



# Newsletter



21/2/17

## Parents' Evening

We hope to see all families at the Parents' Evenings tonight or tomorrow. If you have not booked an appointment online please do not let that stop you speaking to your child's teacher. Ask if there are any slots still available, or try to arrange another time to speak to the teacher. We aim for 100% attendance of parents at these important meetings.

## New Baby

We are very pleased that Mrs Yuill gave birth to a healthy little girl on Sunday. The children (and staff) are waiting excitedly for their chance to see her.

## Pancake Day

Next Tuesday (28<sup>th</sup>) is Shrove Tuesday, Mardi Gras, or Pancake Day. Traditionally when this day falls on a school day we have a Pancake Day race. We do this partly because it is an example of British Culture which is in danger of getting lost, and partly because it is good fun! To enable this to happen we would like as many children to bring in a frying pan (with their name on) on Tuesday. We will supply each child with a pancake to use in the race, and one to eat later. Due to staff being on courses in the afternoon, this year the races will start at 10.35. Parents are welcome to join us but please be aware that we get the children back into school immediately after the races to avoid any confrontation with hungry seagulls.

## Ash Wednesday

On the following day all of the children will join the parish at Mass at 11.00 to mark the start of the season of Lent. As part of this Mass all of the children are invited to process up to the altar and have a sign of the cross made, with ashes, on their forehead. If for any reason you would prefer your child not to take part in this symbolic gesture please let your child's teacher know beforehand. Again of course we would be delighted to see as many parents as possible join us for the Mass.

As giving to charity is one of our Lenten obligations we will be supporting both CAFOD and Comic Relief during the season of Lent, more details to follow.

## Half Marathon

With this newsletter you should find a promotional letter about taking part in the Plymouth Schools' Half Marathon Challenge. About thirty children from St Joseph's enjoyed running the last mile of their half marathon distance on the Hoe last year. The letter mentions writing cheques to the school, but please do not do that. If you express an interest on the form below, and there are places available, we will allow payment through Schools Money instead. Please complete and return the form below if you would like your child to take part this year. We will arrange a city centre location where you would need to drop off and collect your child from the event on the morning of April 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you would like your child to take part in the event please complete and return the form below by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February.



## Plymouth Schools Half Marathon Challenge



I would like to apply for my child ..... Class ..... to take part in the Plymouth Schools Half Marathon Challenge.

If he / she is accepted I will pay the £10 entry fee.

The shirt size I would like is (please circle) 5-6 7-8 9-10 11+ S adult M adult L adult

Signed ..... (parent / carer)

### **Zebra Crossing Danger**

Thank you very much to the parents who have alerted us to the danger associated with the Zebra crossings on Chapel St. They told us that cars are not stopping automatically when children are ready to cross, but children think it is a safe place to stop and do not always wait until a car has stopped before starting to cross. We will be taking all of the children out to practise waiting until traffic has stopped before stepping onto the crossing. If your child crosses Chapel St either with you, or on their own, it would be good idea to give them regular reminders of how to cross the road safely.

### **Sainsbury's Vouchers**

Sainsbury's are once again running their schools Active Kids vouchers scheme. We have a collection box by reception, please do ask for vouchers if you shop at Sainsbury's. We have benefitted by thousands of pounds from this scheme in the past and would like to continue to do so.

### **School Dinners**

We have been informed by our caterers that after Easter the cost of a school meal will rise by 10p to £2.10 each day. This is the first increase for more than five years and is due to the increasing costs that the catering company are facing. Only children in years 3-6 have to pay for their school lunches. All children in year 2 and below will continue to be able to have a free school lunch every day.

### **Letter-Join**

The handwriting scheme that we use in school is called Letter-Join. In our new subscription we have paid for all families to be able to access the site and its resources at home. Please do use it, and let us know if you find it helpful.

The instructions for how to access the site can be found on the back of the Half Marathon Letter.

### **World Book Day**

Just a reminder that next Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, is World Book Day. On that day children **should not** wear their school uniform, but should come to school dressed up as their favourite book character.