

ST JOSEPH'S JOURNAL

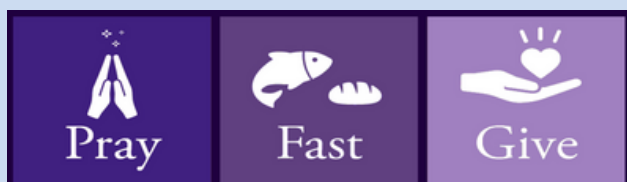
Issue 21



WEEK ENDING 23RD FEBRUARY 2024

LENT

In the season of Lent we are called to do three things:



We have spoken with the children about the many ways we can carry these out and the many benefits they can bring to both ourselves and others in need.

We have asked the children this year to be creative in the ways they may be able to collect small donations for St Joseph's Penny, the Lenten Charity that we support as a school. Here are some of the suggestions children have given:

"I could do a bake sale for my family and they could donate"

"I could sell some of my toys and put the money in my box"

"I could do some jobs at home to get my pocket money but give some of it to charity".

The children have a wonderful ability to find solutions and answers to many situations and we want to encourage their kindness and their thoughtfulness in the coming weeks. Please let school know if your child has followed an idea they have had to raise some money and we would love to share it with our school family.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

All children in Y3 and above who are baptised and have not yet made their First Holy Communion should now have received a letter explaining that Father Allan is inviting you to attend the Presentation Mass for the children on Sunday 3rd March at 10am.

Following this Mass, the children will work through some sessions within school and be asked to attend a few short meetings with parents in order to explain the necessary teaching and practice for both the sacrament of reconciliation and First Holy Communion. A full set of dates has been sent out between now and May but copies can be received from the school office. If you have any questions at all about your child being part of the sacramental programme, please do not hesitate to make contact with school.



BIG DEBATE CLUB

Building on from our recent Children's Mental Health week and the promotion of 'our voice matters', as a school, we want to further prioritise opportunities for pupils to carry out speaking and listening activities. We know from a young age, engaging in speaking and listening has life long benefits, building not only vocabulary and listening skills, but confidence and independence in thought and action. Since the start of this half term, St Joseph's has joined the national 'Big Debate Club' and, on a weekly basis, we will take part in a national debate for children, linked either to a current agenda item or a theme that is being covered by school that week. Before half term, we trialled this experience by looking at topics such as 'is social media a good thing or a bad thing?' linking to our focus on mental health and wellbeing. This week children have been asked to consider whether they should be allowed to vote in elections. We are really looking forward to seeing the progress children make in their debating skills as we venture further into this activity.



BIG DEBATE CLUB

WORLD BOOK DAY

This is a little advance notice that World Book Day is fast approaching, celebrated across the country on Thursday 7th March.



ATTENDANCE

'Moments Matter, Attendance Counts'

Attendance at school is as much about pupil well-being as academic success. Being in school supports pupil's friendships, confidence and wider development. When pupils miss school, the impact of 'feeling behind' can be a barrier to their future success. Government data shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage. If pupils are not in school, we can not support them to learn.

Nursery	- 100%
Reception	- 95.0%
Year 1	- 100%
Year 2	- 96.2%
Year 3	- 96.9%
Year 4	- 90.0%
Year 5	- 97.1%
Year 6	- 91.7%

Whole school attendance week: 95.0%

We need these figures to be above 96% Help us reach our goal - every day counts!!

Whole school attendance this year: 95.0%

PEOPLE WHO HELP US

On Thursday this week Beech Class had a shift of Fire Fighters speaking to them about their very important jobs and how they help people in Todmorden when they need it. The children learnt that Fire Fighters don't just put out fires but also help people who may be involved in a traffic accident, or get into difficulty when they are out walking, or even fall into the canal. We are so lucky to have all these people who want to keep us safe.

After listening carefully, the children were all able to go outside to visit the Fire Engine, listen to the sirens and even practice with the water hose - we definitely have some fire fighters in the making! Eden had a very special surprise as her grandad was one of the crew!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Trips, Visits, Theme Days and More

Monday 26th February Flat Stan First Aid Training Workshops Y1 - Y6

Monday 26th February 3:15-4:15pm Film Club with Mrs Green, R, Y1 & 2 for those children who have joined

Tuesday 27th February Elm Class trip to Science and Industry Museum in Manchester

Wednesday 28th February Police Officers visiting Beech Class for their topic People Who Help Us

Thursday 29th February 4:30-6:00pm Spring Disco

Friday 1st March Whole School Lenten Mass 10am, all welcome

Wednesday 6th March Early Years & KS1 Mothers' Day Breakfast

Thursday 7th March World Book Day

Friday 8th March Beech Class Assembly

Friday 8th March Cedar Class to Eureka

Friday 8th March Swimming Gala for Y3 - Y6

Monday 11th - Friday 15th March British Science Week

Friday 15th March Beech Class Trip to Eureka

Tuesday 19th March Feast of St Joseph

Friday 22nd March Cedar Class Assembly

Friday 22nd March EYFS Dress as a hero day

Monday 25th March - Start of Holy Week

Thursday 28th March Close for Easter

Monday 8th April Start of the Summer Term

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS



Beech: Elijah B, For his participation in this weeks lessons

Cedar: Leo K, For setting a super example in Phonics

Elm: Nihaal A, For working hard and always trying his best

Oak: Summer K, Super handwriting

WOW!

Beech: Harrison S, For his super engagement with the fire crew when they visited us on Thursday

Cedar: Jessica D, For writing a fantastic recount in English

Elm: Patryk J, For his geography work

Oak: Ray A, For having a great first week and settling in so well

Oak: Jack G, For competing and completing the West Yorkshire cross country finals

REARRANGED SPRING DISCO DATE

Thursday 29th February

Tickets available from the office
EYFS - Y6 4.30-6pm
R & KS1 to be accompanied by an adult.
£2 per ticket



WRAP AROUND CARE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB PROPOSAL

Since the start of the year we have had several enquiries about wrap around care, both before and after school. We currently run a well liked breakfast club from 7:50am until the start of the school day and we are now starting to make plans, if the demand is there, for an afterschool club to commence from September 2024.

A short survey will be coming out to parents next week; please look out for this and complete it so that we can gauge the level of interest and plan accordingly in the coming months.

Information on areas such as timings that are required, the prices that we would need to charge to cover costs and the numbers of children who would be needing places are all essential to make sure this venture is viable.

This club would be a paid for provision, in addition to any extra curricular activities that would continue to be provided through the generosity of our staff's time.