



School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 7th September 2018

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 Miss Wright, Year 1 and Miss Tharme, Year 2. 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!)

Goodbye Father John Cooke

I would like to thank Father John Cooke for being our priest this year. We hope to continue some of the things he introduced this year.

Welcome Father John Chadwick

We welcome Father John Chadwick to our school parish. Father John has come from Maidstone, where he worked alongside Father John Lee - who many of you will remember. (So many Father Johns!) We look forward to working with him.

Thank You Canon Paul

Thank you Canon Paul, from Ringwood, for celebrating Mass today with us. It is always a lovely way to begin the school year - focusing on Christ being the centre of our school.

Thank you Mr Belcher

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

Thank you from the staff

Thank you from everyone at the school for all the generosity shown to the team at the end of term, and most importantly for the kind words in the thank you cards. They mean a lot to us.

Diocesan Building Fund

St Joseph's has benefited from lots of building work and improvement projects over the past few years, including our new internal fire doors last year.

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 please would you consider doing so? A letter will be sent out from the Governors shortly detailing how this payment can be made.

Parents' Evening

Next week you will be receiving your Parents' Evening Request Slip. Dates will be Tuesday 2nd October and Thursday 4th October between 4-6.30pm. We request that slips are returned by Monday 24th September. **Please hand in to your child's class teacher.**

Family Summer Challenge

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the family *Active Summer* challenge. We have really enjoyed looking through them this week - clearly many of you did really fun things both locally and in other places. We will be displaying the completed challenges in our library and next Friday we will be giving out certificates.

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 £234 towards buying new books for our school library. Thank you again for your support.

Summer Library Reading Challenge 2018 'Mischiefs Makers'

Well done to everyone who took part in the libraries' Summer Reading Challenge. We will be presenting the certificates once received from the library service.

General Data Protection Regulation

Should you have any questions with regards to personal information, please see Miss Buxton.

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. You will need to arrange this directly with Chartwells. 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 £2.20 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 a curriculum letter from your child's class informing you of the subjects 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 at 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 11th September, 7pm and the AGM Tuesday 9th October, 7pm. 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 P.E. 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 if there is anything else you require. We will notify you of the date via Parentmail.

P.E. Kit

Please can I remind all parents that the school P.E. 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 P.E. kit labelled with their names and in on the P.E. 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 P.E. 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 21st September is a training day and so the school is closed to children.

Please note the final inset days will be Monday 22nd July and Tuesday 23rd July and so the last day of the school year will be Friday 19th July 2019. Please can all family holidays be booked accordingly.

Dates for 2018-19

Friday 7 th September, 2pm	Mass celebrating the new school year. All welcome
Monday 10 th September	All Ducklings full time
Tuesday 11 th September, 7pm	PTA Meeting. All welcome
Friday 21 st September	Inset Day - school closed to children
Tuesday 2 nd October	Parents' evening
Thursday 4 th October	Parents' evening
Tuesday 9 th October, 7pm	PTA AGM. All welcome
Monday 22nd – Friday 26th October (inclusive) Autumn Half-Term	
Thursday 6 th December	School Disco
Wednesday 12 th December, 7pm	School Advent Service at Church – led by Years 5 and 6 - all welcome
Wednesday 19 th December, 2pm	Ducklings to Year 4 Christmas Play
Thursday 20 th December, 2pm and 6.30pm	Ducklings to Year 4 Christmas Play
Friday 21 st December	Christmas Party Day
Monday 24th December- Friday 4th January (inclusive) Christmas Holiday	
Friday 19 th July	Final day of school year for children
Monday 22 nd July 2019	Inset Day 4 – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 23 rd July 2019	Inset Day 4 – school closed to pupils

St Peter's School Information Evening for Year 7 2019 entry

Year 6 parents and children attending Catholic schools are invited on Thursday 20th

September, 6.00pm - 8.30pm or Tuesday 25th 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.

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.

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.

Alpha Course

Ever wondered what life is all about...?! ALPHA is a course that explores the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. To find out more about the course there is an Alpha Taster Session on Tuesday 11th September, 7.15-9.15pm at St Joseph's Church, Purewell. If you would like to attend please email alphaavonstour@gmail.com for catering purposes.

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 for 2018-19 are attached to this newsletter for your convenience. They, along with dates for 2019-20, 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