



Head-lines

As I write to you at the end of our first half term of the year, I hope this newsletter finds you well, and that your children have enjoyed their start. I hope that the older children have enjoyed seeing friends again after the Summer holidays, and that all of our new starters have settled in well and feel part of our school family; and that sentiment extends to all our parents too. It has been lovely to have a half term more closely resembling 'normal,' and we have especially enjoyed gathering our school community back together for whole school assemblies, as well as starting to run after school clubs and trips out. I wish you all a lovely, restful half term break, and, dare I say it(!) look forward to the Christmas countdown when we return! Best wishes, Mr Turner

Welcome...

Each year we have the privilege of welcoming a new generation to our school family. It is lovely meeting and getting to know all these new faces, and we look forward to the years ahead, and seeing them grow and develop. We also really enjoy meeting all of our new parents and carers and working with you to support your child. A big hello and welcome to our new starters: Daniel, Harrison, Isla, Neave, Ivy, Noah, Harley, Akshayan, Izra, Anna, Jia, Naya, Mollie, Charlie, Sienna, Jack, Joseph, Harry, James, Frankie, Thomas, Willow, Elijah, Evelyn, Finnley, Savannah, Eliza, Lily and George. It has been lovely meeting you and I hope you are happy and feel settled as part of our school.



PREFECTS and PLAY LEADERS

Following a gruelling recruitment process, consisting of letters of application, references and formal interviews, our Prefects and Play Leaders have been appointed. Congratulations to Theo, Ruby, Luke, Chloe, Sophie, Julia, Talia, Ryan, Lexie, Declan, Paul and Olivia who have been appointed as Prefects and to Amelia, Fiya, Lola, Charlie, Zac, Fleur, Ella, Ava and Alexa who are our Play Leaders. You all wrote exceptional letters of application, and presented yourselves very well at interview. I look forward to working with you and thank you in advance for the contribution you make.

Allergies

Please can I remind parents that we do have children with serious allergies to nuts in the school and therefore request that you do not send in any items in packed lunches which are overtly nut based. Items containing nut ingredients (eg certain types of chocolate) are OK, but we ask that products that are predominantly nut are not sent in. Thank you for your cooperation. We are also pleased to let you know that we have purchased additional epi pens and inhalers, which are stored in school, and staff received training in dealing with anaphylaxis and asthma.



Parking, Collection and Drop Off

This is somewhat of a national issue, and every school has issues particularly at 'peak times', but please can we work together and be mindful of our neighbours and each other when parking, dropping off and collecting. We are getting reports from parents as well as Community Patrol that some of the parking and positioning is causing issues, and especially dangerous when blocking off the side access road between school and the public grass, as that would be access for emergency services. Please can we work together on this, and can I encourage you as much as possible to walk to school, or to park a little further up Fairview Road and then walk the remainder of the way. Many thanks for your consideration.

What's been going on....

We are absolutely loving being able to once again offer lots more wider opportunities and experiences, including trips, visits, clubs and theme days. We try to get as much on Twitter as possible, to give you a taste of what goes on each week. If you haven't already, please do follow us @stjosephsbh

A couple of highlights this term have included a Year 6 team visiting Chester Zoo to give a presentation about Palm Oil and sustainability. Fleur from 6C said "At the zoo, we spoke to all the public - it was very exciting!" and Ethan, also 6C, had these words "Palm oil is causing mass deforestation. We must stop this and be sustainable." The group represented our school very well and spoke clearly and articulately about these important issues.



On Friday 8th October, we had a day thinking about our Mental Health, ahead of World Mental Health Day. During the day, we learnt how to keep ourselves mentally well through activities such as exercise, focussed breathing, relaxation techniques and why Mental Health is so important. Reflecting on the day, Anabelle from 2VW said "Don't let your worries get locked inside you. Share your worries."



We've also had visits to Early Years from nurses, the police and other "people who help us" as part of their topic, Year 4 have had a service of Enrolment for their First Holy Communion, and Mr Nayland has taken teams to compete in football and cross country! All this and much, much more! We have lots more planned for next half term too, so watch this space...

Attendance and Punctuality

This remains an area we need to focus on and address as a school. **This half term, our overall attendance percentage is 94.8% but really, we want at least 96%.** Please can we ask that you work with us and make sure your child attends school regularly.

Thank you to those who provided feedback on these areas in our Google Survey. We will leave the survey open over half term for any final comments and then analyse and share some of the findings next half term. If you haven't already done so, the survey can be accessed

<https://forms.gle/njSMDP36kLu1hMMS8>



Worker of the week

We've spent a lot of time this half term thinking about our School Vision and Values. Our Vision is set by the example given by St Joseph when he stepped up to the task given to him by God - 'Just like St Joseph the Worker... Stepping up to achieve excellence' and our values spell out WORKER - Worship, Opportunity, Resilience, Knowledge, Enjoyment, Respect. Each week in assembly I award a certificate to a child who has gone that extra mile and really demonstrated 'Excellence' in one of our Core Values. Well done to Alice, Paul and Benjamin who have been our first winners. I am so proud of all of our children, as day in, day out, they show me excellence and how they live our Values. Thank you children for all your lovely manners, smiles, greetings and hard work. You are all stars!

Prayer and Liturgy.... In October, we dedicate our prayers to Our Lady, Mary, Mother of God. We ask that she prays for us, and as we begin to approach the birth of Jesus, we keep this wonder close in our hearts.

"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee"