



# NEWSLETTER



18/3/19

## St Joseph's Day

Tomorrow, March 19th, is the Feast Day of St Joseph. We will be celebrating with the children with something tasty and very cold! On Wednesday the whole school will be going to Mass to celebrate St Joseph's Day. The Mass will begin at 11.00 and all parents are welcome to join us. Traditionally we have our Inter-House Football competition during the week of St Joseph's Day but due to many staff being out during the course of this week we have decided to postpone this week's event and will arrange a new date in due course.

## Facebook

Many of you will be aware of the upset caused by the Facebook post concerning the exercise that children took part in last week when they voted in the way that MPs do in the House of Commons. The intention behind the exercise was to teach the children that in Parliament voting takes place in a different way to the 'secret ballots' that we have traditionally held at times of elections and the referendum. The subject of the vote was chosen to reflect the topic which was dominating the news and will become part of history as the children grow up. I am sorry that the exercise and the post caused upset for some people as that was certainly not the intention. The reaction to the post also caused upset to many. Can I please ask all parents to exercise restraint when making any comments on school social media. We have now decided to temporarily unpublish the page to avoid prolonging any upset that has been caused. We will soon have a Facebook presence again, as it has proved to be the most popular method for engaging with parents and celebrating children's achievements. In the meantime Twitter and the school website will continue to be used.

## Tempest Photographer

The photographer from Tempest Photos will be in school on Friday 29th March to take individual and family group photos. If you have any pre-school children who you would like to be included in a family photo please come into school through the office between 8.30 and 8.40.

## Messenger

Today Classes 4 & 5 visited the Theatre Royal as special invited guests for the installation ceremony of the new statue 'Messenger' which was put in place today. It is sure to become an iconic feature within Plymouth for many years to come so it is good that our children were there to witness its first appearance.

## Evacuees

Class 5 are going to have a whole new experience as part of their World War 2 topic. As many children from Plymouth were in the 1940's the children will be evacuated tomorrow. They will get a train to the safe haven of Calstock.

## Attendance

Overall attendance for the school year is now 95.33% which is a slight increase over this half term. Our target for the whole year of 96% is still achievable. Classes 3 & 5 are already above the 96% threshold so it can be done.

	Foundation	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
Authorised	95.1%	94.5%	94.8%	96.9%	95.7%	96.1%	95.3%

## Mathletics

We are approaching the end of a long subscription period to Mathletics which we had financed using a grant available five years ago. Unfortunately the cost of renewing the subscription is beyond our means. There is an alternative product which is similar, but less costly, called Times Tables Rock Stars. The children will be given a username and password to be able to access the site so they will be able to continue to practice their arithmetic at home and in school.