

Newsletter: Friday 22nd November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

What an interesting week Devon has had with the weather this week, and yet Exmouth must have been one of the only places to avoid the significant snow. Many of our staff braved the conditions and made it here, showing great courage! Thank you to those of you who kept the school going! We have such a great team who really do give their all.

Courage was the Gospel value for this week for the children too, and we have been thinking about the courage it takes to make the right choices, to apply the Gospel values to our lives and to speak up for ourselves and others. Thank you for supporting them to do this too.

Wishing you a warm and safe weekend,

Mr Willcox

Poppy Appeal

Year 6 raised an amazing **£111.86**. Thank you for all your donations to this worthy cause. A big thank you goes to year 6 for all their hard work, and for giving up their time before school.

Year 2

Following on from our zoo animal visitors last week, Gracie brought her pet rabbit to meet Rowan class! It was wonderful to meet Rosie and to enjoy more opportunities to bring our Science learning to life.



Choir

Miss English and Miss Baker would like to express their absolute pride and delight in the recent choir performance at Exeter Cathedral as part of a multi-school chorister outreach programme. The children from St Joseph's had several workshops with Andrew Downton, the singing development lead at Exeter Cathedral.



Year Six Author Visit

The Year 6 class had a brilliant opportunity this week as part of Budleigh Literary Festival. We were invited to meet Onjali Q. Rauf, the author of 'The Boy at the Back of the Class'. She gave an inspiring talk about how she became a writer and her visits to the refugee camps which lead to her writing this book.



Christmas Tree

Pop along to The Holy Trinity Church to look at our lovely Christmas tree, with decorations made by year 6.

Cutlery – Donations needed

If you have any cutlery, that you no longer want, please can you donate them to us. We need knives and forks! Bring all donations to reception. Many thanks.

SENDCo

The first port of call if you have concerns about your child is always to speak to the class teacher. However, there are occasions when other professionals may advise you to speak to the SENDCo.

If you have concerns about your child's development and would like to book a meeting with Miss English, our SENDCo, she is now offering SEND appointments every Wednesday afternoon. Please follow the link to book an appointment.

<https://appt.link/meet-with-hattie-english-PMPQf4m7/send-co-general-appointment>

Nativity Information

Keep an eye out for an email with details regarding this year's Nativity.

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. Friends and family welcome to come too - save the date in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you there!

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 **Rowan Class**.

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

28 th November – yr6 Cinema trip – this is a little surprise for them	29 th November – Non-uniform day - PTA
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	
10 th & 11 th December – Nativity at the Holy Ghost Church – email sent out today	
11 th December – Christmas lunch	12 th December – Christmas Jumper Day
21 st December - 3 rd January 2025 Christmas break	6 th January 2025 – Children return to school

Stars of the week: Oak – Obery, Rowan – Gracie, Sycamore – Sophie, Cherry – Felix, Maple – Isabelle, Willow – Freddie, Beech – Chloe.

Bronze Award: Guy.

Head teachers Award: Mya.

Reverse Calendar and Christmas Giving

We would like to invite you to consider using a reverse advent calendar this Advent, where we donate items to foodbanks in the run up to Christmas. The idea is to donate an item specified on the calendar each day. This is such a great way to continue teaching our children about social responsibility and getting them to think about others, with the festive season being a time of giving, not just receiving. The Advent Giving Calendar can be found attached to this newsletter and our local foodbank is Exmouth Open Door.

Also Caritas Diocese of Plymouth has crisis grants for families in urgent need so please do get in touch to see if they can help you with a small grant caritas@prcdtr.org.uk.

Reverse Advent Calendar

The Reverse Advent Calendar is a way to collect food and special items for families living in poverty around the Diocese to give them a treat at Christmas time. Please start from the first or second week in November so that what you collect can be with the Foodbank your parish gives your donation to before 19th December.

If you are not able to contribute to a food bank, please join us in prayer throughout Advent <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-prayers>

1 Cereal	2 Tea or Coffee	3 UHT Milk	4 Shower Gel	5 Tinned Vegetables	6 Rice
7 Tinned Fish	8 Toothpaste	9 Pasta Sauce	10 Tinned Soup	11 Christmas Pudding	12 Custard
13 Children's Treats	14 Shampoo	15 Fruit Squash	16 Biscuits	17 Toothbrushes	18 Pet food
19 Pasta	20 Deodorant	21 Hot Chocolate	22 Toilet Roll	23 Cooking Oil	24 Hand soap