



# St Joseph's Journal

## 5th November 2021

### Welcome back to the new half term

We hope you all managed to spend some quality time together as families over the half term holiday and are raring to go for all that this exciting half term always brings.

For now, the additional covid measures remain in place in school, under the guidance of Calderdale Public Health and this means that face to face meetings will be kept to an absolute minimum, used only where online meetings are not appropriate. Please do not linger at classroom doors on drop off or pick up but instead arrange to speak with your child's class teacher via a telephone conversation, arranged through the office or simply email: [admin@stjosephs.romerocat.com](mailto:admin@stjosephs.romerocat.com)

We appreciate this is not as fulfilling as our usual open approach between parents and staff but thank you for your continued support in these circumstances and for your co-operation.



I am growing increasingly concerned about the attendance of some of our pupils of late. Individual, isolated days of absence are creeping in with explanations such as stomach ache or sore throat. I say this respectfully as I appreciate you, like me, want only the best for your child but please would you consider very carefully before keeping your child off school, especially when you are aware in the past they have been well again after just one day. Children's learning time is more valuable now than it ever has been. Thank you.

### All Saints and Holy Souls

As a school family this week we celebrated the Feasts of All Saints and Holy Souls

Father Peter makes reference to what the children want to be when they grow up and then asks them to consider whether they have ever wanted to be a Saint. We spoke with the children about how ordinary people, living good and honest lives can earn the position of a Saint.

The children also learnt the origins of All Hallows Eve and that the Halloween that so many of them know so well actually originates from the beautiful feast of All Saints Day.

We said a prayer for all the loved ones in our family who are no longer with us and have invited all the children to record any names of these family members so that we can place them on our class altars during the month of November.

# West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue

would like to remind everyone that carelessness with fireworks can result in severe injury or even death.

Please take care if you are having a celebration this weekend so that we can all remember Bonfire Night for the right reasons.



**Beech:** Corey P, For doing extra name practice at home

**Cedar:** Alice L, Being a super friend and helping her friends

**Elm:** Jayden L, For always being ready to learn and great contribution in class

**Larch:** Aaminah I, For her progress in swimming

**Oak:** Erin, For her hard work and effort this week

# WOW!

**Beech:** Gabriel K, Excellent joining in with a discussion about Baptism

**Cedar:** Miley G, Super independent Maths work

**Elm:** Rosie R, Being mature and sensible in the classroom

**Larch:** Mavish N & Niamh W, Their amazing efforts in reading, they are reading so many books

**Oak:** Maliaka, Her Maths work, super effort, increased participation and great independent work

# 97% EXPECTED ATTENDANCE

I don't apologise for attendance appearing twice on our newsletter this week. **The expectation is that all pupils are in school at least 97% of the year and you can see as a school how far we are falling behind this expectation. (This does not include any periods of isolation due to current covid guidelines)** Over the whole year this expectation equates to no more than 5 days of absence and many children are close to or have passed this level already. Illness is unavoidable but please make every effort to ensure your child is in school unless it is absolutely essential that they miss. We are called to account for the attendance of our pupils and ultimately would contribute towards a judgement about our school. We can't achieve this expectation without your support. Thank you.

**Nursery - 100%**

**Reception - 96.3%**

**Year 1 - 100%**

**Year 2 - 95.5%**

**Year 3 - 95.4%**

**Year 4 - 93.7%**

**Year 5 - 96.3%**

**Year 6 - 98.0%**

**Whole school attendance this week: 96.7%**

**Whole school attendance so far this year: 94.0%**

**Can we please remind all parents that our school day starts promptly at 8:40am**

## Dates for your Diary

**Friday 19th November** - Children in Need Day. Let's cover ourselves in spots and raise lots! Non uniform 'spotty' day in exchange for a minimum donation of £1 please use Gateway app where possible.

**Tuesday 7th December** EYFS & KS1 afternoon Christmas performance

**Wednesday 8th December** EYFS & KS1 morning Christmas performance (performances are subject to Covid measures in place)

**Friday 17th December** Whole school trip to Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime