St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
School Improvement
Parent Newsletter Spring 2022

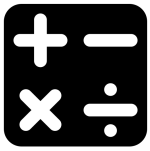
Time Flies…
It is hard to believe that we are just over half way through the academic year already. It continues to be a privilege to work with Mrs Truss and all the staff to provide a great education to all our exceptional children here at St Joseph's. We continue to strive to achieve our mission of "Love, Learn, Live" each and every day. Thank you for your continued and invaluable support as parents.

Mark Hannon
Executive Head Teacher

Deepening Faith
As a school we have been thinking about how we can improve the Religious Education that we offer to all our pupils. It has been great to see the staff of St Joseph's and the staff of St Fidelis have an opportunity to work in partnership to think about ways to deepen our children's thinking and critical responses- working as part of a larger team towards a common goal has had real benefits to everyone involved. **We would like share our children's books with you over the next weekend- it would be lovely if you could take a little bit of time to talk with our child about a piece of work they are proud of and perhaps add a positive comment to their book.**

Widening Cultural Capital
Each half term the staff work hard to prepare a curriculum overview that sets out the subjects and topics that are to be covered over the six weeks. We are now sending a printed version of these overviews home each half term as they are probably useful to have displayed on the fridge or a notice board as a visual reminder of what our children's learning is going to be all about. **As we hopefully continue to move forward post pandemic, perhaps these overviews might provide you as a family with some inspiration for places to go or books to read to support our children in gaining the maximum benefit from their learning in school.**

Strengthening Academic Excellence
We try to not waste a moment of learning here at St Joseph's- I am sure many of you will have seen the maths board on the main pathway as the children arrive for school each day. This is an optional activity that I know many of the children enjoy, which rehearses important key maths facts, develops a sense of resilience (in that the children can choose the level of challenge that they think is appropriate) and reminds us all that we can learn together.



Practising number bonds up to twenty such as 3+8 or 15-4 or times tables such as 6x7 or 8x3 really does help our children's fluency in maths. You can practise these skills at home, in the car or on the walk to school, and it really does make a positive difference

Improving Physical Development
Playtimes continue to be active, engaging and fun. I am particularly grateful to the PTA for their continued support in developing the range of equipment and activities that are available to our children. In the next few days we are looking forward to receiving an order of just over £650 worth of new playground equipment which will further invigorate our children's playtimes and physical development. **To encourage speaking skills you could ask your child what they enjoyed doing in the playground today.**

Empowering Leadership
Although it might seem early to be thinking about it, my thoughts are already turning to the next academic year and what else we need to do to improve further. So far we have surveyed the staff and the pupils, in the next few weeks it will be your turn as parents and carers. **I would be really grateful if you could take the time to complete the survey when it is emailed to you- this will form part of the governing body's discussions informing the school's improvement priorities for next academic year.**