!**

Geography Club – OS Map Symbol Competition

The Geography club invites students to Design a new OS Map Symbol. Students need to Design an OS Map Symbol for one of the following: Seaport/ Landfill site/ Nuclear power station/ Fire station/ Basketball court/ Movie theatre/ Dam. The competition is open to year 7 to year 11 students. All entries must be submitted to your Geography teacher. There will be one winner per year group. — Mrs Rodrigues



The Geography club invites students to Design a new OS Map Symbol.

OS Map Symbol Competition

Design an OS Map Symbol for one of the following:

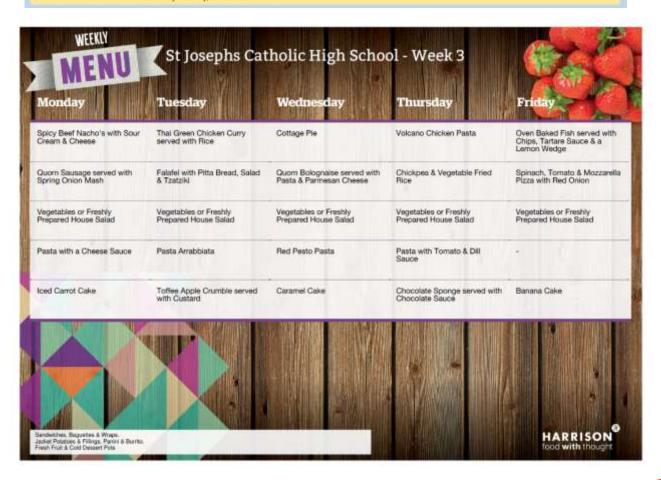
- Seaport
- · Landfill site
- · Nuclear power station
 - · Fire station
 - Basketball court
 - Movie theatre
 - Dam

Some top tips

- · One Colour (Blue)
- · Clear and Easy to understand
- Looks like the activity/venue you are representing
- Not too complex (remember it will be very small on a map)

Complete your entries on Plain whitepaper in coloured pencil with your full name and form on the back.

There will be one winner per year group. All entries must be submitted to your Geography teacher- Mrs Burby, Mrs Rodrigues, Mr Wood or Miss Giannitto by Friday, 13th December.



Legally Blonde Production

St Joseph's Productions proudly presents *Legally Blonde*, performing on **December 11**th, **12**th, **and 13**th in the School Hall at **6:00pm**. Tickets are £5 for students and £10 for adults. To secure your seats and avoid disappointment, please **book your tickets via Parent Pay** as soon as possible.



Sustainability Elective News

This week the students in the sustainability elective went out into the local community to litter pick. The aims of this session links into our catholic social teachings: Rights and Responsibilities, Care for God's Creation, Call to Family, Community, and Participation, as well as those of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The students represented the school incredibly well and neighbours came out to comment their thanks and admiration for cleaning up our community. Armed with bags for both recyclable and non-recyclable goods, the students did us proud! Well done to everyone involved in making a difference!



Pillowcase Appeal for Hopefull



Who are Hopefull:

Hopefull is a charity that operates within Ukraine to offer a "slice of hope" to those in war torn communities through making and handing out slices of pizza for free to those in need. They also provide warm drinks and snacks like fruits and biscuits. To date they have reached 1,800 sites across Ukraine and served over 2 million pizzas. Their volunteers go out in all weather from over 35 degrees to -20 degrees to help those who need it most.

How we are going to help:

As part of the Thames Valley Learning Partnership our schools are going to come together and do a massive collection for Hopefull to distribute to the most at risk and vulnerable people.

This is called the Pillowcase Appeal. The idea is that we fill pillowcases with items they need most. These pillowcases will be decorated and have hopeful messages written on them (preferably in Ukrainian).

What we need donated:

- -Pillowcases
- -Show gel/shampoo
- -Hand sanitiser
- -Hand wash/cream
- -Baby powder
- -Baby milk formula
- -Nappies
- -Baby wipes
- -Feminine products/sanitary items
- -Children colouring books/pens
- -Sudocrem
- -Vaseline and lip balms
- -Toothbrush/toothpaste
- -Roll on deodorant
- *Please do not collect food or any aerosols

Where/ when it needs to be collected:

If your schools could just collect as much as possible from now on that would be great. Around the second week into next half term I will contact you to try and arrange a time to have the donations collected and dropped of to St Joseph's school, ready to be collected by Hopefull.

