



NEWSLETTER



18/10/18

No School Tomorrow

Just a reminder that tomorrow (Friday 19th October) is a training day for teachers and the school will not be open for children. The following week is the half term holiday and we return to school on Monday 29th October. We hope you have a safe and happy week with your children.

Soft Start

The 'Soft Start' trial has been successful and so we will continue to welcome children into school from 8.40 onwards next term.

Drinks and Snacks

It has been noticed that some children are bringing in cakes, biscuits or even chocolate for snacks to have at break-time. As a Healthy School we discourage these types of snacks. If parents feel a snack is needed at that time it should be fruit or some kind of healthier alternative. As far as drinks are concerned we encourage children to bring in water to drink during the day and make water available to children throughout the day. We discourage squash and other flavoured drinks for a few reasons, dental health being the main one. Another is the fact that young children quite often spill their drinks and the damage from spillage of a squash drink is far greater than that from water alone. Unless your child would become dehydrated if water was the only liquid available to them please do not send in squash or other flavoured drinks for them.

Attendance

Whole school attendance is 95.5% for this term which is below our 96% target. If holidays had not been taken we would be well ahead of our target despite the recent spate of illnesses. Top class for attendance is Class 3 with an impressive 97.2%. 87 children have had 100% attendance for the half term, well done.

Uniform

We have always been proud of the high standards of school uniform that St Joseph's children have kept to. It often attracts compliments from members of the public when the children are on visits and prospective parents visiting the school have mentioned that it is a feature of St Joseph's that makes us stand out from other schools. That may be one of the features that got us into the Herald's list of the top ten Plymouth schools where it is hardest to get a place at. To keep up those standards we need to remind parents from time to time what the expectations are. All children are expected to wear a white school shirt or blouse and royal blue jumper/cardigan at this time of year. Polo shirts, non-white shirts and sweatshirts should not be worn.

One of the main reasons for having a school uniform is to avoid school becoming a fashion parade and parents feeling pressured to buy expensive items for their child keep up with the popular fashion. Trainer manufacturing companies have cleverly disguised trainers as school shoes in recent years and this has made this 'fashion' reason for uniformity harder to impose. The vast majority of parents have resisted going down the trainer route for which I thank you. The majority of parents who have plumped for trainers have at least ensured that they are pure black. In a quick survey today about five percent of children had trainer branded footwear on (if your child is telling you everyone is wearing them , they are not !). Less than one percent had trainers which included white soles or markings on them. None had non-black trainers without a valid reason. I thought it would be interesting to find out the feelings of parents about any trainer type footwear in school. If you want to share your opinion please complete and return the slip below.

St Joseph's Footwear Parent Opinions (please tick one statement)

- I think school shoes should be shoes and any trainer branded footwear should not be allowed
- I think plain black trainer branded footwear is acceptable
- I think that any mainly black trainer branded footwear should be allowed
- I think there should be no restrictions on footwear allowed