

Friday 18th May 2018

Dear all,

Well done to all of our year 6 children. They have worked really hard during this SATs week and we are really proud of all of them. We had two visitors in Willow and Maple class this week. They were teaching some of the children a Barn Dance for the Exmouth festival on Saturday 2nd June 2-4pm. It would be really lovely if as many of these children can make the festival as possible to represent St Joseph's. The children had lots of fun trying to learn the dance!

Nik's Nature brought some animals in for our Foundation Stage children to learn about. He showed them a snake, cockroach, giant African land snail, a hedgehog, a millipede, a bearded dragon and a tarantula. He asked the children about their colours, what they thought they eat and where they live. The children were able to give good suggestions. He also talked about how the animals use their colours to camouflage in the wild. The children were given the option to stroke each of the animals (apart from the tarantula which stayed in its tub!) A massive thank you to our PTA who paid for this event. It was a great learning experience; Nik is coming back to our Summer Fair so you can see his animals.

E-safety

A few parents have said to me that their child is accidentally accessing inappropriate content at home on YouTube. Please can I remind you that YouTube requires account holders to be 18, but a 13-year-old can sign up with a parent's permission. I realise that some children are accessing it through their parent's account and, when used properly, YouTube can be an excellent research tool. I just wanted to make you aware that you can put YouTube into restricted mode. This restricts the availability of potentially mature or objectionable content. For more information please visit <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/parent%E2%80%99s-guide-youtube-restricted-mode> I have also put the link on the E-safety page on our website.

Newsletter

Whilst I will continue to add e-safety information to the main newsletter as necessary, I feel it is such an important subject that each month I will send a separate newsletter dedicated just to e-safety. This will be attached to the emailed newsletter. The internet is such an integral part of our children's lives that it is vital we are aware of how we can keep them safe online.

Absences

Please can I remind you that if your child is off school for any reason you must ring and let us know by 9.10am that morning. If we have not had a letter or a phone call from you, we have a duty of care to try and find out where your child is. This is for your child's safety. We don't know, for example, if the child has been abducted on the way to school or whether you have had an accident, we cannot assume you forgot to ring. The office ladies then have to spend time ringing all the different contacts trying to establish what has happened. Twice during the last week I have had to leave meetings to go and do home visits looking for children who have not arrived at school. If you are going away you must fill in the form and if your child is ill you must ring. Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

Sun Tan Lotion

Please do not send your child to school with sun tan lotion in their bags. If it is applied before school, there are long lasting creams available so there is no need to reapply during school time.

School uniform

We are really pleased to say that from July our uniform supplier ShipShape will be opening a shop on Albion Street, Exmouth. You will be able to purchase uniform online or in the shop.

After School Club Vacancy

We are looking for a new member of staff to work in our After School Club 3 or 5 evenings per week, starting asap. A Teaching Assistant Level 3 qualification is required. Please see the office for an application form and more details if you are interested.

Pentecost Picnic

Reminder – Sunday 20th May after 11.00 am service at the Holy Ghost Church. The children are making kites in school which could be taken along to the picnic.

Next week:

Sunday 20th May – Pentecost picnic (see above)

Monday 21st May – Class 6 parent activity session 1.30pm

Tuesday 22nd May – Class 5 parent activity session 1.30pm

Best wishes & many thanks for your continued support

Mrs Taylor-Bashford

Headteacher's Awards: FSU - Fraser, Finlay, Emma, Cherry - Alfie, Willow - Aidan, Jasmyne, Maple - Darcie, Archie, Louis

Platinum Award: Cherry - Nell

Gold Award: Cherry – Nicole & Orla

Silver Award: Sycamore - Mason, Cherry – Alfie,

Bronze award: FSU - Mia, Rowan - Brooke, Ellie, Edith, Declan, Alicia C, Cherry - Jasmine, Jack

Stars of the Week: FSU - Finlay, Sycamore - Charlie Hi, Rowan - Theo, Cherry - Kobi, Willow - Jasmyne, Maple - Jack, Beech - Samuel & Maisie-Rae

Breakfast Club Star of the Week: Alicia C