

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

Hope you have all had a great week – not long now until Christmas!

**CEO Visit**

Last Friday, we had a lovely visit from our Plymouth CAST, CEO, Zoe Batten. She visited each class and spoke with the children about their learning and their experiences at St Joseph's. She was delighted with the warm welcome from St Joseph's and was impressed with all the educational visits that we have in place for our children.

**Anti-bullying**

Last Friday, our children celebrated difference by wearing odd socks. We also revisited our STOP anti-bullying campaign in family groups and assembly.

**School Choir**

After school last Friday, our amazing choir performed songs inspired by literature to a wide audience. We appreciate your kind donations made towards the library. Choir will now break for a few weeks whilst we rehearse as a school for nativity and advent services. Wednesday Choir will resume in January. We welcome opportunities to perform or watch music and if you have local connections, please contact Mrs Monks or Miss English

**Year 5 Class Learning Assembly**

This week was Year 5's turn to share their learning with parents. They shared their learning on the Romans and recited a poem regarding a Roman Soldier. The children also invited the parents to their very own school fundraiser where they will raise money for Cafod. They all confidently spoke to a wide audience. Thank you to all that attended to support our children. Well done Year 5 - you were amazing.

**School nurse**

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, our school nurse will be in school at 2.30 to discuss sleep. We know sleep can affect progress and concentration. If you would like to attend the session for support and strategies, please email [admin@stjo.uk](mailto:admin@stjo.uk).

**Disco**

Thank you to the PTA and all the parents for all your efforts in planning and supporting the school disco. The children had an amazing time – thank you!

**School Uniform, toys and healthy snacks**

Just a reminder that jewellery and large head/hair pieces are discouraged from coming into school. Toys are slowly creeping into school and causing upset during the school day so can I ask that you speak with your child/ren about not bringing toys into school. Can I also ask that you provide your child/ren with a healthy snack at break times please. Thank you for your continued support.

**Steve Manning, a local Historian and storyteller, visited our school.**

Year 4 enjoyed a workshop on Ancient Mayans and Year 5 on Romans. The children learnt so much from Steve who really brought the topics to life with his storytelling, drama, freeze frame work and amazing collection of artefacts. We are really grateful to be able to expose the children to these experiences and thank you to all the parents who paid for this experience. It really does enrich our children's learning at St Josephs.

**Sustainable development**

We are always looking for ways to bring our learning to life with volunteers and last week Mrs Mathison visited Year 6 children to deliver a session on sustainable development goals and the aim to achieve Net Zero. The children thoroughly enjoyed the session and were very grateful for Mrs Mathison's expertise in this field.

**Waste Management**

Year 6 welcomed Nicole Bates from coastal recycling into Beech class to educate the year 6 children on waste management initiatives taking place in our local area and the concept of reduce, reuse, recycle.

In addition, we are forming links with Exmouth Museum. Volunteer Historian Bruce Barns will be visiting Year 5 on December 1st, he will bring in some local Roman artefacts to show the children.

If any other parents have areas of expertise to enhance any of our topics, then we would love to hear from you!

**Gospel Value - Compassion**

This week, we heard the Parable of the Talents. We have learnt that God wants them to experience being loved and choose to love Him in return.

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! **98.9%**  
This week - the class with the highest attendance is **Oaks Class 98.9%**

**Diary dates:**

28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> November FSU Nativity (details to follow)

1<sup>st</sup> December PTA Secret Present room

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> December KS1 Nativity (details to follow)

13<sup>th</sup> December KS2 Advent Service 6pm at Holy Ghost Church

**Headteacher Awards:** Rowan Class – Leo, Cherry Class – Arlo, Lenny, Arthur

**Bronze Awards:** Rowan Class – Teddy, Sophie, Murphy; Cherry Class – Liam, Jack; Willow Class – Bea, Harrison, Jonah, Barney

**Silver Awards:** Willow Class – Shiloh, Leo

**Stars of the week:** Oak Class- Sienna; Rowan Class – Albert; Cherry Class – Isabelle; Maple Class – Evan; Willow Class – Holly; Beech Class Lucy