

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Friday 7th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very busy week in school with our Challenge Partners Review taking place from Wednesday to Friday this week. This review is a professionally-led peer review focused on the quality of teaching and learning. The review celebrates what we are doing well and identifies areas for development. It is a joint exercise between the review team and our school leaders. All activities include a member of the school working alongside the reviewers. This approach enables honest and open conversations about where the school is and what our vision is for the future.

Mrs Blyde, Mrs Stirling and myself had the pleasure of showing our school off to the Review Team as we observed lessons and met with the visiting professionals. We were able to share with the team, the commitment of our wonderful staff and impact that this is having on the quality of teaching that your children receive.

We were fortunate to have the same Lead Reviewer as last year, and this enabled him to see the many improvements since his last visit and the ways in which this has had such a positive influence over the teaching and learning in school. The team were certainly impressed with the many different enrichment activities that we provide.

A real asset to our school is our children. Members of our School Council, Student Faith Council and Eco Council met with the Review Team and shared the impact that they are having in school. They really are amazing!

All of the children, both members of our Pupil Leadership Teams, and those that shared their work with reviewers, were very articulate and able to talk freely about the teaching and learning in school and the work that they are proud of.

We feel very fortunate to be working at St Joseph's and seeing the improvements that have taken place. Thank you to the staff team at St Joseph's for all that they do!

As soon as we have the final report, we will be sharing this with you.

We will be continuing to work on our further developments and our Vice-Chair of Governors is visiting on Monday afternoon to see the improvements in our designated Reading Lessons.

Next week, we will be sharing with you a parent questionnaire. Please do complete this and return it to school so that you too can share your feedback with us.

Year 5 will know that Martyna has not been in school recently. She was unfortunately involved in a serious car accident with her mother. Both are recovering well but please do keep them both in your prayers as they continue to improve and their broken bones begin to heal.

Safer Internet Day is next Tuesday – Tuesday 11th February. This year, the theme is to explore how young people manage their online identity. Do you know what your children are accessing online? Do you know who they play online with and who they talk to while playing games? Do you have access to their passwords? If you need help or advice, please do come and speak to an adult in school.

Parents' Evenings are on Tuesday 25th February and Thursday 27th February – please ensure these dates are in your diary. The partnership that we have with you is vital.

We have been working on our new website which should go live next week. Please do take a look and share your findings with me. There will be different features available such as the opportunity to book parents' evening times that allow online booking.

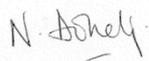
World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March. This year, children (and adults) can come to school dressed in their pyjamas and bring along their favourite bedtime story. We have chosen to wear pyjamas, rather than dress as a book character, as we want to promote sharing a story at bedtime and the importance of reading to and listening to your children read each evening. During the week of 2nd March, we will also be having an author visit us on the Monday and Tuesday. She will lead workshops and share stories connected to our local area.

Please remember that the week after next is half term.

The week we return to school will mark the start of our journey through Lent. We will all be going to Mass to celebrate Ash Wednesday at Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

There are many different opportunities for your children to take part in activities in the local area. Do make use of our library facilities and our local leisure centre for swimming. We are so fortunate to have such a wealth of opportunities on our doorstep so please do use the free resources that are on offer.

Thank you for your continued support



Nicola Doherty (Headteacher)



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