



School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 8th September 2017

Dorset Road
Christchurch BH23 3DA

Number 1

Dear Parents

I hope you and your families had a lovely summer holiday - being able to take time out and so refresh and replenish.

Even though I had a really nice time away I was looking forward to seeing everyone, especially the children, who looked so smart on their return. They have been telling me all about their holidays with great enthusiasm, while some parents have also been telling me, with great enthusiasm, that they are pleased the children and family routines are back!

This year we welcome Mrs Whyte and Mrs Callister, our Year 4 team, along with Mrs Nicolet, sharing Year 2 with Mrs Corallo. I am sure they will quickly settle into life at St Joseph's and I know you will help welcome them too.

I hope they all have a fulfilling and enjoyable time whilst part of the St Joseph's family.

Welcome new children and new families

We also especially welcome into the St Joseph's school family all our new children and families, especially our Reception children who started this week. We look forward to working with you over the next seven years (which will go faster than we all think!)

Good bye Father Tom

Thank you Father Tom for celebrating Mass for the new school year and to all parents who joined us. It is Father Tom's last Mass for our school as he takes a sabbatical and then returns to the diocese in the role of chaplain to headteachers. We thank Father Tom for all he has contributed, his kindness, wisdom and sense of fun and wish him every happiness in the future.

Thank you Mr Belcher and Paulo

I would like to thank Mr Belcher, our caretaker and Paulo, our cleaner, for all their hard work over the summer holidays. The school was looking fresh and ready for the new year on our return. We really value their efforts.

Diocesan Building Fund

St Joseph's has benefited from lots of building work and improvement projects over the past few years, including the re-wiring of the school, last summer. We also have a project replacing our internal fire doors which will begin during half term.

All diocesan schools have to fund 10% of the cost of their building projects. Contributing to this fund helps us to ensure we can provide the best possible buildings for our children in the future. We have really benefited from this fund in the past few years and so we ask you to support this. If you have not yet taken up the invitation to sign a standing order or direct debit, and/or completed a gift aid form for tax relief please would you consider doing so? A letter will be sent out from the governors shortly detailing how this payment can be made.

School payments

We are pleased to announce that from today, September 8th, we will be using +Pay on ParentMail – an online payment service which allows you to pay for school items quickly and easily on your smartphone, tablet or computer. We will inform you about items you need to pay through ParentMail, and you will be able to pay electronically, using credit or debit cards. If you have an Android or Apple smartphone, we would highly recommend you download the free ParentMail App so that you can make easy, online payments on the go. To do this, simply search for 'ParentMail' in your App store. If you do not wish to make payments online, you can of course, continue to make cash or cheque payments. If you need any additional information or assistance, please use the help site: www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/ or please contact Mrs Holmes in the school office.

Parents' Evening

By now you should have received your Parents' Evening Request Slip. Dates will be Tuesday 26th September and Thursday 28th September between 4-6.30pm. We request that slips are returned by Monday 18th September. **Please hand in to your child's class teacher.**

Family Summer Challenge

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the summer family reading challenge. We will be displaying the completed challenges in our library. If you have not yet returned your child's completed challenge please do by next Friday as the following week I will be drawing a completed challenge out of a "hat" for each class. The child chosen will then come and choose a book from the school's Amazon or The Book People Account.

School Book Fayre

Thank you again to everyone who helped with the Book Fair in July and to everyone who came to buy a book! It was a great success and we earned £280.75 in commission for the school which will go towards buying new books for our school library. Thank you again for your support.

The Summer Reading Challenge 2017- Animal Agents

Well done to everyone who took part in the annual library reading challenge "Animal Agents". I believe you have until tomorrow, Saturday 9th September, to return your forms to a local library. I look forward to receiving the certificates from the library and giving them out during a Friday celebration assembly.

Hot School Meals

Hot meals are provided by Chartwells Creative Kitchen and meals are ordered online via their website <https://dorset.mealselector.co.uk>

Children have a choice between the Main Dish option, the Vegetarian option or the Additional Choice option. The Additional Choice may be either jacket potato with a variety of fillings and these are specifically detailed on the menu. If your child goes on a day trip with their class they will also have the option of having an "Away Day Packed Lunch" to take out with them. All state funded infant school children (i.e. those in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are entitled to receive Free School Meals. Please note however that you will still need to place your order online. Please note the small increase in cost to £2.15 from the start of the new school year.

Cool Milk

If you would like your child to receive a daily carton of milk then think about registering with Cool Milk. They deliver to our school each day and the milk is distributed by our Milk Monitors. Have a look at their website www.coolmilk.com for details of costs and how to register.

Curriculum letters, including homework

Soon you will be receiving each class's curriculum letters informing what your child will

be learning throughout the Autumn term. In this letter details of homework will also be given. We ask that all children are regularly heard reading at home as this can have such great impact.

Attendance

At the beginning of another school year may I take this opportunity to remind you about the legislation regarding parents requesting time out of school for their children. The legislation makes it clear that head teachers **may not grant any** leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional** circumstances. It is extremely unlikely time out of school for a family holiday will be considered exceptional circumstances. It will be the same for requests for time out to spend time with visiting relatives or for birthday celebrations. As a school we fully understand and support the government's drive to ensure pupils miss as little school time as possible. Parents who take their children out without permission may be liable to a financial penalty notice.

