

January 5<sup>th</sup> 2018**Dear all,**

Welcome back. I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. The holiday seemed to fly by and already the new term has begun. I would like to say a big thank you for all the wonderful presents that were given to myself and the staff at the end of the term. We are very grateful for all the gifts and kind wishes.

The children have started back ready to learn and are excited about their new topics. Some of the different topics that have been chosen are 'Power, Plagues and Plot', 'See you at the Battle!', 'Can I make it better?' and 'Off we go'.

Sycamore and Rowan have already started their topic with their hospital role play area to see if they can make each other better and Oak class took their suitcases off on their first journey; they went to visit and look round the Church.

You should all receive a class letter today with information from your child's teacher about the term and a topic web showing key themes the children will be focussing on.

We have listened to parent feedback and have added in a parent's evening this term. This is so parents and teachers have time to discuss their child's progress and attainment. The dates are Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January. Your allocated appointment time will be sent home with your child on Monday. As always, if you have any concerns, please do not wait for your appointment; myself and the teachers are happy to discuss any problems, just see the office to arrange a time.

**Welcome**

We would like to welcome our 6 new families who started/returned to us this week. We hope you will be very happy at St Joseph's.

**Card payments**

Due to new data protection laws we are no longer able to take card payments in the office. You can still pay online for parent pay but at the office we can only accept cheque or cash. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

**Parents of the First Communion children**

For parents whose children are taking part in the First Communion group this year, there is a meeting at the Church on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm.

**Mass in Plymouth**

On 28<sup>th</sup> March, during Holy Week, Father Philip is taking a minibus to Plymouth to take part in Chrism Mass. Father has asked if any parents would like to take their children to the Mass as representatives from the school. If you are interested, there are spaces on the minibus, so please let me know by the end of next week.

**Dates:**

A list of diary dates will be sent out next week but some key dates for January are:

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January – First Communion parents meeting at Church 7.30pm

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January - Parents evenings

Thursday 25 January- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Book fair in school

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January – School disco in the evening

**Best wishes & many thanks for your continued support****Mrs Taylor-Bashford****Headteacher's Awards:** Maple - Rafa, Willow - Ralph**Breakfast Club Superstar:** Nell