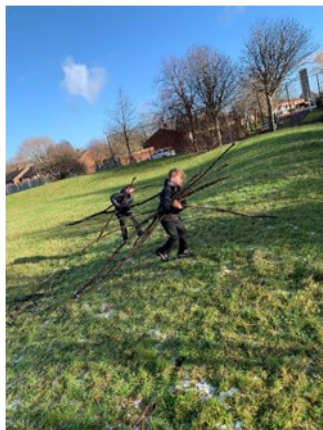


## Forest School Activities for Year 4



During this difficult time, with a national lock down and all the children engaging in remote learning, we are expecting so very much from all our young people. Anyone who has worked from home at any point

during the last 12 months knows

how hard it is to focus on the task and work to a

deadline with all the distractions going on around them... to top it all off, we're asking all of the children to spend longer and longer on their devices engaging with their learning. But

how well have they all done! I have to admit that I have been genuinely amazed by how brilliantly the children have adapted to 'the new normal'... the quality of the work that they have submitted has been exceptional!

During this extended period of being indoors and online, it has never been more important to take any opportunity to exercise and to enjoy any amount of time spent in nature... with this in mind, the Year 4 children still in school spent some time last week indulging in a few hours' outdoors doing some 'Forest School' activities (you might have seen the post on Twitter). It was absolutely fantastic to get out in a brief break in the weather to do something a little bit different and the

children all had a fantastic time!

Working in two teams, they had a simple task; they had to produce a framed picture of a winter's scene from totally natural things they could find on the field. They arose to the challenge in typical Joey's fashion: "go big or go home".

I had expected perhaps a metre square constructed of twigs... How wrong I was.

After 40 minutes of hard graft, sawing and gathering, the two teams had both constructed framed pictures 10 foot by 4 foot complete with wintry trees and even some snow (that hadn't quite melted under a shadow) and I'm sure you'll agree that the two pictures are truly masterpieces in their own right. Furthermore, the way the children pulled together and encouraged each other was absolutely terrific to see and really made me proud. It also served to remind me just how important spending some time outdoors is for my own well-being; Central Park is more inviting a prospect than ever before!



## Year 3

### National Storytelling Week

Year 3 have had a lovely week in school and we are very impressed with how well the children are getting on. As it is National Storytelling Week, we have used our book

'Into the forest' to create our own stories, inspired by Anthony Browne. We have worked really hard on this and enjoyed sharing our stories with each other.



### Mental Health Week

This week, our main focus has been learning how to express ourselves as it is Mental Health Week. We have thought about how different colours represent our moods and used the story 'The Colour Monster' to help us with this. We are doing our best to look out for everyone and we have been helping each other feel happy and bright.



Year 4 are keeping fit!

It's been a busy week in year 4 this week. We have been raising awareness for mental health week, coming up with small changes we can make to improve our own mental health, and the mental health of those around us.

One idea we came up with was really simple but really powerful, everyday we ask each other "Are you ok?" Then we talk for a couple of minutes about how we feel. It's so important for your mental health to share your thoughts and feelings on the bad days as well as the good.

We have made our own mind monsters to try and show our different emotions and how they can affect us.



We have also been looking after our physical health logging onto weekly sessions with the LFC Foundation for good examples of exercising indoors.

PE

Our weekly "stay at home healthy" challenges have kept everyone busy whether you are in school or at home. Over 70 children have now taken part in a variety of challenges from toilet roll keep ups to dancing. Please visit our Twitter page @StJosephsW to see some of these fantastic



videos.

There is a new section on our school website (<http://stjosephs-wallasey.wirral.sch.uk/website>) just for Mental Health and Wellbeing. Under here you will find our PE section which has been completely revamped to support anyone who is remote learning. It is so important for your Wellbeing at this difficult time to try and stay fit and healthy, so hopefully this will help.

## Wirral Health Project

Look out for a link that teachers will be sharing on Dojo from Wirral Health Project, they are offering food hampers to support families during lockdown. The link will take you to the form to request a hamper. If you are eligible you should now have been contacted to see if you would like a Morrisons hamper or food vouchers for next week. If you haven't please contact the school office to indicate your preference. If your family circumstances have changed and you feel that you would now reach the criteria to be eligible to receive free school meals, please contact the school office.





# School Attendance

Attendance is below our target, well done to all who have achieved or are close to 100%!

It is a key priority for us to ensure that attendance remains at 97% or above.

And to everyone who has made such an effort this week to be in school every day

Attendance overall including Foundation Stage: %

Attendance overall without Foundation Stage: %



CLASS	LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK
2 year olds: Mrs Higgins		
Foundation 1 Miss Howard		
Foundation 2 Miss Turner		
Foundation 2 Mrs Walker		
Year 1: Miss Last		
Year 2: Miss Finnigan		
Year 3 Miss Davies		
Year 4 Mr Broughton		
Year 5: Miss J Allen		
Year 6: Miss Morgan		

## Pupils should wash their hands:

before leaving home

on arrival at school

after using the toilet

after breaks and sporting activities

before food preparation

before eating any food,

including snacks

before leaving school.



## Pope Francis proclaims "Year of St Joseph"

Pope Francis remembers the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021, and has written this prayer to commemorate the year.



*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil.  
Amen.*



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

"Together in faith we nurture, encourage and inspire each other to achieve excellence and become all that Jesus calls us to be"

Headteacher Mrs M Hollis

School Office 0151 638 3919  
5th February 2021



Dear Parents/Carers

We have had another successful week of remote learning. Thank you for encouraging your child to participate and contribute to the sessions.



Teachers have been encouraged by the positivity of your children during the live sessions. We have spoken about the importance of ensuring that the children at home still feel very much part of the class and St Joseph's family. Remember we are here if you need any further support or advice.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff for going above and beyond this week as they have continued to work hard to achieve the best for our children. On an equal note, thank you to you as parents for supporting your children through these unknown times. It certainly isn't easy juggling a home, job and schooling. We should all be proud of what we have achieved and know that each step we take is a step closer to some form of normality. As Captain Tom Moore said 'The sun will shine on you again and the clouds will go away.' What an inspiration he was to us all! God bless him, may he rest in peace.

During your child's Google Meets session please ensure that they have a quiet space to work in, so they can get the most out of their session. We ask that family pets and siblings are not in the sessions and that children do not sit in their bedrooms. We would also encourage children to keep their camera on during the session, this is so we can see that they are fully participating and that it is your child attending the session. Thank you for your cooperation.



I am again asking you to be extra vigilant of the traffic on Wheatland Lane at the start and end of the day. I will be working with Merseyside Police to look at ways of keeping our children safe at these points in the day. This week I have had reports of speeding vehicles showing no concern that they have been passing a school. Please accompany your child to the school gates, so that we know they have an adult to cross the road with.



This week the children have participated in 'Children's Mental Health Week,' the theme has been 'Expressing Yourself.' They have worked on activities to find ways of showing who they are, how they see the world and how they can feel good about themselves. Please visit our school web site and try out some of the links and activities under our Mental Health and Wellbeing tab.

Look out for your child's virtual 'Stay and Pray' session invite next week, we are inviting parents to join in. It will be an opportunity to come together and reflect on this half term. We hope to see you there!

***May God's blessings rest upon you today  
May His peace be with you  
and His joy fill your hearts***

Take care during the week ahead,

Mrs Hollis

**HALF TERM HOLIDAY is MONDAY 15th FEBRUARY - TUESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY**

A quick reminder that we close for half term on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. We have a teacher training day on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, we open again to key worker and vulnerable children on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Google Meet sessions will resume for children working remotely on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.