

Friday 10th February 2023**Dear Parents and Carers,**

I can't believe how quickly this half term has flown by.

Primary Sports and Education:

I am delighted to be sharing some exciting news with you all. After half term, we will be working with Primary Sports and Education to enhance our Physical Education provision at St Joseph's. Many of the children are familiar with Marc through the Beacon holiday clubs that he runs. Up until Easter, Marc will be in school every Tuesday (starting from Tuesday 28th February) covering Physical Education lessons with all year groups except Year 3 as they are swimming this half term.

As to PE days for each class - these will be as they are at present for the first week back. As from the second week back (week beginning 27th February) the class PE days will change and we will give you further information after half term.

We are looking at increasing the Primary Sports PE days to two days a week after Easter and until the end of this academic year which will be fantastic for our children as well as our teachers. Primary Sports will also be offering an after school club on the Tuesdays that they will be in and further details will be sent to you after half term.

Exmouth Tennis Centre

Last week, Mrs Hallett had a wonderful morning taking a group of KS2 children down to the Exmouth Tennis Centre for a multisport festival run by Dartmoor School Sports Partnership. It was a brilliant success and the children can't wait for the next one. Many thanks to Mr Morrell, one of our school Governors for helping out on this trip.

Children's Mental Health Week

Our Ambassadors have been busy this week collecting notes of gratitude in their buckets to share amongst the community. Children have been encouraged to share gratitude messages with one another. Today we had a whole school dance and a display of what makes children shine like a star.

Cultural Awareness Day

A huge 'THANK YOU' to the parents who gave up their time to come into school to speak to the children –they were all brilliant! One of our Governors came into the Y5/6 class and said the following...

"I really enjoyed coming in to talk to the children about growing up in a different country and culture. I know that other parents also came in and shared their different experiences too. What a brilliant opportunity to help welcome children from other backgrounds to the school but also enrich everyone's understanding of different cultures. Many thanks to Emily Monks for organising this".

Please see the photos at the foot of this newsletter for an insight of our day.

Next week's (w/b 21st February) Gospel Value – Humility

Humility is one of our Gospel Values and one of our School Virtues. We have explained to the children that values are our ideals. Values guide us. They are standards of behaviour that someone decides is important. Virtues are something we develop. Through life we develop these virtues. Humility: a virtue by which we discover the truth about ourselves and take action for positive change. Humility is when we start to take responsibility for our self-discovery and acting in light of it. During this week, you could ask your child how they feel they have shown humility.

Wishing you a peaceful half term break and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 21st February!

Mrs Stephens

Diary dates:

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

Monday 20th February – Non-pupil Day

Tuesday 21st February – School starts for Spring (2)

Wednesday 10th March – Trip to Eden Project – Year 2 and 4.

2nd March: London, South East, South West 15th & 16th March: Two day strike of all schools in England and Wales.

Headteacher Awards: Oak Class – Sofia, Sycamore Class - Adam, Samuel, Jack, William.

Silver Awards: Rowan Class – Dominic, Arnie, Anastasiia, Aaron, Jacob, Anna, Aidan, Laciee-May, Beech Class – Amelie.

Bronze Awards: Sycamore Class – Brandon, Fraser, Theo L, Arlo, Beech Class – Emma, Chloe, William, Lydia.

Stars of the week: Oak Class - Darcey, Rowan Class – Dominic, Sycamore Class – Samuel M, Cherry Class – Jude, Maple Class – Layla, Beech Class – Lilly T

