

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear all,

The Year 6 children have had an amazing time at PGL, luckily the weather has been quite good where they are. They have taken part in lots of activities such as abseiling, rifle shooting, obstacle courses, quad biking and archery. It has been a wonderful trip that they will remember for years to come. Many thanks to Mr Empson, Mrs Ertle, Miss Christopher and Mrs Coleman for giving up time with their own families to make this trip possible.

**Cyclocross**

Last week nine children from year 4, 5 and 6 rode in the Cyclocross competition - we had some high finishing positions on a challenging course. All riders made St Joseph's really proud - and they looked super smart in their new PE kit, with other parents noting our new green tops. Thank you to all the parents that transported their child and their bike to the event. I'm sure our nine riders will inspire a bigger entry next year!

**Forest School**

This week in forest school saw the completion of the new Bug Hotel, our natural bunting and the consumption of purple pancakes, cooked over our new fire pit. The blackberries had been collected by the children with their families. Hot chocolate with water boiled in our enormous new kettle was enjoyed on yet another wet Monday.

Last week was a real highlight when every child mastered a flint and steel to light a cotton wool bud. The joy on the faces of children who had to strike the flint numerous times in order to create a spark - was a joy to see as they experienced success!

They're loving forest school despite the rain. So a tip to the wise - send in waterproof layers when it's your turn in forest school then the weather doesn't spoil our fun!

**Eye tests**

Last week the Reception children had their eye tests carried out by the Orthoptics department from RD & E. They stressed the importance of children having their eyes tested. So those who had it done in Reception will then need to have an appointment made in Yr 2 to have their eye tested by a local optometrist such as Specsavers. The advice from the hospital says *'We recommend testing to ensure early identification and treatment of reduced vision. In most cases, we can treat reduced vision successfully if detected early. However, if left untreated, it may not be possible to improve a child's vision. This may have an impact on their future progress in school, ability to drive or career choices.'*

**Christmas card designs – last chance to order!**

If anyone has not yet handed in their Christmas card design orders then Adele has kindly said you can drop them to her over the weekend. Her number is 07792 628166.

**All Saints Day**

Don't forget Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November is All Saints Day and all the staff and children are invited to dress up as a Saint. Please do not feel you have to buy expensive costumes, a white t-shirt, trousers and a belt would suffice! We are all walking over to Church for Mass at 9.10am if anyone is free to help us walk the children over we would be very grateful. Please let the office or class teacher know if you can help.

**Today:** Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October – 3.30pm, school finishes for half term

**Week after Half Term:**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Non-pupil day

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October – 8.55am, Children return to school.

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October – 2.30pm rearranged Cross-country race

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – All Saints Day, Mass in Church 9.30am everyone welcome

**Best wishes & many thanks for your continued support**

**Mrs Taylor-Bashford**

**Headteacher's Awards:** Rowan –Quinlan x 3! Damian, Sukie, Barney, Jonah, Liam, Shiloh, Cohen, Jonah, Isla, Sycamore - Lydia

**Bronze Awards:** Rowan – Chloe, Ethan, Sycamore - Emma W, Cherry - Lilly

**Stars of the week:** Oak – Poppy J, Rowan - Quinlan, Sycamore - Fraser, Cherry – Zach, Willow - Freddie, Maple - Halley.

**Breakfast Club star of the week:** Olivia L