

Friday 20th January 2023**Dear Parents and Carers,**

We have had a lovely but chilly week!

I am going to share some of the exciting learning that has been going on in St Joseph's this week:-

In Foundation Stage children joined an online session with an author, Eva Wong Nava, who wrote the book '*I Love Chinese New Year.*' They heard all about the story of how the Chinese New year began with the Great Race and learnt about the twelve zodiac animals. Hannah from Devon Waste visited Year 1 to run a Science workshop. They learnt about the different types of waste with a particular focus on the impact of plastics getting into the oceans. It was a great start to their new Science topic in class 'Materials'. They pretended to be pirates as they travelled around the playground learning! Year 2 have been incredibly enthusiastic about their Titanic unit of work. They have been enjoying learning all about the history and getting into role as the passengers. We would like to invite parents into school at 2.45pm next Wednesday to watch a performance to celebrate our learning. Year 3 have been exploring rocks! They enjoyed using magnifying glasses to closely observe rocks. Year 4 completed a science investigation to find out which type of chocolate melted the fastest. Our Year 6 children had a productive afternoon writing and practising an assembly to help them make improvements to our recycling systems in school. This is part of our commitment to 'Let's Go Zero by 2030'.

Family Community Event - Free tickets

Kate Paiano (tiny travels) is running several special family community events in February to help children in Devon learn about different cultures. The events are all carnival around the world themed so lots of dancing, dress up and every child gets a free mask. They have some free tickets for families who need it, all tickets including the free tickets can be booked online, on a first come first serve basis <https://tinytravels.co.uk/booking>

Cultural Awareness Day

Our cultural awareness day has moved from Wednesday 1st to Wednesday 8th February. Please let your class teacher know if you would be kind enough to share your experiences on this celebration day. Thank you in advance for your support.

Parent Consultations

Parent teacher meetings will take place in the week beginning 30th January. Next week you will be sent a link on parent pay that will enable you to book your appointment using the online booking system. These appointments can either be face to face in school or a phone call. When booking your appointment please specify which appointment you would like.

Proposed Teacher Strikes

As you may have seen, in the recent press, confirmation has been received from the NEU that they have voted for strike action. Action potentially affecting CAST schools will take place both nationally and regionally on the following days:

1 February: All schools in England and Wales

2 March: London, South East, South West

15 & 16 March: Two day strike of all schools in England and Wales.

I felt that it was important that we share these potential disruption dates with you. We are working on how this proposed action will affect our school and the impact on children and parents whilst recognising the rights of individuals to take industrial action following National guidance and Employment law. We are waiting for more information before we can make an informed decision as to the likelihood of any potential partial or full closure. I will provide you with a further update as soon as I am able.

Have a peaceful weekend.

Mrs Stephens

Diary dates:

Monday 16th January – Waste project workshops

Wednesday 1st February – Cultural Awareness Day

W/B 30th January – Parent Consultations

Friday 10th February – Last day of the Spring (1)

1 February: All schools in England and Wales

2 March: London, South East, South West

15 & 16 March: Two day strike of all schools in England and Wales.

Headteacher Awards: Cherry Class – Thea and Poppy J

Gold Award: Cherry Class - Douglas

Bronze Awards: Sycamore Class – Issy, Arthur, Maple Class – Amber-Lily, Jonah, Beech Class - Elliott

Stars of the week: Oak Class – Aredhel, Rowan Class – Samuel, Sycamore Class – Arlo, Cherry Class – Connor, Maple Class – Jonah, Beech Class – Daisy