

Friday 13th January 2023**Dear Parents and Carers,****First full week back**

It has been a very busy and productive first full week back with the children settling well in to school life.

Parking

Just to reiterate the message to parents about parking that was sent in December's newsletter. *Please can you make sure that if you have to bring a car to school to drop off or collect your children that you park considerately and have due regard for our neighbours. I know that every school has this problem but it is not fair on our neighbours for them to have their driveways blocked or their grass parked on.* Thank you in advance for your continued support with this ongoing challenge.

Parent Consultations

It is coming up to that time again where you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and attainment with their class teacher through parent consultations. These will commence the week beginning 30th January and more information will be sent to you nearer the time.

School Day

We have been looking at the timetable for the school day and seeing if we can further maximise the children's learning. We have trialled moving our worship to the end of the school day to finish the day in a quiet and prayerful way as well as reducing KS2 playtimes in the afternoon to allow that continuity of learning in the afternoons. However, there may be times during the school week when the class teacher feels that the children will need a playtime so that will be down to the discretion of the teacher.

Swimming

Year 3 have started their swimming lessons today. They walked down to the LED centre in Exmouth and they had a half an hour lesson learning how to swim. We will be swimming for the whole of the Spring Term.

Proud to care

Proud to Care Devon is part of Devon County Council, who work to recruit care assistants, senior care assistants, managers, admin, domestics, cooks and more to the health and social care sector. They are working hard across the county to champion how amazing it is to work in care and fulfil a role that makes a real difference to people in our local communities. Please see the information attached where you can register your interest and have an informal chat to find out more.

Safeguarding

Just an update to let you know that I am the Designated Safeguarding (DSL) Lead with Mrs Keeping the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) at St Joseph's.

Attendance

I am asking for your support to further improve our whole school attendance as this impacts upon our children's education. Our aspirational target for every pupil is that over the whole year they achieve 97% attendance which is no more than 5 days off in a year. The Government's national expectation is 96%, the equivalent of 7 days absence in a year. Evidence shows that good attendance is a key factor in enabling children to reach their potential. Steps could include avoiding taking any holidays during holiday term times and keeping medical appointments outside of school hours.

I hope you all have a relaxing weekend.
Mrs Stephens

Diary dates:

Friday 13th January – Yr 3 swimming starts
Monday 16th January – Waste project workshops
Wednesday 25th January – Year 5/6 Trip to Holy Trinity Church
Wednesday 1st February – Cultural Awareness Day
W/B 30th January – Parent Consultations
Friday 10th February – Last day of the Spring (1)

Headteacher Awards: Maple Class – Leo, Oak Class – Sofia, Aredhel**Bronze Awards:** Maple Class - Leo**Stars of the week:** Oak Class – Frankie, Rowan Class – Felicia, Sycamore Class – Gabriel, Cherry Class - Matthew, Maple Class – Hollie, Beech Class – Annie