The donations can either be sorted into the pillowcases or just brought as is to be sorted once at St Joseph's. The pillowcases themselves will need to be decorated with drawings and little uplifting messages, however if your schools do not want to do that St Joseph's can get a group of students to do that once it is all given to St Joseph's.

Any questions please ask either Leah Walls or Finlay Gibbons (TVLP leaders at St Joseph's) or on the TVLP WhatsApp group.

A SLICE OF HOPE

We give hope to war-torn and disaster-struck communities by serving up a simple meal, delivered with warmth and compassion.







Project

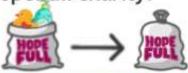
We help war-torn and disaster-struck communities by serving freshly baked pizzas, snacks and drinks to those who need a slice of hope.



Bring in your donations and give them to the necessary people.



They will put all your items into a pillowcase to be donated to the HopeFull charity!



Bring in any of these items to give to the people in need!

- Nappies
- Baby wipes
- Hand sanitiser
- Sanitary items
- Feminine products
- Baby powder
 Baby milk powder
 ROLL-ON deodorant
 - Pillow cases
 - Colouring books
 - Toys
 - Hygiene products

No food or aerosol products!

https://www.hopefull.org.uk/



TVLP News - Design a theatre poster art competition.

We gave prizes to the following:

Oliwvia Dzienniak Winner of the Year 7 and 8 category

Kezia Antao - Highly commended in the same category.

Students were asked to design a poster for The Theatre Royals Windsor production of Dracula from Tuesday 29th October to Saturday 2nd November.

The winning designs were printed into a theatre poster and displayed at the theatre.

Winners also received 2 tickets to a performance.

Both girls received chocolates and a certificates.



'Lip Synch Battle' House Competition

Students had a blast this week taking part in the 'Lip Synch Battle' House Competition. Shoutout to 7M for their costumes and choreography and to Cecilia House for winning by their record number of entries!

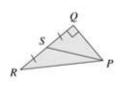






Solution to last Week's Puzzler

D Let PQ have length 4x. Then, as $\tan \angle QPR = \frac{3}{2}$, QR has length 6x. Therefore, as S is the midpoint of side QR, QS has length 3x. By Pythagoras' Theorem in triangle PQS, $PS^2 = PQ^2 + QS^2 =$ $(4x)^{2} + (3x)^{2} = 16x^{2} + 9x^{2} = 25x^{2}. \text{ Hence } PS = \sqrt{25x^{2}} = 5x.$ So $\sin \angle QPS = \frac{QS}{PS} = \frac{3x}{5x} = \frac{3}{5}.$



Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

B
$$2021 - 2223 + 2425 = 2021 + 2425 - 2223 = 4446 - 2223 = 2223$$
.

Puzzler of the week

Andrew calculates that 40% of 50% of x is equal to 20% of 30% of y, where $x \neq 0$. Which of the following is true?

A
$$y = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$B y = \frac{4x}{3}$$

$$C y = 2x$$

$$D y = \frac{8x}{3}$$

A
$$y = \frac{2x}{3}$$
 B $y = \frac{4x}{3}$ C $y = 2x$ D $y = \frac{8x}{3}$ E $y = \frac{10x}{3}$

Break-time Teaser

The prime factor decomposition of 2021 is 43×47 . What is the value of 53×57 ?

A 2221

B 2521

C 2921

D 3021

E 3031

Send your answers to Mr Allinson. Complete answers will get positive points on Class Charts.



EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

Practical Tips for Effective Home Learning:

- Establish a Routine: Create a consistent routine that includes dedicated time for homework, reading, and language practice. Routines provide structure and help children feel more secure and focused.
- Make Learning Fun: Incorporate enjoyable activities that
 make learning an exciting adventure. Games, educational
 apps, and interactive storytelling are great ways to make
 learning engaging for EAL learners.
- Celebrate Progress: Acknowledge and celebrate your child's achievements, no matter how small. Positive reinforcement fosters a love for learning and boosts self-esteem.
- 4. Stay Connected with Teachers: Regularly communicate with your child's teachers to stay informed about their progress and to receive guidance on how to support specific areas of learning at home.

Remember, your involvement in your child's education is a powerful catalyst for their success. By fostering a supportive learning environment at home, you contribute significantly to your child's language development and overall academic growth.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to your child's education. Together, as a united community, we can ensure the success of every EAL learner in our school.

