



## **Mrs Yuill**

As you may be aware Friday was Mrs Yuill's last day before she began her maternity leave. She had a lovely send off with video messages from staff and the children in her class. I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Palmer began teaching Class 5 as of yesterday. Mrs Palmer is already familiar with the children having taught them as a supply teacher when Mrs Yuill has been away. She is also very familiar with the school having spent the last two weeks teaching Class 2 while Mrs Spry has been on jury service. She will have the benefit of working alongside Mr Dyson, Mrs Kelly and Mrs Norton to make up a team that I believe will allow the oldest children in the school to make good progress with their learning.

## **Parents' Evening**

Booking is now open for parents' evening which will take place on the Tuesday and Wednesday of the first week back after half term (21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb). During parents' evening there will be a representative from Forest Schools who will be available to talk to parents about an opportunity to be trained to be a Forest School Leader. This is associated with the successful bid to the MoD (Ministry of Defence) last year which also paid for the Plymouth Argyle clubs children are presently enjoying and of course the pergola and trim trail equipment. As part of the deal with the Forest School two adults can have their training paid for. We have decided to open the offer up to parents who would then be expected to lead sessions at St Joseph's for no cost, but would be able to advertise their services to other schools and youth groups and charge accordingly. More details will be available on the parents' evenings. If there is more interest than there are places the Forest School will run a selection procedure but, as the money came primarily to support military families, I will ask that parents from those families are given preference.

## **MoD Grant Part 2**

Mrs Taylor has done wonders again with a second bid to the MoD. This time we have been granted £8,400 to spend on books and story bags. Staff are already researching how we can spend this fantastic amount of money wisely to gain the greatest benefit for our children.

## **Parking**

It has been brought to my attention that parents are parking in the private spaces allocated to residents in the flats along Raglan Rd. People in these flats have been very helpful in the past when they have noticed trespassers on the school site out of hours. We value our relationship with our neighbours so please do not abuse that relationship by parking in private spaces.

## **Safer Internet Day**

We are just a week away from national Safer Internet Day on 7<sup>th</sup> February. The Ofsted inspectors were very impressed with the e-safety knowledge displayed by children they spoke to in October. We are always looking for other ways to ensure children know how to behave appropriately themselves when on the internet, and so are pleased that the theme for this year is 'Be The Change - Unite for a better internet'. This is about thinking, not just how you are affected by what you see online, but particularly how others may feel if images or comments are posted that are associated with them. We have also been working on new 'Acceptable Use of Digital Technologies Agreements' to reflect changes in technology since the last time our agreements were looked at. We will be examining the agreements with the children on the 7<sup>th</sup> February before asking them to sign. We will ask parents to sign on their child's behalf if we feel a younger child does not fully understand what he/she is signing. Draft copies of the agreements can be seen on the school website under parents : e-safety.