

Thursday 11th October

Dear all,

We have had a busy week at St Joseph's. The playground water tank repairs are coming on well and the concrete now has to stand before the tarmac can be laid over half term. When they are in over half term they are hoping to build the water drainage systems outside the classroom which the children designed last term. It will be really good for the children to see their designs in place and working!

The girls' football lunch club is going well and the coach has commented on the good skills and team work the children have been demonstrating. Classes 3 – 6 have been learning the steel pan drums this half term and there is definitely a huge improvement in their playing from the beginning of the term!

It was lovely to see you all at Parents' Evening and I hope you found it useful to find out the areas that your child will be working on next and discussing their progress so far and how they have settled in their new year group. Parents always ask about the best way that they can support their child to make great progress. Without any doubt the main answer to this is.... reading. This could be listening to your child read, reading a fabulous book to your child or encouraging them to have regular bedtime reading sessions. Listening to stories is proven to have a huge impact on children's vocabulary development that then positively impacts upon their writing. So read, read, read. Or as Doctor Seuss would say, "You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back & relax, all you need is a book."

A big thank you to everyone who sent in food for the Harvest Festival. The Exmouth food bank was very grateful for all the wonderful donations and said how much it would be appreciated by the people that receive it.

We have had lots of parents looking around for their children to start in Reception next September. It has been lovely hearing their comments about what happy, polite children we have, what super activities and provision we offer our children and what a great environment we have. It is great and very rewarding to hear.

ParentPay

We are trying to get all money for trips, After school club, lunches etc paid using ParentPay rather than having cash given into the office. If you have not already logged in and activated your account we request that you do so as soon as possible. If you need support with this or new log in details please ask at the office. We also already have 85 people overdue in paying money, please pay as soon as possible.

Trips

We have lots of exciting trips and visits coming up. We think these activities are really important for supporting the children's learning and for providing memorable learning experiences. Please ensure that you have paid the amount requested and tell the class teacher if you are able to help with any of the events. Unfortunately, without enough money and adult helpers, trips will be unable to go ahead.

Upcoming dates:

Monday 15th – Friday 19th October – Beech Class residential

Tuesday 16th October – Maple Class to Go Ape.

Tuesday 16th October – Willow Class, Power Up theatre workshops all day

Friday 19th October – Cherry and Willow Class to Kent's Cavern

Best wishes & many thanks for your continued support

Mrs Taylor-Bashford

Due to staff absence, we are sending the newsletter a day early. Please note that the children do not yet know that they are "Stars of the Week"!

Stars of the Week: Oak - Hollie, Rowan - Emily, Sycamore - Harry, Cherry - Freddie, Willow - Orla, Maple - Ralph, Beech - Freddy .

Breakfast Club star of the week: Louie