

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

Welcome back, we hope you all had lovely spring half term. This week the newsletter is being sent out early as I am out of school for the next 2 days on a TIS course.

**Internet Safety day - Rowans**

Year 1 talked about some important rules for us to have to keep us safe online. For example, "Tell an adult straight away if anything worries or upsets me."

**PTA**

Just before half-term I received a wonderful surprise from the lovely PTA. They have given the school £2,000 for books for our library.

**FSU**

Kung Hei Fat Choi or Happy Chinese New Year!

In foundation the children watched videos and shared stories to learn how Chinese New year is celebrated around the world. They have looked at similarities and differences to their own individual lives. It is going to be the year of the dragon so there has been dragon craft, Chinese writing, Chinese numbers along with 'woollen noodles' and chopsticks in the role-play area!

The children did an amazing dragon dance!

**Year 3 Class Learning Assembly**

It was Year 3's turn to share their learning with parents on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. They shared their learning on the Ancient Egyptians with confidence. We are very proud of them.

**Our Goodbyes to Mrs Monks**

We said sad Goodbye to Mrs Monks on the last Friday of term. We wish her every success in her new job. Miss English is taking over the role of SENCO for St Joseph's. We hope you join us in wishing Miss English good luck in her new role.

**Children's health week. Mufti day – theme of 'Express Yourself'**

It was lovely to see the children coming into school wearing their favourite colour or something that makes them happy on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. The focus of the last week had been on mental health and the children made posters about all the things that makes them happy as well as how to stay healthy in the mind. The children enjoyed a whole school dance off and discussed diversity in their family groups. Thank you for donations as these will support HeadsUp who provide us with in school counselling and continue to support us with our children's mental health. Our mental health ambassadors have been available to support their peers with well-being. You can still make donations on ParentPay until 9am Friday.

**Lent 2024**

We began Lent during half-term this year. Lent is a time to think about how our small acts of kindness and giving can have a big impact on others. With this in mind, during Lent we will be collecting donations for the Exmouth Foodbank. There will be a box for donations in the entrance porch. Typical items required by the Foodbank are: tinned goods - fruit, soup, vegetables, baked beans/spaghetti hoops/macaroni cheese and cold meat. Jam, peanut butter, tomato sauce/mayonnaise. Packet soup/instant mash. Easter eggs and chocolates are also needed to give to families at Easter. If you can help in any small way it will make a real difference. Thank you.

Please see attached flyer about lent.

**Catholic Children's Society Plymouth**

Just before half term, all schools were sent a small ink cartridge recycling box to help raise funds for the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) simply by recycling your old ink cartridges via the Recycle4Charity programme. At a recent CCSP Board meeting, it was agreed that a box should be sent to each Catholic school in our Diocese giving you the opportunity to help with our fundraising. Unfortunately, it is not possible to recycle the larger cartridges used in most school's printers and only those small cartridges generally used in home printers that can fit easily into the palm of your hand, can be popped in the box. This recycling scheme has raised **£1,069.21** since CCSP started the scheme in July 2008. However, in the last twelve months alone, **£206** has been raised! This recycling scheme is becoming more popular, and one parish recently collected a box full of ink cartridges in four weeks and raised over **£50!** The box can be found in reception.

**Gospel Value: Integrity**

This week, we been thinking about how we can be honest, which is part of showing integrity. We have explored how it is not always easy to be honest but about how it can help us to grow and move forward.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Stephens

**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!

Week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> Feb - the class with the highest attendance was **OAK Class**

**Diary dates:**

28th February to 1st March – Year 6 Residential

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March – break up for Easter Holiday

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Year 2 and Year 4 Eden Project

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March - Red Nose Day

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Children return to school

**Reading Awards:** Oak Class – Aila 100, Sienna 125.