

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

Hope you have all had a lovely week.

**Mrs Monks**

I am writing to let you know that after February half term, Mrs Monks will be leaving St Joseph's. After qualifying as SENDCO last year, an opportunity became available for her to work as a SENDCO in a Primary School, 4 days a week, closer to her home. It has not been an easy decision for her. I know that you will join me in thanking Mrs Monks for the time that she has spent over the last 4 years with your child/ren and families as well as wishing her success on her new adventure ahead.

We are delighted to announce that after half term, Miss English will be at school full time and taking on the role of SENCO.

**Rowan Class**

In Rowan Class this week they have been learning about estimating. They have been drawing their own number lines in chalk on the playground and discussing where numbers might sit and why.

Year 1 have also been working scientifically this week as they explored the best material to protect Mrs O'Mahony's lunch from getting squashed again! They designed and made some brilliant junk models.



**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 class with the highest attendance is **Rowan**

**Sycamore Class**

This week, Year 2 have loved exploring what life was like in 1666. They did some drama where they explored what life was like in a very busy and crowded London. They have sequenced the events of the Great Fire of London and the class have been asking some fantastic questions which has shown our learning behaviour of curiosity. Excellent work Sycamore Class!

**Number Day**

We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on Friday 2 February 2024. More information is attached! A payment item will be available on ParentPay shortly.

**5-9th February Children's Mental Health Week**

At St Joseph's we are committed to well-being and we are excited to celebrate children's mental health week. On Friday 9th February children are invited to wear mufti in the theme of "Express Yourself." Wear your favourite colour or something that makes you feel happy. Donations can be made on ParentPay (available next week) to support HeadsUp who provide us with in-school counselling and have supported us since the pandemic. Our mental health ambassadors have now been fully trained by HeadsUp and are ready to support their peers with well being.

Children are invited to design a poster about all the things that make them happy. KS2 posters should include how to stay healthy in the mind. We will enjoy a whole school dance off and discuss diversity in our family groups.

A huge thank you to Mrs Cook who gives up her time weekly to support children in our time to talk programme and to Mrs Shapter who runs RiseUp at St Joseph's.

**Gospel Value: Peace**

This week, we have been listening to how Jesus gives us the best news and this is His invitation - to listen to Him, turn back to Him and believe what He tells us because the kingdom of God is close at hand. We have been thinking about being peaceful and finding peaceful times to pray. Prayer also gives us space to think about how we can do things differently to restore peace in situations which are challenging.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Stephens

**Diary dates:**

2nd February – NSPCC Number Day, details attached.

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

Friday 9th February 9am - Year 3 class assembly

9th February – Mufti day – theme of 'Express Yourself'

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

**Headteacher Awards:** Willow Class: Jonah; Leo

**Bronze Awards:** Cherry Class – Cobie, Eleanor; Maple Class - Eden, Emily; Willow Class - Oliver, Beech Class – Archie, Elijah, Finlay

**Silver Awards:** Cherry Class – Poppy, Gabriel, Kenny, Isabelle, Arthur; Maple Class – Douglas; Willow Class – Kelly, Melissa, Barney

**Gold Awards:** Cherry Class - Catriona

**Stars of the week:** Oak Class- Evie; Rowan Class – Sophie; Sycamore Class – Anna

Cherry Class – Louie; Maple Class – Jensen; Willow Class – Ethan; Beech Class – Elijah

**Reading Record – 75 nights:** Beech Class - James

**100 nights:** Rowan Class – Iza, Albie, Bea; Beech Class – Emma

**125 nights:** Oak Class – Gracie; Beech Class - Finlay