



27/5/16

## **Sports Day**

Our second attempt at a Sports Day will be tomorrow (1<sup>st</sup> July). There is a competitive element to our Sports Day with the children all competing for points for their house. There are individual sprint races, novelty races and team events. Parents and toddlers also get their chance to shine on the track. Children come into school in sports kit on the day. If they have one they wear a t-shirt in the colour of their house ie St Peter's blue, St Teresa's green, St Bernadette's yellow and St Paul's red. If you do not have the right colour t-shirt you could possibly borrow from somebody or just wear the white PE shirt and we can provide bibs to help identify which team children are running for. It is usually the best attended event of the year. We only just managed to squeeze everything in by 3.30 last year so this year we will aim to start at the earlier time of 1.00. In honour of Her Majesty's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday there will be a royal theme to the events.

## **Teachers' Industrial Action**

The NUT has called on its members to take industrial action on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July. Although teachers are not required to inform me of their intention to take industrial action it is usual that they would do so. So far nobody has informed me of the intention to strike on that day and so we expect the school to open and run as normal next Tuesday.

## **CAST Maths Day**

We are one of thirty five schools in CAST, a Multi Academy Trust, which oversees the development of all of the schools in the organisation. In the West Area of CAST ie Plymouth and Cornwall Catholic Schools it has been decided that all of the Primary Schools would benefit from a day of training aimed at improving the teaching and learning in Maths. That training will take place on Friday Nov 4<sup>th</sup> meaning that date will now be a non-pupil day to allow teachers to attend the training along with our CAST school colleagues.

### **Term Dates for 16-17**

Term 1 Mon Sep 5th - Thursday Oct 20th

Term 2 Mon Oct 31st - Tuesday 20th Dec \*\* Friday Nov 4th is a non-pupil day\*\*

Term 3 Wednesday 4th Jan - Thurs 9th Feb

Term 4 Mon 20th Feb - Fri 31st Mar

Term 5 Wednesday 19th Apr - Fri 26th May \*\* Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May is a Bank Holiday \*\*

Term 6 Mon 5th Jun - Fri 21st July

## **Summer Fair**

Many thanks to all of the people who helped to organise the Summer Fair last week, it was very successful making a profit of £743. Over the last three years one of the driving forces behind the Friends of St Joseph's has been Mrs Burdon. Unfortunately she is stepping down from that role now which leaves us very short of parents willing to both organise and play a practical role in running events. Please give some thought to whether you feel you could dedicate time to helping organise events to allow parents and children to spend some social time together while raising money to be spent directly upon the children at St Joseph's.

## **Trim Trail and Gazebo**

If you have been around to the field side of the school in the last week you cannot fail to have been impressed by the new Trim Trail and Gazebo that have been installed. The funding came from the Ministry of Defence and so we hope to have an opening ceremony involving some of our parents serving in the Armed Forces very soon. There are a few Health & Safety boxes we need to tick before they can both be put into use. The person responsible for putting the bid together was Lorna Taylor your Parent Support Advisor. Other parts of the bid are due to start next year including two after school clubs to be run by Plymouth Argyle coaches.

## Best Ever Brickfields

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June St Joseph's enjoyed their best ever haul of trophies at The Plymouth Schools' Athletics Championships at our neighbouring track at Brickfields.

The day started well with Eli and Natalia both winning their field events. Natalia won the Vortex throw and Eli broke the record which had stood for seven years in the vertical jump. They were well supported by Seamus' third place in the long jump, Helia's second in the vertical jump and Leah's sixth place in the long jump. Xavi threw the vortex the furthest distance in his practice throw but could not replicate it in the real event and narrowly missed out on the top six. Both the boys and girls teams won the field event trophy. This was the fifth year in a row that we had won the boys event.

On the track things went very well too. We qualified for ten out of the fourteen finals. Seamus was our only individual winner in the 200m final with our younger girls winning their relay final too. We also had many near misses who scored good points towards our total including second place for both our older relay teams.

We were disappointed to lose out to our CAST friends, St Peter's, for the boys track trophy but were delighted to secure the girls track, and for the first time ever the overall minor schools championship trophy.

The icing on the cake came when the outstanding athlete out of the 1000+ children at the event was named. Eli broke the record for the vertical jump but crucially was beaten ( for the first time ever) in the 90m sprint. As it turns out it was Eli's reaction to that defeat that persuaded the judges of his suitability to be chosen. Eli immediately made his way to his conqueror and offered hearty congratulations. His competitive spirit was not dulled however as he overtook his conqueror in the relay after getting the baton slightly behind his opponent.

The eighteen children who took part in the event were all a great credit to St Joseph's and we are truly proud of them all.