I regularly monitor attendance and I write to the parents of any child who falls under 90% (which is the equivalent of a morning off each week). The government views anyone under such a figure as a *persistent absentee* and I have to follow it up. Obviously some children do as times have more serious illness and time in hospital but some just have poor attendance often due to issues at home and it is my duty to follow this up.

PTA Events

The next meeting is Tuesday 12th September, 7pm and the AGM Tuesday 10th October, 7.30pm. Please consider joining the team - even if for just one year.

School Uniform

Thank you for all your efforts with school uniform as the children returned looking really smart and ready for action! With such an effort having been made I am presuming all uniform, including PE kit is labelled, as I know how frustrating it is for you when uniform gets lost.

For those of you who ordered uniform items at the beginning of term from QDOS most orders are ready to be collected from the School Office. Mrs Medcraft at QDOS can be reached on 01202 434233 or 07971 309826 should you wish to buy uniform directly from her. There is also a downloadable order form on our school website: www.stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk for your convenience. Mrs Medcraft will be holding a uniform sale here after school on Thursday 8th September if there is anything else you require.

PE Kit

Please can I remind all parents that the school PE kit is blue shorts and white tee-shirts. These can be bought in almost any supermarket, often part of the value range. I expect the children to have their PE kit labelled with their names and in on the PE day. Letters will be sent home if a child regularly forgets their kit. Pumps or trainers are required for outside games and tracksuits/leggings and sweat shirts may be brought in for the winter months. Football shirts or tee-shirts with logos/pictures are not school uniform. Please can all uniform be named. I have asked teachers to do regular name checks this year of both uniform and PE kit.

Friday Class Assemblies

During the Autumn term the classes have always done their assemblies just for the other children. From the spring term, and throughout the summer, parents will be invited to these and we will endeavour to get the dates to you in good time.

School Closure - Inset Days

Please note the Friday 29th September is a training day and so the school is closed to children.

Please note the final inset will be Wednesday 25th July 2018. This means that the final day of the school year will be Tuesday 24th July 2018. I am letting you know this early so you can book your holidays accordingly.

Dates for 2017- 18

Thursday 7 th & Friday 8 th September	Ducklings start (youngest AM, oldest PM)
Friday 8 th September, 2pm	Mass to say goodbye to Father Tom. Everyone welcome
Monday 11 th September	All Ducklings full time
Tuesday 12 th September 7pm	PTA meeting - please come!
Tuesday 26 th September	Parents' evening
Thursday 28 th September	Parents' evening
Friday 29 th September	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 10 th October 7.30pm	PTA AGM- please support your school
Monday 23rd – 27th October (inclusive) Autumn Half Term	

St Joseph's Church First Holy Communion

Dates for September are as follows:

Tuesday 19th Sept. 7.30pm Parents evening

St Peter's School Information Evening for Year 7 2018 entry

Year 6 parents and children attending Catholic schools are invited on Thursday 21st September, 6.00pm - 8.30pm or Tuesday 26th September 6.00 - 8.30pm to attend an information evening at the secondary Southbourne site. This is an opportunity to look around St Peter's and be shown around by staff and pupils, along with a chance for you to photocopy any relevant supporting documentation required for the admissions process.

Prayer Garden

Once again we invite you to write a prayer that we will laminate and hang on our prayer tree in the garden. It may be a simple prayer such as thanking God for the time together as a family over the six weeks - or thanking Him that they are back at school! We will be inviting the children to do the same. Prayer cards will be available in reception.

Picking up at the end of the day

You must notify the school by 3pm if you have someone different to the usual routine picking up your child. It puts school staff in a difficult position when having to make decisions on the playground at the end of the day when they are responsible for a whole class of children. I have instructed teachers not to release children to other parents etc. unless they have been notified in advance. Thank you for helping us to ensure your child's safety.

Start and End of School Day Procedures

While children and their parents are welcome to use the playground before school, we do not take responsibility for the children until 8.45am when a teacher will welcome them in through the far door on the playground. Parents are responsible for their children and their behaviour before this. If you have a message for the class teacher this can be left with the person on duty. Children should not be playing football before school as I cannot guarantee a first aider being on site before the start of the school day. Children are to be picked up at 3.15pm from their class teacher on the playground. On the rare occasion you may find yourself running late please let the office know and we will wait with your child at the school office. We ask that this is not a regular occurrence. Children are not to use the trim trail after school as the field is off limits and we ask that bikes and scooters are not ridden on the playground. We have reminded all children of a few rules about playtimes and thought we would let you know about one of them that you should be aware of. The children are not to stand along the perimeter fencing and talk to people through

it - even if they know the person. If you should require regular child care before or after school then Bright Sparks is available (tel. 01202 601841). Finally, if there are any issues regarding friendships or upsets on the playground we ask that you speak to the class teacher - either informally on the playground at the end of the day, or by making an appointment via the school office as stated in our Behaviour Policy. Please do not tell off other people's children at the beginning or end of the school day as this can cause a lot of upset and can become a safeguarding issue. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Weekend Mass Times - please note changes

Mass at the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph's Church, Purewell are; *Saturday vigil - 6.30pm, Sunday 9am*

Mass at Holy Redeemer, Highcliffe, is: *Sunday 11am* Website: www.avonstourpastoralarea.org

Please note that the term dates sheet for 2017-18 are attached to this newsletter for your convenience. They, along with dates for 2018-19, are also on the school website.

Best wishes and I am looking forward to meeting our new parents and families over the next few weeks.

Louise Buxton