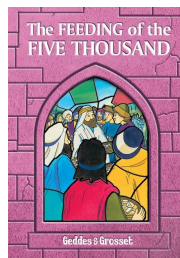




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Worship and Liturgy -

In the Gospel on Sunday Jesus is speaking to a large crowd. He asks the disciples to feed them but they had no food and little money. Jesus spotted a boy with 5 loaves and 2 fish. With that little amount Jesus fed the whole crowd and there were 12 hampers full of left overs.

Celebrations this week

Whole School Attendance 95%	Top Class Attendance Foundation Class 97%
<p align="center">Crew Member of the Week</p> <p>F- Olivia - Sailor Sam for perseverance when writing</p> <p>1- Elouise Sailor Sam. for making great progress this year.</p> <p>2 - Lois and Isobelle; admiral Anne for creativity</p> <p>3 Stas- admiral Anne for creativity in DT</p> <p>4 Josie and Millie - Admiral Anne for creativity in DT</p> <p>5 - All of year 5 for their all round HMS quest skills, it has been a pleasure to teach them for two years!!</p> <p>6 - Mr Gill for leading HMS Quest and displaying all which we aspire to be.</p>	
<p align="center">Witness of the Week -Temperance</p> <p>F - Eloise</p> <p>1- Miracle</p> <p>2 - Patrick</p> <p>3- Nikola and Lena s</p> <p>4 - Maja and Jaxon</p> <p>5 - Grace</p> <p>6- Honorary Y6 Mr Gill - a true witness.</p>	

Sports Day

Sports Day was run under a very different format this year. Considering the heat this week it would have been impossible to run the day under the normal format. Miss Welsh organised the day and, whenever I popped out to watch, the children were having fun with traditional races such as



sack races, egg & spoon races and even three legged races were included for the first time. Many children went home with certificates recognising, not just race success, but also for showing gospel values in their treatment of others on the day. The winners of the team event were the red team, St Paul's.

Leavers' Mass

It was great to be back in the church today. We had a lovely Mass this morning to celebrate all of those leaving St Joseph's today. The year 6 children, Mrs Palmer and I all have exciting new chapters of our lives about to begin after the St Joseph's chapter has come to an end.



The Last Day

I started this term thinking it will be good to have a quiet half term to wind down before I leave. Of course this half term has been as manic as the previous one hundred and any notions of winding down will have to wait until next week. I would like to say thank you to all of the children and parents who made the effort to say thank you to me. I have also had some very thoughtful and apt gifts (one being a mug saying, 'I Love Chips'), thank you for the gifts and cards too.



Looking Backwards

My family moved back to Plymouth from London in 2001. I had a job at Holy Cross and my wife began teaching at St Joseph's. We had to decide which of the schools would be better for our children and of course opted for St Joseph's. That is a choice we have never regretted. My daughter and I joined my son and wife at St Joseph's in 2004. So I was the third / fourth member of the family to join St Joseph's but the last to leave.

The school has changed in many ways since 2004. Physically there aren't many exterior walls still in place. The original walls are the grey brickwork that can be seen outside class 1 and classes 3 & 4. What is now the main playground was all grass and the playground was what is now the car park on the Chapel St side of the school. We only had four classes back then with a maximum of 17 children



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in each year group. Only about half of the children had PL1 4 addresses whereas now well over 90% of the school live within that postcode.

Many staff have joined and left St Joseph's in my years here. Only Mrs Illing, Mrs Williams and Mrs McGoldrick were here before me. Sadly Mrs Luscombe had to leave due to ill health and passed away too soon after. RIP Helen.

Recruitment was one of the aspects of the job I felt I was good at and am pleased that the team I am leaving behind is a strong one.

Proof that my part in St Joseph's history is a relatively small one is that ten years ago we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the school. Each child and adult in the school designed a tile to mark an event in a particular decade that the school had been in existence. I wonder what images would be chosen to represent the decade just gone ? We also produced a chronological record of events associated particularly with the school and Plymouth. The first ever inspection report in 1862 read :

This is one of the most successful schools in my district and if the premises are enlarged as the Manager projects they will leave little to be desired. All the essentials of instruction are good throughout, discipline is very good.

For some reason the copy I have ends in the 1990s but it makes interesting reading, especially in the war years.

[150th Anniversary Chronology](#)

Next year will be the 50th Anniversary of the school being on the present site so maybe more celebrations are imminent. Just saying Mr Dyson !



Moving Forward

I have said before that I am delighted that Mr Dyson will be taking over as head teacher at St Joseph's. This is not because I would want

him to keep things as they are and keep ticking along. He will want to make the school even better and that will of course involve a lot of change. I am pleased because I do know that Mr Dyson is aware of the values that make St Joseph's special and that any changes will still uphold those values.

Friends of St Joseph's

I have looked back on my first ever newsletter and not surprisingly it featured sporting success. It also promoted a Quiz Night arranged by the Friends of St Joseph's. The Friends of St Joseph's is the name for the parent teacher association of the school. The purpose of the Friends has been to raise money to spend on the children in the school and to create opportunities for social occasions where parents can meet other parents and come to realise that school staff are actually real people too ! Throughout my years the brunt of the Friends workload has fallen upon one or two people who have then carried that workload for a number of years. In recent years that load has been carried by Amy Morris. First of all Amy deserves great thanks for the work she has done. Her daughter is leaving this year so Amy can take a well deserved rest. I am grateful to have heard from one parent who has offered to help with the Friends next year and have passed that name onto Mr Dyson. It would be great if the new era of St Joseph's did include a group of Friends to pull together for the good of the school. Please have a think about whether you could be part of this team.

Back to School



For the first time I was able to smile as I walked down the Back to School aisle in Tesco last week. Unfortunately, for the first time the children and staff do not have a full six weeks of holiday this summer. The children are due back in school on **Thursday 2nd September.** **I won't see you then !**

Have a good summer and hopefully the year 21-22 will be nearer to normal for everybody.

And Finally An Irish Blessing

Lucky stars above you,
Sunshine on your way,
Many friends to love you,
Joy in work and play,
Laughter to outweigh each care,
In your heart a song,
And gladness waiting everywhere
All your whole life long!

