



7th January 2022



### Worship and Liturgy

In the gospel this week we will learn about Jesus' Baptism and about how something very special that happened after it. He was filled with the Holy Spirit. Let's think some more about the Holy

Spirit today.

*What difference do you think being filled with the Holy Spirit makes?*

another 10 minutes or so before we got them to you - but I hope you understand the importance of ensuring every child got to their parents safely. Same again next year?!?

I would like to bring your attention to a few changes that we will be implementing this next half term. These changes, which I will go into more detail on the following page are as follows:

- Improving communications with parents
- Giving parents and children a 'voice'
- The welcome we receive

Have a lovely weekend.

God bless,  
Mr M Dyson

### Mr Dyson's Update

Happy New Year to all of our St. Joseph's family. I hope the slightly extended break enabled you to all have a really special time with family and friends.

This is a slightly different newsletter this week as we have only been back for two days so we will focus on our 'Crew member of the week', our 'Witness of the week' and our 'Attendance Awards' from next week.

We could not have asked for a better start to 2022. It only dawned on me over the Christmas break that taking the whole school to the panto on the very first day back was a slightly crazy idea, especially given the additional restrictions schools face about Covid. However, nothing can take away from the sheer joy on the faces of the children when the curtains came up and the show started. It was funny. It was scary. It was rude in some places. It was brilliant! The children, from 4 years old to 11 years old, were absolutely incredible and a credit to you and to our school.

It would have been a different story had we not received the help from Stoke Damerel Community College. Coach companies were quoting an astronomical amount to take our children to the theatre - but three brilliant staff members from Stoke Damerel gave up their time, free of charge, to do shuttle runs to and from the theatre for an hour and a half.

I also want to thank you all for your patience at the end. I appreciate it might have been frustrating when you could see your child through the glass but it was





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## Class Dojo

In October, I sent out a parent questionnaire which myself and Mrs Spry analysed in the weeks building up to Christmas. One of the areas which could be improved is communication. This is unsurprising as in most walks of life, communication often comes up as something that could be improved. With this in mind, we are going to be using Class Dojo to help us share information with you. I will send another letter out on Monday that gives you more information about Dojo and will explain what you need to do to set yourselves up on it.

## Children's views

What struck me when I moved my two children here in September is that children have views and opinions that they seem only confident enough to share with parents as opposed to school staff. One example I can give was when one of them questioned why the rota for the Trim Trail was set in class groups as she wanted to play on it with children from other classes. Whereas the decisions we make we make with every good intention, it is interesting to hear the children's views and see if there is anything we can change that makes the school experience a more positive one. The smallest of things to us may be much bigger for the children. From Monday morning, we will be setting up a 'I wish my teacher knew' box which will be placed in the school reception. If you have any conversations like this with your child and think it might be something you just want to alert us to, please encourage your child to bring home a slip and fill this out together and put it in the box at reception. To make things clear with this - this is not designed for complaints, moans or groans. Along with the example given, it could be:

- *I wish my teacher knew my parents don't have the money to pay for the trip this week*
- *I wish my teacher knew that I am tired on a Thursday because I see my dad.*
- *I wish my teacher knew that I don't like having school dinners because the dinner hall is noisy*

Little things that may not change, but makes us aware of certain situations. These can be anonymous or you can put your name to it. The slips are available from the office next to the box.

## The welcome

We are going to make a subtle change to the mornings and the meet and greet that both children and parents receive. From Monday, teachers (and if the teacher is poorly it will be a familiar adult) will be standing at the door to meet your child and welcome them into school using the 'four at the door' format:



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**Greet the child using their preferred NAME**



**Establish EYE CONTACT with the child, where it is comfortable for the child to do so**



**Offer the child some form of non-verbal, friendly, appropriate HUMAN CONTACT**



**CONNECT to the child on a personal level with a comment or question**

It is imperative that we have happy children who want to come to school. There are some children (I have one myself) who have worries or struggle to leave their parents in the morning. These children may need a bit more than the 'four at the door' approach and we will ensure that there will be two members of staff on duty to help if this happens.

#### **Dates for your diaries**

Wednesday 19th January - Flu Vaccine

WB 7th February - Mental Health Awareness Week

Tuesday 8th February - Safer Internet Day

Monday 14th February - Year 4 and 5 swimming starts for three weeks

Friday 18th February - Last Day

Monday 21st - Friday 25th - HALF TERM

Monday 28th February - Non-pupil Day, school closed

Tuesday 29th February - Children back to school

Monday 14th March - Science Week

Tuesday 22nd March - World Water Day

Monday 28th March - Year 6 Residential to Grenville House

Friday 8th April - Last Day