

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023**Dear Parents and Carers,**

What a busy and enjoyable week we have all had at St Joseph's. We have been trialling our new behaviour system which recognises and rewards improvements and excellent behaviour. I will be able to share the positive behaviour policy with you on our school website by the end of next week. The children have welcomed this as it has helped them to see the rewards and consequences in a clear framework as to what the expected expectation of behaviour is and how they can go 'above and beyond'. Some of their responses from Y5/6: *'It's a good idea, helps us think about our actions! The school will become a better place.'* *Really good! Green sets where you should be.'* *Makes you feel good about yourselves. You go home feeling positive because you are where you should be!'*

**Trips and visits**

We have some very exciting trips and visits coming up for the children over the next few weeks. The teachers have been really creative in organising some fantastic events to enhance the curriculum and bring learning to life. Children remember these experiences throughout their lives and we are delighted that we can start to provide them again. Year 2 and Year 4 are out on a trip today at the Eden Project and this morning we had very excited children. Year 3 and Year 4 will be going on a trip to Buckfast Abbey. Whilst they are there, they will be engaging in a Threads of Easter Workshop. They will also be able to visit the abbey and explore the beautiful grounds.

**Gymnastics, yoga and dance**

On Thursday a group of year 1 and 2 children took part at the ECC Tennis Centre for a whole morning of gymnastics, yoga and dance alongside many other primary schools in the area. The event was run by Dartmoor School Sports Partnership. The children were buzzing from it, they learnt new skills and developed their confidence. Within half an hour of returning to school the children had already started to teach their classmates some of their new moves! Well done.

**Handwriting**

Just to reiterate, a few weeks ago I mentioned in my newsletter that at St Joseph's we are working hard to improve our presentation and raise our expectations of children's work. Part of this improvement was launching a new handwriting program. Each class from year 2 upwards are expected to use a joined writing style across the curriculum. Classes are now teaching explicit handwriting formation twice a week. The program we are using is called 'Teach Handwriting'. Useful resources can be found on the following site: <https://teachhandwriting.co.uk/parents.html>  
Just a reminder to signpost you to some of the online resources that you can access for your child: IXL, TT-RockStars, Oak Academy

**This week's Gospel Value – Integrity**

In the Gospel this week, we heard how something very special happened to Jesus while he was on a mountain with his friends. His appearance changed as his face and clothes shone like the sun. This changed the lives of his friends as they realised that Jesus was the Son of God. We have been thinking about how we can change the lives of others through our actions and how we can let our light shine through making the right choices. In this Lenten period we think about how we can change. At the beginning of Lent, we asked you and your families to join us in making a Family Lenten Promise. If you did and are happy to, please send in a photo of you and your family. We have displayed all our Lenten promises outside the school hall and we would love to add yours.



Have a restful weekend!

Mrs Stephens

**Diary dates:**

15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March: Two day strike of all schools in England and Wales.  
23<sup>rd</sup> March: Years 3 and 4 Buckfast Abbey Trip  
27<sup>th</sup> March: Childhood Measurement Programme  
29<sup>th</sup> March: Reports out  
31<sup>st</sup> March: Last day of Spring Term  
17<sup>th</sup> April: Children return for Summer Term

**Headteacher Awards:** Cherry Class – Oto, Beech Class – Annie**Gold Awards:** Cherry Class – Jessi, Maple Class – Barney**Silver Awards:** Oak Class – Leo, Rowan Class – Ava, Felicia, Penelope, Finley, Brooklyn, Imogen, Remy, Rudy, Cherry Class - Gene**Bronze Awards:** Cherry Class – Thea, Evan, Evelyn**Stars of the week:** Oak Class – Teddy, Rowan – Archie, Sycamore Class – Liam, Cherry Class – Rory, Maple Class – Bea, Beech Class – Annie,