



Head-lines

There always seems to be a really peculiar phenomenon about the first part of a new year. January seems to go on for a long, long time, and then February goes by in the blink of an eye! Perhaps it is the resolutions and New Year good intentions making things drag?! And by February the gym memberships go unused, and cake is back on the menu! Or maybe that's just me....

Especially startling is that this half term marks the half way point of the academic year. Looking back and reflecting on what has occurred in the first half, we are proud of the developments - we have launched a whole new approach to the teaching of Mathematics, a new text based mastery curriculum for English and our subject lead staff are mapping out Foundation subjects in order to make links across the whole curriculum. The children are doing incredibly well as the expectations are rising, and as always, they are the thing we are most proud of in our school. I wish you all a lovely half term break. Mr Turner

Attendance

As you are aware, we are raising the profile of the importance of good attendance at school. This is a Wirral wide project to ensure every child has the best possible start to life by having good school attendance. It is particularly relevant to us, as we have noted a downward trend in our overall attendance, falling below the expected minimum 96%, as well as an increase in the number of children counted as having 'Persistent Absence' - absence below 90%.

You will have seen a Wirral attendance officer, Paul Smith, on site in order to challenge late arrivals, and hold attendance meetings where there is a concern.

We are hoping that this fall in attendance will have been a temporary dip and thank all the parents who have made a real effort to improve attendance and punctuality.

It really is in the best interests of your child to be in school - as the phrase goes, we can't teach an empty chair, and all their friends do miss them when they are not in. This drive will continue next half term and we thank you for your support.

"Lets...Play...Darts!"

One of the highlights of Mr Nayland's calendar is the annual darts tournament. I must admit I was slightly skeptical when he first asked me if he could continue this event, but having seen it in action for the last couple of years, I am a definite



convert! As well as mathematical skills, mental addition and subtraction, and hand/eye coordination there has been such a display of good gamesmanship and respect between opponents. Thank you to Mr Nayland for hosting, well done to all the competitors, and a special congratulations to Evie and Isabella who are in the final! The final is due to be held Friday 14th February at 3.30pm in the school hall. So buy your Valentines Krispy Kreme's from the PTA on the playground and come on up and watch the latest instalment in sporting history at St Joseph's! Good luck to Evie and Isabella!

Parking

I have had a request from local residents to remind parents of parking regulations around school. There have been several incidents of parents parking on double yellow lines or yellow zig zags. This can be inconsiderate as well as illegal. Residents have made the council aware and there will be an enforcement team presence. Thank you for helping us to foster good relationships with our neighbours.

Twitter, Parent Apps and our website

In the last newsletter, I asked you to consider following us on Twitter as a really good way to stay in touch daily with what is going on in school.

Many of you have since followed us, and our total 'Followers' count has risen to 476! I am still after the challenge of hitting the 500 mark, so please do follow us! @stjosephsbh



Please could I also continue to ask you to make use of the Parent App system. We really do want to cut down on the amount of photocopying we do and the app is a great way to communicate. Please speak to Max or Angie in the office if you need help installing it. Thank you

We are also in the process of updating our school website. Unfortunately there is no way of making updates without them appearing 'live' so if from time to time content seems to disappear or be incorrectly formatted, that is why! We hope you like the changes we have made so far and if you have any feedback, things you would like to see included or any ideas, please do let the office team know.



Reminder

Just a reminder that we are closed to pupils on the first Monday back after half term - Monday 24th February 2020. This is a staff Inset day. We welcome the children back to school Tuesday 25th February.

Also a reminder that Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th February are Parent's Evenings. If you have not made an appointment but wish to, please do speak to your child's teacher and arrange

Welcome - We welcome Amelia and Tina who have started this half term. We hope you are enjoying being part of St Joseph's School

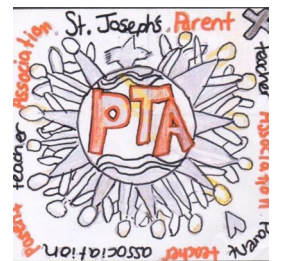
Year 3

On Sunday 19th January, the children of Year 3 were enrolled into their preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. It is always a proud moment as children and parents state their desires to continue the Spiritual and Faith journey. I ask we keep all of our Y3 children, and their families, in our prayers as they prepare for that special moment when they receive Jesus in the bread and wine for the first time in May.

St Joseph, pray for them.

PTA

Keep a look out as there are lots of PTA events taking place soon - Bingo, Easter Bonnets and Pancakes to name a few! Thoughts will also shortly turn to the Summer Fair, so if you are able to volunteer any time or resources, the PTA are always very grateful for any contributions! As always, my sincere thanks to Liz, Chris and all the PTA members who do an amazing job with events and fundraising.



Thought for the term

Wednesday 26th February is Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of Lent. Lent is traditionally thought of as a time when we 'give something up,' but we could equally 'do something extra' - in the form of saying a prayer every day. This Lent, over the 40 days, spend some time each day in quiet reflection thanking God for His love and asking for His strength to help create a world where this love is everywhere.

