



Holy Week

Due to Easter being so late this year we have had to mark Holy Week two weeks early. We have had two lovely services in the last two days. Yesterday we had a Stations of the Cross Service where Year 6 created living statues following Jesus' journey to Calvary accompanied by readings, reflections and prayers read by Year 5 children. Today the rest of the school shared the work they had done around aspects of Holy Week, all contributing to a wonderful display that is now in the school Hall.

Fund Raising

Last week was a big week for fund raising. The cake sale raised over £200 for the Friends of St Joseph's.

I was astounded by the amount of cakes donated and the quality of many of them.

The ice cream sale for East Africa raised £41.55. We do have some left and will offer them for sale again on a sunnier day.

Red Nose Day was also a success with £115.56 being raised from our mufti day.

Questionnaire

There will be another Mufti Day in the first week back as we reached our target for questionnaire returns. Our target was to beat last year's total of 37 and with today being the deadline day we have had 38 so far! That means that Friday 21st April will be a non-uniform day for the children with no request for payment of any kind. When the forms have been analysed you will be told the results.

X Tables Challenge

Each year we have a competition for children to encourage them to improve in their knowledge and recall of number facts. This will now be the tenth year that we have held this competition and it is interesting to look back at the names engraved on the trophy. The oldest is now nineteen years old. The competition starts with recognition of numbers and adding one then gradually increases in difficulty so that the children in the final rounds are working out the square root of numbers in their heads. The competition will be held in the next half term so try to keep those facts running through your child's head during the holidays. We subscribe to home use of the Mathematics website which is a fun way of working with numbers.

New Teachers

We interviewed eight teachers on Wednesday for the two positions which are coming up in September. We were very pleased to appoint Mrs Knowles and Miss Elder to join our teaching team next year. All of the candidates commented upon how impressed they were by the children during their tour of the school and meetings with the school council.

Uniform

About twenty children have taken letters home this week asking them to wear shoes rather than trainers to school. In case you intend renewing school uniform during the holidays please do visit the school website to check with the uniform policy. Some discrepancies to be aware of are that the colour for girls trousers, skirts or dresses is navy not grey; school shirts or blouses should be worn with a tie, not polo shirts; hair should not have designs shaved into it. For the summer many girls choose to wear blue and white gingham dresses, the policy does not stipulate the shade of blue so light or navy is okay in that instance. Can you please also ensure that your child has PE kit in school every day next term.

Half Marathon

The half marathon run is the first Sunday back after the holidays. All children registered should have taken home a letter today explaining arrangements and the need for most to run a few miles during the holiday. We think that some children might drop out from the run. If your child would like to take the place of somebody who is registered but no longer wants to run please email me at gillb@st-josephs.plymouth.sch.uk and I will try to make sure we have as many runners on the day as we can.

School dinners up to £2.10

There will be a 10p increase in the cost of a school meal starting next term.

Have a safe and happy holiday. We are back to school on **Wednesday** 19th April.