



Welcome and Welcome Back

We have had quite a smooth start to the year so far. The new class structure in years 5 & 6 seems to be working well and the vast majority of the Foundation children have settled in wonderfully. Thank you for sending your children in looking so smart in their school uniform.

PGL

On Monday the 12th most children in years 5 & 6 will leave for a great adventure at Beam House which is a PGL Centre in North Devon. They will be away for the whole week sleeping in dormitories and taking part in a whole range of outdoor and adventurous activities. Mrs Yuill will be leading the party. You will be able to keep up with their exploits by visiting our website where daily updates will be posted.

Start of the Year Mass

On Thursday at 10.00 we will have our first Mass of the school year in St Joseph's. All of the children in years 1-6 will go to Mass. The Foundation Stage children will stay in school on this day but will soon be given the opportunity to visit the church so that they are familiar with it for the next time. Parents are welcome to join us for Mass on any Thursday.

Clubs

Details of school run after school clubs will follow soon but we are lucky that through funding from the MoD grant we received last year we are able to offer two after school clubs to be run by Plymouth Argyle coaches. On a Monday 16 Key Stage 1 children will be able to join a multi skills club and on Fridays 16 children from years 3 & 4 will be able to join a keep fit club. Both clubs will involve some football activities, and so shin pads will be needed, but they will not be football clubs. Letters to apply for places in these clubs will be out in the very near future. If the clubs are oversubscribed then preference will be given to children who have not been part of an after school club before. After that names will be drawn out of a hat. As the Argyle coaches are taking responsibility for the children in the clubs they will require an adult to collect each child and sign them out.

Walking Home Alone

Many parents want to gradually increase children's independence as they near the end of primary school in readiness for the big change in getting to school as a secondary school child. We advise that this does not happen before a child is in year 5 and that parents inform the school that it is their wish for their child to leave school independently. Permission slips will be distributed to Class 5 children for this purpose. We have been made aware by a parent that her child was upset by the behaviour of a man while she was walking home with a friend at the end of last term. This danger is of course one of the factors you will need to take into consideration when making your decision.

Office Staff

As many of you will know Mrs Pemberton (Liz) left her post as administrative assistant at the end of last term. We are pleased that Mrs Padmore is filling in that role on a temporary basis. Please make her feel welcome to the St Joseph's family.

Car Parking

We value our relationships with our neighbours and want to keep them as friendly as possible. Parking is an issue which plagues schools and neighbours alike. There is limited parking on the Redrow site and on Raglan Rd outside the side school entrance. Please do not park outside individual homes on the Redrow estate and the parking areas outside the flats on Raglan Rd are private areas for residents only so please do not park there either. We are lucky compared to most schools in that there is a huge car park at Brickfields which is a two minute walk from school and so offers the opportunity for a little exercise and chat about the school day.

Breakfast Club

Mrs Williams hosts the Breakfast Club each morning from 7.30. A range of activities are available as well as a healthy breakfast menu on offer. The cost is only £2.50 which compares very favourably to other providers. If you are considering using this opportunity please pop in and speak with Mrs Williams to see how the club is run.