

Friday 27th November 2020

Dear all,

We have had a lovely week at St Joseph's. Many thanks to everyone who has donated Christmas decorations for the classes. I think the school will look lovely when they are all up.

Usually at this time of year we are making lanterns for the town Christmas Parade and decorating a tree in The Strand. Unfortunately, this year these events are all cancelled but the Council have still kindly donated us a tree which the children are making decorations for. We will put the tree in the corridor so all the children can see it. Hopefully I won't be picking up pine needles for the rest of the year!

In school this week FSU have been learning about Baptism. The role play area has been set up and the children have been acting out baptising the toy baby. The children are really enjoying this and the baby has been baptised a lot this week!

In Rowan Class the children have been learning about Mary Anning and the fossil she discovered. They then made their own fossils out of bread and jelly!

Sycamore Class were 'Material Detectives' and went out in the grounds searching and identifying different materials.

In Cedar Class the children have been planning out decorations they want to make and in science they have been doing lots of practical experiments looking at changing states of matter.

Maple and Beech Class have been practising their French skills. In two weeks' time Beech Class will be setting up a French restaurant and inviting Maple Class to be their customers. Only orders given in French will be accepted! If any year 6s have any French items e.g. pictures, flags please can they bring them in for Friday 11th December.

Christmas lunch

If you have not yet booked Christmas lunch on ParentPay please do so today as we have to order it well in advance. Please remember you can book all the lunches for the whole term which is often easier as we are finding there are some children that are still arriving in the morning with no packed lunch and no lunch booked because the parents have forgotten to book it in time.

Covid-19

We are doing everything possible to keep our children safe in school. However, cases are still relatively high in the area and we are very aware that as lockdown eases slightly next week cases may continue to rise. It is imperative that you do not send your child into school if you have any suspicions that they may be unwell with Covid. We are definitely erring on the side of caution; nobody wants to risk catching Covid and nobody wants to have to be in isolation over the Christmas holidays. Thank you for your support with this.

Plymouth Diocese support and survey

The Diocese have put together a short survey with us to look at the feelings of parents in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and what they can offer parents in terms of support. If you are able to take part the link is <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QVFB3V2>.

In addition to this they are hoping to offer a 'Lockdown Lowdown' session for us. This would be a virtual coffee morning, so that parents can come together and chat with regard to their concerns. I will send out more information as I receive it.

Best wishes

Mrs Taylor-Bashford

Diary dates:**Friday 27th November** – Christmas decoration donations in please**Friday 11th December** - Flu vaccine**Friday 11th December** – Christmas jumper day. Children to come in wearing uniform and Christmas jumper. £1 donation for Save the Children charity**Tuesday 15th December** – Christmas lunch. Please book on ParentPay by 27th November**Headteacher's Award:** Cedar – Harry Ha, Ellis, Adam x 3!**Silver Awards:** Rowan - Isla**Bronze Awards:** FSU – Lenny, Ralph, Arabella, Arthur, Arlo, Kenny, Rowan – Isabelle, Tilly, Cedar – Emma, Hamish, Maple - Amber**Stars of the Week:** Oak – Eleanor, Rowan – Olivia , Sycamore – Riley, Cedar – Alfie, Maple – Mylo, Beech – Vince