

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents & Carers,

We are excited to announce that year 3 will be taking part in some active research that will see them learn in a shoeless environment. There have been many studies looking at how classroom environments can affect children's learning, behaviour and engagement. Stephen Heppell has pioneered this research and we are happy to announce that year 3 are going to give it a go.

Stephen Heppell was a schoolteacher for more than a decade and a professor since 1989; he pioneered learning designs in the UK "Classrooms of the Future" project and has looked carefully at environmental variables impacting on cognitive processes inside learning spaces. He states, *'To learn well is complex. Alongside the hard work, the pedagogy, collegiality, passion, delight, knowledge, joy and engagement there is the detail of physical learning spaces themselves'*.

Your child will be asked to leave their school shoes under their peg in a designated area. All children, staff and visitors will adopt the shoeless policy when in the classroom. Children will be wearing footwear to go to the toilet. If your child would like to bring in a 'comfy' pair of socks or small slippers (no novelty slippers) which will be left in school then please do label them. We ask that all children have a spare pair of school socks in their school bag and their school shoes are labelled.

We hope that your child will enjoy learning in a shoeless environment, which will benefit not only their engagement in class but also support their cognitive receptiveness.

To read more about Stephen Heppell's research, please see his website:

<http://rubble.heppell.net/places/shoeless/default.html>

There is also an interesting newspaper article:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/schools-encouraged-to-adopt-noshoes-policy-to-improve-pupils-learning-and-behaviour-a7044576.html>

If you have any questions regarding Shoeless Learning, please do not hesitate to contact the year 3 team or Mrs Monnery.

Yours sincerely

Mr Wright, Miss Manners and Mrs Monnery

