

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear all,

It has been a really busy week at St Joseph's, with activity sessions, eye tests, flu immunisations, a sporting competition, on top of the usual learning!

Thank you to everybody who brought in clothes for Bags2school. It raised over £88 for the school which is fantastic.

**Parent activity sessions**

I hope you enjoyed the parent activity sessions this week. The children really enjoyed being able to show off what they have been doing and it is an opportunity for parents to see what the children are learning in class and the learning methods they are using. Beech, Willow and Rowan have their sessions after half term.

**Mental Health Ambassadors**

On Thursday it was World Mental Health day. Our year 6 Mental Health Ambassadors gave an assembly to the school. They talked about how we all have mental health and this can change at different times in our lives. They covered ways in which we can help to keep ourselves mentally healthy and things we can do if we are feeling low. It was really lovely that it was the children delivering this really important information rather than one of us stood at the front talking. We are very proud of our Mental Health Ambassadors and the way they are carrying out their role in school.

**TimesTables Rockstars**

Times tables are really important for all children to learn off by heart and the matching divisions. Once they know their tables it then makes so many other areas of maths easier. The government has also now brought in a multiplication test for all year 4 children which they have to do in June. All children from Yr 2 – 6 have a login for TimesTables Rockstars which has kindly been paid for by the PTA. It is a great learning tool which the children really enjoy playing. It also really increases their fluency with their tables. The staff can see the children's progress and identify which tables they need to work on. The progress is clear to see as some children have gone from an average speed of 12 secs to answer a question to 2 secs, which is amazing! Whilst the children do have some opportunity to go on TTRockstars at school, it is part of every week's homework so we would be grateful if you could support them with this.

**Sickness**

Like many of the schools we have had a stomach bug going around. Whilst we have increased our cleaning and are constantly reminding the children to wash their hands, we are still having children being sent back before they have been clear for 48hrs. All the cleaning and washing of hands cannot stop the spread of the germs if a child who is still infectious comes back into school early. As parents we all know how it is difficult to find childcare if your child is ill but it is vital that this 48hr rule is abided by. Many thanks for your support with this.

**Next week:**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October – One of our grandparents is coming in to teach the children a song he has written called 'Green Guardians' which is about looking after the environment.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October – Yr 6 to PGL

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October – Cherry and Willow Class to Westpoint Farmwise festival

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October – 3.30pm, school finishes for half term

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Inset day

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October – 8.55am, Children return to school.

**Best wishes & many thanks for your continued support**

**Mrs Taylor-Bashford**

**Headteacher's Awards:** Rowan – Daisy, Ethan, Damian, Amelia, Riley, Shiloh, Barney, Liam, Finley, Sycamore – Emma, Chloe

**Bronze Awards:** Cherry – Alfie, Adam, Willow – Zaylea, Beech - Chloe

**Stars of the week:** Oak – Emily, Rowan - Brooke A, Sycamore - Gemma, Cherry – Nicholas, Willow - Amber, Maple - Isabella, Beech – Ralph.

**Breakfast Club star of the week:** Freddie C-B