

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another lovely week here at St Joseph's with the children considering the Gospel Value of **Peace**. In Mark, when the disciples asked Jesus who could be saved, Jesus responded "This is impossible for human beings but not for God; everything is possible for God." In a world where peace is increasingly challenging to find or uphold, it is such a privilege to seek to support our children in finding their own personal moments of peace and reflection, while also offering support for making decisions that lead to peace and resolution – which is the basis of our Pupil Welfare policy here at St Joseph's. It is my hope that we can all draw comfort and peace from the hope that comes when we contemplate benevolent divinity.

As we approach Half Term we are looking forward to welcoming you for parents evening next week.

Car Parking

It has come to our attention that parking outside and in the vicinity of the school is still being a problem.

Some are parking or dropping off in a very tight part of the road, on corners of roads, or on the school zig-zags and this is causing difficulties for other motorists, pedestrians and our neighbours using the roads. Cars are also pulling up to the entrance of our school gates and causing obstruction. Please may I remind you all to be courteous as to where you park or drop off. Please do so carefully and legally, for the safety of the children and to avoid damage to cars.

Mufti Day –

Friday 25th October will be a non-uniform day to raise funds for the Catholic Children's Society as part of a whole trust fundraising day to conclude the 10th Anniversary of Plymouth CAST celebrations. Donations will be made via ParentPay, this will be live early next week.

PTA

25th October – PTA AGM All welcome, 3:45pm in school. Have your say, share ideas, get involved with the PTA and find out what's planned!

After Half Term

Please may I remind you that Monday 4th November is an inset day and we will be welcoming children back to school on Tuesday 5th November.

I am also delighted to inform you that Mrs Owens will be running Forest School sessions commencing the week beginning 11th November. Your child's class teachers will inform you as to when their class is timetabled to attend Forest School.

Top Field Gate

We have recently been reviewing our site security. We have decided to keep the top field gate locked at all times, the reason being we cannot manage to staff the gate to ensure it is safe, as such children could feasibly make it to the road unattended if we continue to open it for ease of access for parents. So in the interests of safety, we are going to keep the field gate locked and ask that you now enter for collection and drop off through the main entrance. The main entrance can be accessed on foot via Ryll Court drive, which is a few metres along from the gate.

We apologise for any inconvenience this causes, and appreciate your understanding and continued support as we seek to tighten up the safety we are offering our children.

Nut Free School

Just a friendly reminder we are a nut free school. Could we please ask that you check the ingredients of packed lunch products, such as chocolate spread, breakfast/snack bars and pesto, to ensure these are nut free. Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you a peaceful and restful weekend and we look forward to seeing you again on Monday.

Jon Willcox

Head Teacher

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!*

1st October – Black History Month begins

21st October - Parents Evening Week, details sent out

23rd October – yr.6 Class Assembly for parents (email sent 14.10)

25th October – Mufti Day – Catholic Children's Society – Donations via ParentPay

26th October – 4th November Half term

6th November – Photos – Individual and Family

21st & 25th October - Dogs Trust coming to school

25th October – PTA AGM – 3:45pm in school

5th November – Children return to school

12th November – Animals2uSouthWest – yr1&2 – live on ParentPay

Stars of the week: Oak – Florey, Rowan – Archie, Sycamore – Leo, Cherry – Jacob, Maple – Noah, Willow – Chloe, Beech – Lusi.

Gospel Values: Bronze Award – Felicia, Arnie W.