



Parent Governor

There were two nominations for the vacant Parent Governor posts. These were for Nikki Hirst (mum of boys in year 1 & 2) and Karen Pilkington (mum of a girl in year 1). As there were two posts available, and two nominees, an election will not be necessary and Nikki and Karen will take up their positions as parent governors in the new year. I am very confident that they will add to the skill set we already have in the governors. They will also ease the load on the present governors who have been working with reduced numbers for a good while now. If you are not sure who our current governors are there is a section on the website where you can find out all about them.

Year 6 Enterprise

You may have noticed the stress ball sellers in the International Market and 'The Cakers' selling biscuits and cakes after school on Friday. These are the results of some great work by the children designing their own enterprise project. The children had to come up with an enterprise idea and put together a Dragon's Den style presentation, with a business plan to convince me to invest in their venture. Alfie and Cicely (The Cakers) had to complete a level 2 Food Hygiene course as part of their preparation. They made a profit from their first day of sales and wish to be able to offer their wares on a regular basis on Fridays. The Stress Ball children (Annah, Kiera and Amy) sold out their stress balls in a very short time and began taking orders to avoid missing out on potential sales. Both groups have already made adaptations from their first day of sales to cut costs and maximise profits.

Unexpected School Closure Protocol

Many schools around the country have been closed this week due to adverse weather conditions. We are not expecting the weather in the South West to put us in danger of having to close the school but I thought it would be an opportune time to make you aware of our protocol in case of the need for school closure. This is available under the Parents tab on the school website. Basically, if needed, I will act on safety advice if general school closures around Plymouth are recommended. If decisions need to be made on an individual school basis safety, and the availability of heat, food and staff are the main factors that I would bear in mind. If a decision is taken to close the school for a day this will be published on the school website as well as our Facebook and Twitter accounts. The local radio stations will also be informed to spread the circle of communication as widely as possible.

Meal-Time Assistant

Unfortunately after eleven years of service as a Meal-Time Assistant Mrs Gibbons will be leaving St Joseph's this Friday to take up another position that offers more hours of work. Sue has been a friendly face for hundreds of St Joseph's children over the years and will be missed by children and staff alike. We wish her all the best in her new position. It is likely that we will soon be placing an advert for a replacement meal-time assistant. The main purpose of the job is to ensure children are safe during lunch time and can enjoy their meal in an hygienic and pleasant environment. Most of the hour and a quarter shift is spent outside in the playground with safety still at the top of the agenda but also facilitating playground games. If you feel that this role is one that you would enjoy please let Miss Couzins know, as that could inform how widely we need to advertise the position.

Christmas Events

We kicked off our Christmas events last week with a choir performance at Devonport Live. They performed again last night at St Peter's Church, Stonehouse. Our International Fair was very well attended last Thursday. We are now in the busiest week of course. I have seen the dress rehearsals for both the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Nativity Plays and am sure that everyone who sees the 'real thing' will be delighted and impressed with the children. There are still places available for most shows apart from the Wednesday Evening performance. This is full to capacity so please bring a ticket for everybody who wishes to be admitted to that performance.

The timetable of events for the next few days is:

- Tuesday 12th – Key Stage 1 Nativity 9.00, Foundation Stage Nativity 6.00pm
- Wednesday 13th - Foundation Stage Nativity 9.00 am Key Stage 1 Nativity 6.00pm
- Thursday 14th – Key Stage 2 Carol Service in St Joseph's Church 6.00pm
- Friday 15th – Christmas Lunch day (non-uniform)
- Monday 18th – Talent Show day (non-uniform)
- Tuesday 19th – Last day of term (uniform to be worn)
- Wednesday 3rd January – First day back of the new year

There will be a collection made after each of the performances. The School Council have decided that the money raised will go to SHINE, a charity which supports families with children affected by Spina Bifida. One of our families in school has been supported by SHINE and the school council wanted other poorly children to be able to get the same help. More info can be seen at <https://www.shinecharity.org.uk/support/christmas-campaign-2017>

The Christmas Service at St Joseph's Church will start with a Carol Service at 7.30 pm on Christmas Eve followed by Christmas Mass starting at 8.00 pm.

This is likely to be the last newsletter of this term so I would like to wish you all a safe, happy and holy Christmas.