

St Mary & St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



11th December 2023

Message from Mrs Terrey

We are in our final week of the first school term... where has the time gone! The school is full of Christmas carols and naughty elves in classrooms. The children in KS1 have also been busy rehearsing and after seeing the rehearsals, you are all in for a treat! We are saying a very sad farewell to Mrs Cameron in Elm and class and Mrs Hall who is Leaving the school after many years of dedicated work for the children at St Mary and St Joseph's School. We hope to see you at the Christmas celebrations and the staff at St Mary and St Joseph's wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Dates for your diary	
KS1 Nativity@ 2.15pm	12/12/23
KS2 Carole Service @ 5.00pm in the church	13/12/23
Last day of term	15/12/23
Return to school	2/01/24
Forest School Sessions- Oak Class	2/01/24



SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

I am pleased to share with you information regarding school governance. From this term, governance at St Mary and St Joseph's has been further strengthened through the formation of an Interim Academy Board (IAB). The IAB is made up of senior leaders within the field of education along with our previous Chair of Governors, Nick Salt. The board will meet monthly to monitor progress and further support the school. I look forward to sharing further information regarding the IAB with you in the new year. If you wish to contact the Chair of the IAB, Dr Karen Cooke, please do so via the clerk to the IAB, Leah Paiano lpiano@plymouthcast.org.uk

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Ready, Respectful and Safe.

As a school we are continuing to focus on high expectations in learning and behaviour at all times and we have implemented changes to lunchtimes to support this. The First lunchtime sitting now begins at 11.45 am and concludes at 12.45 for Elm, Sycamore and Beech classes. (Year Reception, 1,2,and 3). The Second sitting for Oak, Willow and Rowan classes start at 12.15pm to 1.00pm. (Year 4,5,6) This allows all the children to eat immediately at the start of the lunchtime break.

Forest School Sessions

Forest school lessons with Mrs Childs have been enjoyed by Beech class this term, Oak class will have their sessions on a Monday afternoon for the next half term. They will need to have play clothes that will get dirty and suitable shoes that will get wet and muddy.

Reading Curriculum

Reading is given a high priority in the school day across the school. Every class has a class reader and the children complete guided reading daily. We are implementing a new reading system for all Key Stage 2 classes called Accelerated Reader. This is a reading system which allows children to read books from the school library- books that are likely to be on their bookshelf at home. The children will be given their book zone and can then select books from this level. After reading the children then complete a reading quiz online which can be completed at home or at school. This is to check their understanding. As part of this process all reading books within the school must be checked and added to the system. If there are any volunteers who would be willing to help with this please contact the school office. The PTFA have secured a grant of £2445 to develop the reading provision for the children at SMSJ.

ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE REQUESTS

It is essential that children form good habits of regular attendance at school from an early age and that good attendance is maintained throughout their school career. St Mary & St Joseph's is committed to working together to ensure that there is a consistent approach to school attendance. It is a legal requirement that all children should attend their educational provision and it is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that their children attend school.

St Mary and St Joseph's has agreed the following:

- It is important that pupils are in school on time. Time keeping is not only important in obtaining maximum benefit from education but is also a key skill for adult life. Lateness is monitored by the school and contributes to absence rates.
- St Mary & St Joseph's will monitor the attendance of our pupils and work closely with Dorset county council's School Attendance Service to support children whose attendance levels are causing concern.
- Whilst we understand that children do become ill on occasions, children who lose a lot of time at school can suffer in the long term from significant gaps in their learning.

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If a child's health continues to affect their education schools are obliged to make a referral to School Health to ensure that appropriate medical advice and support is provided.

- If a child is ill, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that they inform the school. St Mary & St Joseph's operates a targeted "First Day Call" system, which means if they had not received a message from you, they will contact you to ask why your child is not in school and when they are expected to return. If no contact is made then the Head teacher plus another staff member will complete a home visit.
- No leave of absence will be granted during term time, except in exceptional circumstances.
- We are therefore informing parents/carers that, should you wish to take your child out of school for any leave of absence, holidays or otherwise, the request will not be routinely granted. It is essential that any requests are made in writing in advance for the attention of the Head Teacher. Any absence which has not been authorised by St Mary & St Joseph's will be recorded as "unauthorised" and this has the potential to impact on your child's overall absence figure and could result in legal action.

St Mary & St Joseph's is committed to ensuring that every learner has the opportunity to thrive and achieve, and recognises that good attendance is central to this.

What does the attendance percentage really mean?		
Attendance %	Days Lost	Lessons Missed
100%	0 Days	0 lessons
97%	1 Week	30 lessons
94%	2 Weeks	60 lessons
90%	4 weeks	120 lessons
85%	6 Weeks	180 lessons
80%	8 Weeks	240 lessons

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SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

	Current class attendance	Number of school sessions missed
ELM- EYFS/1	89.81%	120
SYCAMORE-2	94.23%	60
BEECH- 3	95.83%	60
OAK	96.54%	30
WILLOW	94.98%	60
ROWAN	90.55%	120

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

The following clubs are offered for children until the end of the Spring 1 Term .

The clubs are either lunchtime or after school (as below) and can be booked using Parentmail.

Monday	Forest School	KS2	Forest School	3.15-4.15
Tues	TT Rockstars	KS2	Mr Pickavance	Lunchtimes
Tuesday	Multiskills	Years 4 & 5	Mr Kelly	3.15-4.15pm
Weds	Board games club	Years 2&3	Miss Mallon	3.15pm-4.00pm
Weds	Multiskills	Year 6	Mr Kelly	3.15-4.15pm
Thursday	Lego club	KS2	Mrs Pattinson-Smith	3.15pm-4.15pm
Thursday	Multiskills	Years 2&3	Mr Kelly	3.15-4.15pm

Flyer attached for Forest School after school club, all information is available on there.

Mr Kelly's clubs are chargeable and have limited numbers and must be booked and paid for online using ParentPay.

Collection will be at the main playground.

Headteacher

S Terrey

Mrs Sarah Terrey