



School Council

Well done to all of the children who prepared speeches for the school council elections yesterday. Unfortunately not everybody could be a winner. The children elected by their classmates were

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	Inayah	Sinitta	Maggie	Evie	Annah
	Ethan	Filip K	Liam	Adrian	Alfie

Uniform

I am pleased to let you know that we have made an arrangement with Tesco to supply general school uniform through our website, and also to provide items of uniform with our badge on, such as jumpers. The link is on the parents section of our website, or can be copied from here.

<https://www.tesco.com/direct/st-josephs-catholic-primary-school/16539.school?t=1505471626031&source=others>

You can still buy jumpers from the National Schoolwear Centre on Mayflower St.

Most children have started the year in the correct school uniform however there have been a few discrepancies. Some of the discrepancies have been: 'polo' type t-shirts being worn rather than proper school shirts or blouses; grey skirts or dresses rather than navy ones; trainers rather than shoes (Adidas and Nike do not make school shoes). The school council will be considering school uniform as one of their first tasks but the list below is the expected school uniform as policy stands at the moment. Please ensure that your child adheres to this policy and all uniform items have his/her name in.

Girls	Boys	PE	Shoes / Hair
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White blouse navy skirt/pinafore dress/navy trousers royal blue jumper/cardigan school tie. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royal blue jumper white shirt dark grey trousers or shorts school tie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> school tracksuit top navy tracksuit bottoms navy shorts white T-shirt plimsolls/trainers <p>(Tights cannot be worn in PE so a spare pair of socks should be kept in the PE bag)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Either black or navy shoes must be worn Long hair must be tied back with simple accessories, not headscarves Short hair must not have designs shaved into it.

Jewellery

The only jewellery that can be worn is a watch and single stud earrings.

Safeguarding

On the last newsletter I explained the importance of parents informing the school of the reason for any school absence. I have had to visit two homes already as nobody had called to explain the absence and we could not make contact with them. On these visits a letter is delivered explaining that any absence without a reason is a safeguarding issue and is recorded as such. If contact cannot be made then the Educational Welfare Officer and/or the police will be asked to investigate to ensure the safety of the child who is absent. The reason these actions are being taken is not to catch people out, but to ensure children's safety. A serious case elsewhere in the country found that a child's death could have been avoided if more stringent attempts had been made to discover his whereabouts, and safety, at an earlier stage, when he was absent from school.

Data Collection

With this newsletter you should also receive two data collection sheets. One is to ensure that all of the information we have about your child is current and up to date. The second is a range of permission requests. The intention was that you would only be asked about these permissions once during your child's time at school but the previous form was not very clear. Many parents ticked all of the yes boxes, which meant that they were giving contradictory permissions. This was a particular problem for the educational visits question. Please select just one of the options for that first question. There will be a special treat for the class who return all of their forms first, so please get your forms back as soon as possible.

Field Gun

Many of you will remember the excitement in Plymouth, years ago, when the Royal Tournament came around and we would watch the TV to see Devonport Field Gun Crew taking on Portsmouth and the Fleet Air Arm. Successful crews would return and parade the trophy through the city like cup winning football teams. Our caretaker, Mr Samuel, was part of one of those crews.

Unfortunately the Navy can't resource the Field Gun competition any more but 'Junior Field Gun' has taken off amongst Plymouth schools and today we took delivery of our own Field Gun and race equipment. This was kindly donated by Mr John McAndrew. The children learnt about the history of the Field Gun and how they can now become part of the legacy of the competition by joining our own Field Gun Club which will be run by Mrs Spry, Mr Samuel and Mrs Way. The club will teach children how important it is to do your job well as part of a team. It is then our intention to enter our team into the competition held on the Hoe during Armed Forces Day next summer.



Clubs

The Field Gun Club will be one of our extra-curricular clubs running throughout the year. It will start as a lunch-time club but will then move to after school on a Thursday. Mr Winders' football club has started already for years 3 & 4 initially, though it will revert to the older children after a few weeks. All children will be able to join the Cross Country Club, which will be on offer if we get a dry lunch-time. Some children will be invited to join the indoor athletics club as there is a competition in the near future. Other lunchtime clubs this term will be traditional board games with Mr Dyson, computing with Mr Langley and choir with Mrs Norton. The school council will be asked about other after school clubs they would like to see on offer. The government has given a bigger grant to schools this year to increase the sporting opportunities open to children. We will use part of that money to get expert coaches in to teach children particular sports throughout the year rather than just the Summer Term.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings this term will be 18th & 19th October. Booking details to follow.