

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year.
The children have come back full of news about their time off and ready for the new term.

Welcome new staff

Mrs Keeping, after 23 years of teaching full-time which includes 8 years at St Joes, has decided to reduce her hours so she can spend more time with her family and improve her work/life balance. As a result, her working days will be Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 8th January 2024. We would like to offer a warm welcome to our new member of staff, Mrs Evans-Jones, into our school family. She will be working this academic year in FSU. We know you will all welcome her into our school.

I would also like to welcome our new starters and say a big thank you to the buddies that have helped to settle them into our school family. They are a credit to St Joseph's.

Rowan Class

Year 1 have begun looking at the story of Little Red Riding Hood and have enjoyed some drama to help generate some adventurous vocabulary.



This Year's academic Attendance

Our aspiration target is **97%**

At St Joseph's, we think attendance is extremely important! Attending school helps children to prepare themselves for the rest of their lives.

The higher the attendance, the more opportunity for success!

This week - the classes with the highest attendance are

Maple and Beech, with 100%

Oak Class

This weekend marks the Feast of Epiphany. In foundation this week, the children have been recapping the Christmas story and focussing on the part where the kings have a long journey on their camels and finally arrive at the stable. The children made crowns and drew what they thought a king looks like. They related their learning to our current king, King Charles. They discussed whether he has a camel to ride but the children thought that he would probably get a taxi or a helicopter to travel in!

Sycamore Class

This week, the children have been learning to perform the poem, 'If I were in charge of the world!'. They loved reciting it and even included actions. They performed their poem to me this morning and then to the rest of the school during our celebration worship – they were fabulous!

Parent Consultations

It is coming up to that time again where you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and attainment with their class teacher through parent consultations. These will commence the week beginning Monday 5th February 2024 and more information will be sent to you nearer the time.

This academic year, you will receive your child's end of year report in the second half of the summer term (July 2024).

Attendance

I am asking again for your support to further improve our whole school attendance as this impacts upon our children's education. Our aspirational target for every child is that over the whole year they achieve 97% attendance which is no more than 5 days off in a year. The Government's national expectation is 96%, the equivalent of 7 days absence per year. Evidence shows that good attendance is a key factor enabling children to reach their potential. Steps could include avoiding taking any holidays during term times and keeping medical appointments outside of school hours.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Parking

Please can you make sure that if you have to bring a car to school that you park considerably and have due regard for our neighbours. I know that every school as this problem but it is not fair on our neighbours for them to have their driveways blocked or their grass parked on. Thank you in advance for your continued support with this ongoing challenge.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Stephens

Diary dates:

2nd February – NSPCC Number Day, details to follow.

W/B 5th February – Parent Consultations, details to follow.

28th February to 1st March – Year 6 Residential.

Head Teachers Award: Rowan Class – Leo.

Bronze Awards: Cherry Class – Brandon; Willow Class – Sukie; Beech Class – Daisy, James, Jacob, Elliott, Amelie, Lucy, Harry, Gemma, Fraser;

Silver Awards: Rowan Class – Teddy; Cherry Class – Jack, Lily.

100 nights of Reading: Oak Class – Sienna, Edie, Michael.