

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back from half-term. It has been lovely to see the excitement of the children as they see each other again and get stuck in to their learning. It has been especially exciting to see the creative homework coming in for display in class – including this wonderful biscuit colosseum from Harry in Year 5!

This morning it was very special to see our Oaks Reception children learning about and role playing baptism, with a wonderful doll and pretend font. Baptism marks and celebrates life and the gift that it is. In just over a month (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December) we are excited to announce we are having two Advent and Nativity services at the Holy Ghost church, with one very special guest, a real life donkey! As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, please reserve these dates in your diaries.

Wishing you a peaceful weekend,

Mr Willcox



Harry's Biscuit Colosseum

#### Remembrance Celebration of the Word

Our assembly on Monday, at 1:25pm, is titled a Remembrance Celebration of the Word. Any parent or carer who would like to join us is more than welcome to. Please enter the hall via the side gate at the end of car park.

#### Forest school

An email has been sent to advise when your child will be having Forest school. Please can all children come to school wearing forest school clothes, (bringing a spare pair of shoes/wellies) on the day that they have forest school.

#### MUFTI day

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November is MUFTI day for donations to Children in Need. Challenge yourself to wear spots or yellow. Please make any donations via the link below.

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=15587>

#### The Cut Your Carbon challenge kicked off this week!

At St Joseph's we have signed up to be part of Eco-Schools and November is Cut Your Carbon month. Please check out the poster attached.

#### Gates to the playground in the morning

Children should be here by 8:50am and registration takes place in class at 8:55am. We lock the gate to the playground at 9am, to give parents time to leave the playground after drop off, and to enable the school to start to use the playground as a secure space from this time. If you arrive after 8:55am, please take your child through the office, where you can sign them in. After school, the gates are locked around 3.45pm to enable after school club to use the outdoor space safely. But please feel free to stay and chat in the area just outside of the school playground gates.

#### PTA Christmas Fair - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December

We're excited to host a Christmas fair on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!

#### 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 **Cherry Class**.

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

11<sup>th</sup> November – Anti-Bullying week

12<sup>th</sup> November – Animals2uSouthWest yr1&2 and Maya workshop yr4 – both are live on PP – **Please make payment so the activity can go ahead.**

15<sup>th</sup> November – Nasal Flu Vaccinations

15<sup>th</sup> November – MUFTI day – Children in Need

20<sup>th</sup> November – yr6 Author visit ECC – details to follow

28<sup>th</sup> November – yr6 Cinema trip – this is a little surprise for them

4<sup>th</sup> December – yr4 Class Assembly – details to follow

6<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Fair

6<sup>th</sup> December - Vision Screening Oak Class – information sent 16.10.24

10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> December – Nativity at the Holy Ghost Church – details to follow

**Stars of the week:** Oak – Freya, Rowan – Sienna, Sycamore – Sofia, Cherry – Penelope, Maple – Lily, Willow – Evan, Beech – Barney & Noah.

**Gospel Values:** Bronze Award – Douglas, Eden.

**Head teachers Award:** Finlay.