



## Head-lines

Welcome to the Summer 1 edition of our half termly newsletter; I hope it finds you well. As we all continue to move through the Government 'Road map' of the lifting of restrictions, we look forward with a continued sense of hope and optimism. I hope you have enjoyed any opportunities to see and hug loved ones, take trips out, or visit a favourite place. While it is lovely to see all these changes and restrictions gradually lifting, it is important that we all continue to do our bit and not get 'carried away.' Later in this newsletter is a brief reminder of the requirements still in place in schools.

At the time of writing this newsletter, it is a dull, rainy day, but I do hope that by the time the half term comes round, the sun comes out and you have a lovely Summer half term!

Best wishes Mr Turner

## (The) Environment Matters!

This half term, the children have done some exciting but really important learning about the environment and pollution. Our text based curriculum has focused on books with an environmental theme, such as 'Tidy' by Emily Gravett in Year 2, or 'Alba, the 100 Year Old Fish' by Lara Hawthorne in Year 4, while Year 5 have been reading 'The Brilliant Deep' by Kate Messner and learning about Coral Reefs. The children have then applied their learning and thought about what actions they can lead to safeguard the future of our planet. I have been blown away by their passion and the information they have shared with me - I myself have been taught by the children all about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, and how many tonnes of plastic is wasted each year! (Clue - a lot!!) These children are our future leaders and it is so powerful to see how driven and 'bothered' they are. As a school, we will continue to do all we can to be as environmentally friendly as possible and do our part to protect our planet for the children, and their future children. They have been so 'hands on' I wanted to just share a few of the projects they have been involved with:



Year 1 worked on their DT skills, recycling old t-shirts into handy (and fashionable!) bags



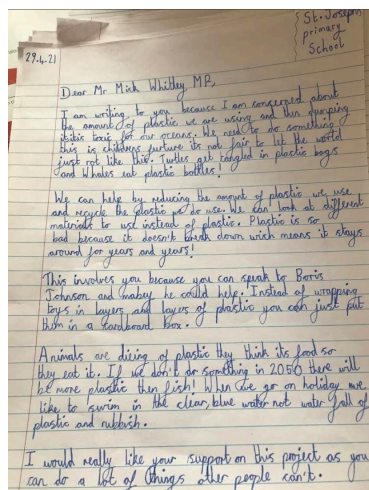
Year 6 held a press conference for their own Greta Thunberg!



Anti-Pollution posters



Year 4 took a trip to the Arno to do some litter picking



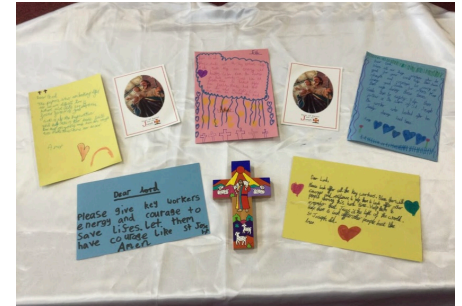
Year 4 also wrote letters to Mick Whitley MP - the MP for Birkenhead. Mr Whitley has responded to the letters, writing back to the children and he has booked in a visit to St Joseph's next month, where he will talk to the children of Year 4, hear their views and tell them about what he intends to do to help their cause. Just goes to show how powerful the voices of our children are!

## **Attendance**

This year has clearly been impacted by Covid, and with periods of school closure, along with the requirement to self isolate when displaying symptoms etc, pupils' attendance has been up and down. However, we are still required to monitor and report attendance figures. Included in your child's end of year report will be their overall attendance grade for the year, but we do understand that for some, this will have been unavoidable. Now that we are returning gradually to 'normal' we do have to raise the profile of the attendance requirements. Our whole school attendance currently stands at 95.7% (the expected figure is at least 96%) and our Persistent Absence (pupils with attendance less than 90%) is 13%. **We need to do something about both of these figures, so will be working closely with our Local Authority attendance officer. Good school attendance is very important and we hope to see this improve next half term and next year. Thank you for working with us to place value on education.**

## **Celebrating the Feast of St Joseph the Worker**

In the Church calendar we celebrate the feast of St Joseph twice - once on the 19th March and then on the 1st May we celebrate *St Joseph the Worker*. This second feast day is very special to us, as it is from St Joseph's example of 'Stepping Up' and his patronage of Workers that we devised our School Vision and Core Values - "Just like St Joseph the Worker, Stepping Up to Achieve Excellence - **W**orship, **O**ppportunity, **R**esilience, **K**nowledge, **E**njoyment, **R**espect". The children celebrated the day with a variety of activities, which also included thinking about all of the Key Workers who have helped us all so much over the last year. Year 1 and Year 3 made cards of thanks to send to Key Workers in our local care homes and hospitals. St Joseph, Pray for us.



**End of Year Reports and Parents Evening** - Teacher's are currently working on writing the end of year reports for the children. We hope to get these sent out to you on 9th July. We hope you found the online system for Parents Evening convenient and efficient. We do know that there were some issues with technology and that the timings were quite tight at just 5 minutes. If you did not manage to have an appointment, and there is something you would like to discuss with your child's teacher, please do contact the school office and we will set up an appointment. Moving forward, we think the system will work well as a 'blended' approach - so throughout the year having some meetings face to face and others using the online platform.

## **Covid measures - reminder**

Even though measures in other sectors continue to ease, the guidance in operation in schools has not altered that much. Therefore, we must continue to follow the measures we have in place:

- Please do not send in your child if they display any of the Covid symptoms
- Please encourage good hygiene at all times
- We ask parents and adults to not congregate on the playground, and only arrive at the correct time and depart as soon as possible
- We ask that adults continue to wear a face covering (we await further guidance on this)
- After the half term, we will no longer be able to accommodate any early collection times for children. While we understand it is difficult if you are collecting from different year groups with different finishing times, some children are missing important sessions at the end of the day

## **Year 4 Sacraments**

Owing to the Covid situation, last year the children were not able to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation or First Holy Communion. The Programme is now running for the current Year 4 who earlier this term made their Sacrament of Reconciliation, with the Communions planned to take place in June. We ask that you keep our Year 4 children in your prayers as they continue their journey in faith.

*Thought for the term - an extract from the Catholic Bishops conference: "Pope Francis says that climate change affects us all, but it is the poorest communities who will suffer the most.*

*We all have a responsibility to take care of our common home, and you can make that change through your choices as an individual in your home, school, parish and local community. Recycling materials correctly, reducing food waste, not wasting water, switching the lights off and thinking about the way you travel to school. Young people are passionate about making these important changes. Not only are you probably already doing them, but through your actions you are also educating others around you!"*