

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are thrilled at how well our children have done in making it to half-term. It has been one of the longer terms of the year, and they have had to cope with new classes, new teachers and a new Head Teacher too!

This week we have been thinking about the Gospel Value of compassion, inspired by the way in which Jesus chose to serve others and support them. As we go into half-term, recognition of our children's achievements and compassion for how tired so many of them are go hand in hand.

So as I sign off on a wonderful first half-term of the year - and thank you for your warm welcome - I wanted to give a special mention to Luca, Evelyn P-B, Jessi & Isabelle P who all came to show me some excellent work this week – with a very high standard of handwriting and excellent presentation!

Wishing you a peaceful and restful holiday and we look forward to seeing you again on Tuesday 5th November.

Jon Willcox

Head Teacher

Wonderful news – Miss Thompson yr4

We are delighted to announce that baby Joseph arrived safely into the world on 16th October 2024 weighing 11 pounds. Yes he is huge! They are over the moon and so in love! They are both doing really well. They are back home now and enjoying settling baby Joseph into the family.



Dogs Trust

The Dogs Trust visited our school this week. The children all attended an assembly and then had workshops in their classrooms. The focus was how to be safe around dogs and to learn the ABCs of being a dog's best friend. We are very grateful for these free workshops to help our children understand more and stay safe around dogs.

Year 2 visited Exmouth Marina last week. After learning about Exmouth docks in History, we visited the Marina to see how different it is now since its closure in 1989. We learnt a huge amount and recreated this photo from 70 years ago! A big Thank you to all the parent helpers.



Poppy Appeal

After half-term year 6 will be selling merchandise for the Poppy Appeal. They will be selling these on year 6 patio Tuesday 5th November to Friday 8th November before school. Items will be priced between 50p and £2. Please bring change with you.

After Half Term

Just a reminder that Monday 4th November is an inset day and we will be welcoming children back to school on Tuesday 5th November.

I am also delighted to inform you that Mrs Owens will be running Forest School sessions commencing the week beginning 11th November. Your child's class teachers will inform you as to when their class is timetabled to attend Forest School.

PTA Christmas Fair - Friday 6th December

We're excited to host a Christmas fair on Friday 6th December, 4.30pm until 7pm. We're planning festive games, craft workshop, food, entertainment and stalls. We need you to make the event happen, so please let us know if you can help set up, run a stall, or pack away by emailing pta@stjo.uk or find us in the playground. If you are a small business and interested in having a stall at the fair please get in touch by emailing pta@stjo.uk Any donations of time, raffle prizes or help are most welcome. Friends and family welcome to come too - save the date in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you there!

PTA Disco Thank you

Thank you to everyone who helped and joined in at the disco - we hope you all enjoyed it! We raised a fantastic **£850**. Thanks to this fundraising, each class will be given £100 for extra resources for our children. We would love to get your feedback so we can plan another next term, and make it even better. Please tell us what you thought using this short form: <https://forms.gle/jzdbS01EiknVofSdA>

This Year's academic Attendance

Our aspirational 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! The class with the highest attendance this week is **Sycamore Class**.

Diary dates: *These, and future events, can be found on the website and downloaded to your Google calendar!*

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| 26 th October – 4 th November Half term | 5 th November – Children return to school |
| 6 th November – Photos – Individual and Family | 11 th November – Anti-Bullying week |
| 12 th November – Animals2uSouthWest yr1&2 and Maya workshop yr4 – both are live on ParentPay | |
| 15 th November – Nasal Flu Vaccinations | 20 th November – yr6 Author visit ECC – details to follow |
| 28 th November – yr6 Cinema trip – this is a little surprise for them | 4 th December – yr4 Class Assembly – details to follow |
| 6 th December – Christmas Fair | 6 th December - Vision Screening Oak Class – information sent 16.10.24 |

Stars of the week: Oak – **Isabella**, Rowan – **Aila**, Sycamore – **Darcey**, Cherry – **Zara**, Maple – **Catriona**, Willow – **Jessi**, Beech – **Jonah**.

Gospel Values: Bronze Award – **Gabriel**, **Catriona**, **William**.

Head teachers Award: **Luca**, **Isaac**, **Evelyn P-B**, **Jessi & Isabelle P**.