

St JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

13th Nov' 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a busy week in school this week, Year 2 have been doing some Reading assessments with Mrs Holden and Year 1 completed their phonic's assessments with Mrs Owen. Year 4 children finished off the Nature Trail with Pops to be used for forest school. You will be amazed at what we have achieved in such a short time. Pictures and videos are to be posted to our new twitter page. Mrs Smith will be setting this up, so look out for information.

Children have received their flu nasal vaccination and their school photo, luckily not on the same day!

We remembered the fallen on Wednesday 11th November at 11:00am where we had two minutes silence during our class liturgies.

We have evaluated our topic work from last half term and undertaken moderation of writing across school.

New topics have started in class with Year 1 and Year 2 learning about the Great Fire of London and KS2 doing a Geography topic around Polar regions using The Polar Express as a literacy link.

Christmas presentations have been agreed amongst staff and children are starting to learn the carols. It is lovely to hear children singing again.

I've yet to put a plan in place for Christmas dinner (socially distanced) but we will ensure these take place – it is all a very steep learning curve.

Odd Sock Day

Please join us on Monday to support Anti-bullying in school and wear odd socks. The wackier the better.



Known Diary dates:

Monday 16th November: Odd sock day

Thursday 3rd December: Interim child reports to be sent out

Friday 11th December: Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 16th December: Christmas presentations will be placed on Class Dojo

Friday 18th December: Last day school closes for Christmas



Covid Updates

Heads of school in Rotherham attended a meeting yesterday with a representative from public health England. Rotherham remains high on the list for infections with rates running double the national average. Approximately 1 in 45 of the population in Rotherham are currently infected (against national figures of 1 in 90). The 'R' rate is currently 1.14. On average, rates of infection among the 15 – 24 year olds is again double the population average.

Research is showing that infection rates are very much community based, with very few infections starting in school. The rate of infection amongst children below age 7 is very low and is considered a very low risk.

Figures from last half term show:

- 217 teaching staff in Rotherham tested positive
- 313 – students
- Pupils sent home for isolation 8,117
- Schools and colleges reporting cases 104 – (55 primaries, 15 secondaries, 7 special schools, 4 colleges and 23 EYFS settings/nurseries)

As of yesterday – two weeks into the new term

- 45 staff cases
- 114 students
- 1,150 pupils sent home
- 51 schools reporting cases

Feedback from the local authority and incident management teams supporting schools report that all schools who have confirmed cases have strong control measures in place, and that it is community transmission driving up the infection rate along with inconsistencies and frequent changes of guidance.

Please ensure you continue to follow social distancing guidelines and follow lockdown rules. They believe the infection rate is starting to slow down, but we will not see this within the community for a number of weeks.

To make matters worse winter viruses are going around, we have been advised to err on the side of caution in terms of asking parents to take a covid test for what may seem a winter virus. The main areas to look out for are:

- A new continuous cough. This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- High temperature or feeling hot to touch particularly on the back and stomach
- Loss of sense of taste and smell.

However, cases in children could also see sickness and headaches.

School Photos

Please return any orders to school by Friday 20th November, after that you can order them online or through the telephone call on the envelope. If sending to school you can send cash in the envelope.

If your child missed their school photo, the photographers will be back in school on 13th January, please return the reply if you have received a letter or advise school accordingly.

Flu nasal spray/vaccine

If your child did not receive the flu nasal spray on Tuesday, you can still make an appointment to attend a drop-in clinic. The number to call is 03333 583 397 option 7. The next nearest clinic is on Monday 16th November at The Montgomery Hall, Wath: between 4pm and 7pm. Appointments need to be made first and a mask needs to be worn.

St Joseph's Cup Winner

This week, Miss Casey has nominated all of her class. The trophy goes to all of Year 5, for their perseverance and determination in Maths (division especially). They all tried so hard, challenged themselves, helped each other and really made me proud! 😊 It was a whole class effort which is why I've nominated the class not just an individual.



Golden Book Learners

Our Golden Book learners this week are:

<p><u>Year 1</u></p> <p>Ivy for all her hard work in our lessons. She listens carefully and joins in with discussions.</p>	<p><u>Year 2</u></p> <p>Alfie F for his positive attitude towards his learning, excellent behaviour and manners.</p>	<p><u>Year 3</u></p> <p>Milli-Rae for being a superstar. She always works hard and gives 100%.</p>
<p><u>Year 4</u></p> <p>Thomas for showing resilience and determination with short multiplication in maths.</p>	<p><u>Year 5</u></p> <p>Will for your determination in all lessons, especially reading. You show great enthusiasm and are eager to learn.</p>	<p><u>Year 6</u></p> <p>Ava for her effort in learning. Especially trying some challenge questions.</p>