

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we are coming to the end of yet another term, I would like to remind you all of the effect attendance has on your child's learning. We know illness cannot be avoided, but please can you make every effort to make appointments, dentist, doctor etc. after school or during holidays if at all possible.

**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 **Willow Class**

Year 2 Met office visit

Yesterday, Year 2 had a forecaster from the Met Office come to talk to us about the weather for our weather topic. We learnt about how forecasters tell the weather and what their job involves. We also got the opportunity to experience what a cloud feels like and what a tornado looks like! We had lots of fun!

**Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we want to make sure your children are safe when using their devices at home. Please help your children to stay safe online over the festive season, please make sure you are aware of what your children are watching/doing whilst online.

Welcome new staff

We would like to offer a warm welcome to our new members of staff, Miss Preston and Mr Hammond, into our school family. They will be predominately working this academic year in FSU and KS1. We know you will all welcome them into our school.

Lunch times

Can you please make your children aware that they are not to share their pack lunches with any other child, as tempting as this may be, but we do have children with food allergies. As you can appreciate we want to keep them all safe and well. We are a no nut school.

First Sacraments

We are delighted to learn that the GIFT process in Exeter, for Sacramental preparation, is now at full capacity and can no longer take candidates from our parish, as previously advertised.

If you are still considering Sacramental preparation for your child please contact Fr. Philip in the first instance.

Gospel Value - Compassion

As we prepare our hearts this Advent, we have thought about how we can be compassionate to others.

Just to let you know that next Thursday and Friday I will be attending TISUK training, as advised in a previous newsletter. I am hoping that I will get to see you all before the end of the term, as my last day is Wednesday 13th December.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Mrs Stephens

Diary dates:

13th December Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

13th December KS2 Advent Service 6pm at Holy Ghost Church

15th Christmas Mufti Day and Break-up for Christmas

3rd January 2024 Return to School

Headteacher Awards:

Bronze Awards: Rowan Class – Bea, Sienna, Mya; Cherry Class – Jude, Louie, Poppy, Adam; Maple Class – Douglas, Thea.

Silver Awards: Cherry Class – Catriona.

Stars of the week: Oak Class- Gracie; Rowan Class – Murphy; Sycamore Class – Whole Class!

Cherry Class – Theo P; Maple Class – Jensen; Willow Class – Leo; Beech Class – Amelie.

Can I write a poem to describe winter?

Winter is here.

Her eyes are crystal blue, her hair is glazed, silky and smooth.

Her lips are still, frozen rivers.

Winter is here.

Freezing, shivering trees with fear.

Leaves have goosebumps trickling all over them.

Winter is here.

Birds struggle to keep warm in their nests.

Icicles glisten in the silent hedgerows of hibernating creatures.

Winter is here.

A blanket of snow covers the earth.

Snowflakes drift swiftly through the midnight sky.

Winter is here.

Sweet apple crumble covered in oozing, creamy custard.

Red, juicy berries glisten in the bare hedgerows while birds snack peacefully.

Lonely mice long for their last food as they hide in their burrows from the cold, deep, deep, deep snow.

Winter is here.

Soft and greasy snow falls from the silent sky.

The snowy snowballs are breaking when they hit the ground.

Winter is here.

Hazel dormice are hibernating in their hidden homes.

Robins chirp and cark.

Jackdaws steal shiny things galore.

Winter is here.

Children scream and shout and run all about.

Snow falls as quiet as a mouse.

Winter is here.

Irresistible mince pies and sweet hot cocoa.

A tartan blanket covering you by the warm, blazing fire.

By Catriona, year 3, aged 7 (almost 8).