

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October

Dear all,

Well what a week to finish off this half term! As you are aware we had Ofsted this week. As soon as we have the report we will pass it onto you. It usually takes about 4 weeks for Ofsted to finalise and publish a report. I cannot thank you enough for all the amazing support we have had from parents this week. You have kept us going with chocolates, doughnuts and cake. I cannot thank you enough. The children have had a really exciting week as follows:

Beech Class have been on residential all week. They have had an amazing week doing a range of different activities, including archery, rifle shooting and a mud challenge. The children have all been really well behaved and are all giving each activity a really good go. They have been brilliant at supporting one another and made the staff proud.

Maple Class went to Haldon Forest, Go Ape on Tuesday. They had a fantastic time on the ropes and everyone was very brave, including our parent helpers! Then in the afternoon they did den building. The children commented that they had a fantastic time and some have now looked to have their birthday parties there.

Rowan and Sycamore Class had visitors in on Wednesday. Crealy brought in stick insects, a bearded dragon, a ferret and a snake! The children had a fantastic time and well done to Miss Fisher who bravely volunteered and at one point had stick insects crawling on her, including one on her head!

Cherry and Willow Class are at Kents Cavern today as part of their learning. I'm sure they are having a wonderful time and being very brave in the caves! It is wonderful that the children are accessing all these great enrichment activities that enhance their learning. Many thanks to all the parent helpers as we couldn't do it without you.

### Games

Some of the young children have been talking about playing the game Fortnite at home. As I have said in previous newsletters, I cannot dictate what games children play outside but it is a game aimed at over 12 year olds and we have had incidents of children talking about going home and 'killing people' in the game and laughing about what good fun that is. Also it means at times their play in the playground reflects the game and so we are clamping down hard on any rough play we witness. With that we have banned a game they have been playing called 'Cops and robbers'. Whilst the children were not intentionally hurting one another, they were playing it and being too rough. I have spoken to all the children concerned and myself and the staff on duty at break and lunchtimes will continue to monitor the situation carefully to ensure any inappropriate or overly rough play is dealt with immediately. On that note if you ever have any concerns about your child please make an appointment to see myself or the class teacher as soon as possible.

### All Saints Day

Just a reminder that Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November is All Saints Day. This seems to have become a bit of a tradition now at St Joseph's! Children and staff all come in dressed as Saints, we have a lovely day and we all walk across to the Church for Mass. Please do not feel that you need to buy elaborate outfits for your children. St George can easily be made up of a white t-shirt with a red cross stuck on and black trousers or Mary could be a blue dress with a white scarf.

*If any parent is able to help walk the children to church, leaving school at 9.10 am, please could you let us know as soon as possible.*

### Upcoming dates:

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 – All Saints dress up day.

I hope you all have a very happy, safe and relaxing half term.

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

**Headteacher's awards** – Rowan – Finlay, Mia, Archie, Chloe, Teddy, James. Sycamore – Alfie, Hamish, Amelia, Maddison, Willow – Adam, Maple - Izzy

**Stars of the week:** Oak - Barney, Rowan - James, Sycamore - Annie, Maple - Thomas.

**Breakfast Club star of the week:** Louie