

Friday 18th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well the end of this half term hasn't been quite as I expected! I hope you are all tucked up safely at home. The children have had a super last week at school with Reception, Year 1 and 2 having visitors from Exmoor Zoo yesterday. Apparently, the meerkat was a huge hit! There are photos on Facebook.

The teachers have set home learning for today and are running brief zoom sessions just to check in with the children and wish them a good half term.

We appreciate that many of you are still working today so may find supporting the children with their home learning difficult. Please do not worry. Whatever the children can manage is great but most importantly they are home and safe. As always reading is the most important thing children can do to make progress across all areas so if they can continue to read over half term that will be super.

We are really sorry that the TTRS day has not happened. I had my pink hair dye all ready! There is the Exmouth Learning Community battle set up on TTRS – we were meant to be playing it live today. This is where the children can go on and play and tally points for St Joseph's against other schools. If your child can join in with that or if they have a battle set up against another class on TTRS that would still be good for them to do if possible. Equally, if the links or site has crashed due to the weather please do not worry!

Snacks

This is a reminder that we like children to bring snacks into school as they can get hungry mid-morning. However, these snacks must be fresh fruit or vegetables. The government sends free fresh fruit every day for Reception and Year 1 and 2 and the snacks from home must also be fresh fruit or veg. We are finding children coming in with Dairy Lea dunkers, pain au chocolate, Mars bars etc. The same goes for children bringing water in. It must be water not squash. We have found that for children who won't drink water if you gradually reduce the amount of squash in the drink over a period of time they then become used to it to start drinking plain water. Some children are coming in with extremely strong squash which when they sip it out the bottle over the course of the day is really harmful for their teeth.

Farewell

Sadly, we are having to say goodbye to Mrs Turner. Mrs Turner has been so amazing at the school in leading PE and Forest School. She has made such a difference to so many children at St Joseph's. We are very sorry to see her go. Mrs Turner is leaving to spend more time with her family and we wish her all the very best and hope she pops in from time to time for a cuppa.

Many thanks for your continued support

Have a lovely half term

Best wishes

Mrs Taylor-Bashford

Diary dates:

Tuesday 1st March – children return to school for second half of the term

Tuesday 1st March – Year 6 Fairtrade workshop

Thursday 3rd March – PE day. All children to wear PE kit

Friday 4th March – World Book day – dress up as your favourite book character

Friday 4th March – Year 6 zoom session with Mark Ormrod

Monday 7th – Friday 11th March – Year 6 residential

Tuesday 8th March – Year 3 environment workshop

Headteacher's Award: Oak Class - Remy