



Head-lines

As this Spring half term ends, I wanted to let you know about some exciting projects on the horizon at St Joseph's as well as share some of our successes and events. As always, I continue to thank you for your support of our school. I want to give special thanks to the parents who kindly allowed me to share old photographs of their children from when they were younger in the school as part of the 'From a Leaver' letter. If you did not receive the letter, it can be downloaded from the 'Letters' page of our website. I hope it clearly explains what we hope to contribute to the development of your child during their journey with us. We truly feel it is an honour and a privilege to see your children grow and hope you agree that by the time they leave us, we have achieved what we set out to.

Many thanks and I wish you all a lovely half term

Mr Turner

Building Work Special



I am pleased to be able to tell you about some planned building work due to take place at the school over the next few months.

The first exciting bit of news is that I am now able to tell you that I have been successful with a bid I placed with Awards for All England: The Big Lottery Fund. This grant, as well as some of our own funds, can now be used for our playground project. I have wanted to tackle the playground for a long time as I think our children deserve to have exciting equipment and facilities to entertain them, as well as keep them fit and healthy. It is a real credit to our children that they generally 'make their own fun' on the playground. Now having secured some funding, I can give them the environment they deserve. It will have to be a gradual project, as money does not go far when it comes to outdoor

equipment! However, I hope to have initial plans for the first stage shortly and then hope that some work will begin in the very near future, so watch this space!

We will also be having some work done from a Safeguarding perspective. It is difficult, as this building was never intended as a primary school and we are constantly having to adapt to ensure the building is safe for the children. We do take this very seriously. The main work taking place will be additional fencing, walkways and internal doors and fobs. The lower field will be fenced off, allowing us to take the children out there without being open to the carpark. A fence will be erected across the KS1 playground, meaning any visitors are not walking in between children playing outside. There will be some internal doors fitted with additional security fobs.

The car park will also become staff only, with a barrier system fitted. There will be a separate pedestrian access gate put on the Woodchurch Road side. Whilst I do understand that some parents do use the carpark, particularly when dropping off or collecting from JoJoes, I hope you understand why this work is included. It really is to help keep your children safe as it ensures that we control the carpark and any vehicles will be limited to staff, and will be stationary at the times children are arriving and leaving. There is parking on Woodchurch Road for parents who do drive and I hope that with this notice you can start to find alternatives to driving in to the carpark.

I hope you are as excited as I am about the work to take place and look forward to seeing our school develop.

You may have heard that one of our previous headteachers, Mr Dainty, is not well at the moment. I ask you to keep him and all his family in your thoughts and prayers as we wish him a speedy recovery.

Parent Panel

Thank you for the responses I have received so far for my proposed 'Parent Panel' scheme. I look forward to finding out who will be on the first panel! I will be arranging the first meeting when we return after half term. If you have not returned your slip but would be interested in joining in, the letter can be found on the letters page of the website.

As I am sure you are aware, at times, particularly in the morning and afternoon, Fairview Road can get very congested with cars during drop off and collection. We are not unique in this problem and traffic can be an issue outside most schools. I am looking at initiatives to encourage the children to walk to school, and appeal to you to help me in

this. Walking to school has many benefits, including health, exercise and an opportunity to have more conversations with your children during the walk. I do understand that, particularly for parents who then need to get to work, a car is essential, but even just parking away from Fairview Road and walking a short distance could add to the daily step

count and alleviate some of the traffic. If you are able to do this, please do consider it.

**As part of the building work, I will also be installing a bike shed for children who cycle to school. I am hoping this will arrive over the half term, but I will write to you again with specific details regarding this.*



Our 'Lost property' pile continues to grow! Please, please (!) can I ask you to write your child's name on any item of clothing so that we can reunite child with item!



Book Look

Our Parents session 'Book Look' proved to be very popular and it was really good to talk

to you during the afternoons. I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to join us in celebrating your children's wonderful work and seeing how they are making progress. We hope to continue to run these, and other similar sessions, to work in partnership with you, sharing how your children are doing in school.



Thought for the term

During the first week back after half term, we celebrate Ash Wednesday. The children always find this a particularly odd custom, but we explain to them that it marks the start of Lent, a time when traditionally we give something up as a way of showing we are sorry for the things we have done wrong and to prepare our hearts to follow Jesus examples. As much as it is traditional to give something up, sometimes it can be just as spiritually rewarding to 'take something up' for Lent; perhaps remembering to pray and thank God every day for what we have, or to do one act every day to show how we are following Jesus' footsteps by living the Gospel values of love and peace.



