



St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School

January 2018 - Spring Term Newsletter 2

Dear Parents,

We have nearly made it to the end of January and we haven't suffered too much from the horrible bugs that have floored so many other people this year. The children have all made a positive start to the year, they are all working hard and are displaying the characteristics we encourage, being; ambitious, motivated, inquisitive and resilient learners. I am extremely proud of the quiet, purposeful atmosphere as I walk around the school. We ensure that the children are given the opportunity to work collaboratively but also have silence so they have time to organise and structure their thoughts. In today's society this is becoming increasingly difficult to protect, but fortunately the children are given this time during the school day.

Faith Life



Due to circumstances beyond our control we were not able to start our school year with a school Mass. The first Mass of the year is after half term; the 20th February at 9.30am, after the start of Lent. I hope that as many parents as possible will be able to attend as this will be our launch pad for our Lenten Cafod project to raise money to buy toilet blocks for communities that do not have sanitation. On this special day the children are asked to come to school in non-uniform and make a donation of £1. In the same week on the Friday 23rd February it is Family Fast Day, when the whole family can fast and pray together for those who are less fortunate, any money raised from the fast can be brought into school and added to our school total towards the toilets. We have a school target of £170, which would pay for two communities to have a toilet block and hand washing facilities and the UK Government has pledged to match the amount raised, so we could buy four toilet blocks with that money, so transforming the lives of so many people.

2018 Holy Communion Programme



Since the last Newsletter, I have now been informed that some of our children will be having their First Holy Communion in Clare Parish. I would ask that we pray for all the children and their families as they go on their faith journey through the communion programme.

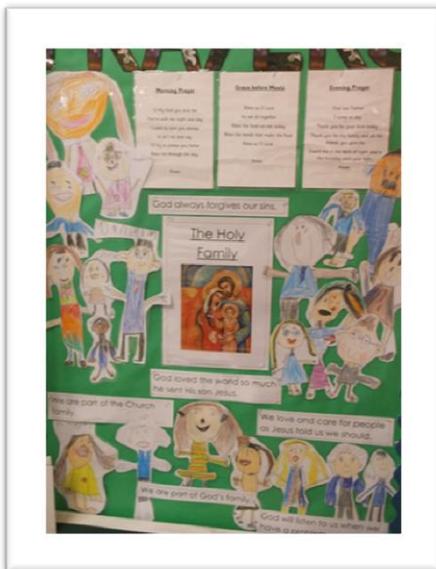
Michaela Angeles, Jared Batih, Mary Debska, Russell Gonzales, Chantelle Portosa, Lucy Rudzinska, Flora Bromley- Martin, Helena and Zuzanna Bulacz,

Curriculum



Next week they will be enjoying a trip to the local fire station and they hope to get to sit in the fire engine and have a go with a hose.

News from Key Stage 1-



them and the teachers often include websites that the children can use to do further research.

News from Key Stage 2

Key Stage 2 are busy working on a variety of topics; Victorians, World War II, mapping and Rivers. In science Samson Class enjoyed learning about inherited characteristics and the other key stage 2 children are learning about forces, electricity and magnets. In DT they are making levers to create a pop-up book and looking at the work of the Japanese painter Hokusai as part of their work on rivers/water. Please encourage the children to practise their tables using the Rock Star programme which the school has invested in and Mathletics. It is also really important to continue to hear your children read in key stage 2 to improve their fluency when reading aloud and to check your child's understanding of the text. Even just five minutes a night will encourage your child to read on and the discussion will

News from EYFS

The children in early years have been thinking about all the people that help us in our school and wider community. The children enjoyed a visit from Mrs Mumford who talked to the children about her job as a dental technician and the importance of dental hygiene, along with a brushing demonstration. This week the children all went to Aldi, thinking about people who work in shops and to spend 'real money', which is used less frequently when we shop but for the children it provided an opportunity to count and pay with money. On their return they were able to make fruit kebabs.

increase their enjoyment and engagement with reading. World Book day this year is the 1st March and we will be doing a range of activities in school to mark this important day.

Drop-in dates



Please refer to the previous newsletter for all this terms drop-in dates. The Teachers also include them on their learning intentions.

Thank you to all those parents who attended the Moses drop-in on Thursday morning. I think it was a record with 18 parents attending!

Safer Internet day



In today's fast moving digital world it is so important that as parents we keep abreast of the latest threats to our children, having teenagers myself I know how tech savvy children are and even though I consider myself competent with technology, they are streets ahead of me. So please follow the link below which will take you straight to the parent and carers page. There is a short video to watch with your child and this should initiate conversation and there is a zip file

which contains other links to information and activities.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2018/sid2018-education-packs/education-pack-parents-and-carers>

School Uniform

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that your child is in the correct winter uniform and wearing correct sturdy school shoes. We are extremely proud of our school and encourage the children that cleanliness and smartness is an outward sign that they are proud of themselves and being a member of the St Joseph's community.

Attendance

We are extremely lucky to have a new attendance officer for this area. He is pro-active in checking the schools attendance and what we are doing to ensure children are in school when they should be. Regular attendance at school is vital to help children achieve and get the best possible start in life. Children who frequently miss school often fall behind. There is a strong link between good school attendance and achieving good results. For example, only 12% of pupils with below 80% school attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths, compared to 68% for pupils with attendance greater than 95%.

Sporting News



This week we had a first- we reached the county final in basketball after winning the West Suffolk area final. On the way to victory the children won all their games against; Wells Hall, Place Farm- Haverhill, Nayland, St Felix RC- Haverhill and Waldingfield. Mr L-S was impressed with Olivia-y6 and Darcy y6's shooting abilities, Lucas y5 and Tyler's y6 dribbling and Grace's y5 formidable defending. Mr L-S wanted to stress that it was team effort that won the day and the whole team displayed excellent sportsmanship. The county final will be later on in the term.



PTA News

Please don't forget that the next meeting will be held at the Cock and Bell in Long Melford on **Wednesday 21st February at 7.00pm**. The PTA is so important to our school and all the monies raised is spent on resources and extras for the children. They will not be able to continue if they do not get enough support from the whole community.

Diary dates

January-30th EYFS trip to the fire station

February 6th Safer Internet Day

February 12th-February 16th HALF TERM

February 20th Mass in school 9.30 and non-school uniform to raise funds for Cafod

February 23rd Family Fast Day

In these cold, dark days I think we all need to remember that spring is just around the corner and God's world is getting ready to awaken.

“Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.” –**Mother Teresa**

Kindest regards,

**Mrs AM Price
Head of School**