



School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 20th January 2017

Dorset Road
Christchurch BH23 3DA

Number 10

Dear Parents

Skateboarding

Following the success of the skateboarding sessions we arranged for Years 4 and 5, we tried to arrange sessions for other year groups. However, they were no longer being funded, so thank you to the PTA for paying for sessions for Years 2 and 3. The children really enjoyed themselves. I hear from parents that skateboards were on many Christmas lists!

Sports Update

Multi Skills Year 1 and 2

We are very proud of our Year 1 and 2 children who represented St Joseph's at this week's Multi-Skills Festival, held at Highcliffe School against other local schools. The children were a credit to the school in their teamwork and determination. I would like to thank Mr Rickard as he gives so much of his time organising our attendance at these and numerous other sporting events throughout the year, as well as coaching our various school teams.

Cultural Competition

Each year children are asked to design the new Christchurch Sports Trophy. This year's theme has been Active For Life. Each school was asked provide 5 entries and The Grange sports leaders judged the competition. We are pleased to say that a design by St Joseph's was selected for the trophy, created by Igor in Year 6. Well done!

School Buildings Fund

Thank you to everyone who is contributing to the Diocesan School Buildings Fund. Requests for this term's contribution will be sent out shortly. If you do not contribute but would like more information including application forms, please visit the Buildings Fund page on our website: <http://stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk/building-fund>. The school continues to benefit from the fund so your contributions really do make a difference to the learning environment of our children. Recently we have had a film placed on our south facing class window in an attempt to

keep the rooms cooler in the summer and we are about to have finger guards placed on internal doors throughout the school.

School Uniform

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.

Birthdays

I would like to remind you that teachers do not give out sweets/cake on behalf of birthday boys and girls. While we wish the birthday celebrant a wonderful day, we find it hard work trying to give out sweets at the end of each day, on what would average out to be a weekly event. Also many parents do not like their children having sweets. I am also aware that once a few children bring in sweets, it puts others under pressure to do likewise. The teachers have also asked me to mention that while they don't mind giving out party invitations they do not want to be asked to chase up replies!

PTA Events

Our next PTA meeting is Tuesday 24th January at 7.00pm. Our next afternoon meeting is Tuesday 28th February at 2pm.

Race Night at School

Fancy a flutter?! Then come along to the **PTA Race Night** here at the school at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th February at 7.30pm! Tickets are £7.50 each and will include a finger buffet. Please bring ticket money to the school office and please try to have the correct money or alternatively a cheque payable to St Joseph's School Association. This annual event is a great night not to be missed, so book the babysitter and come along!

Sainsbury's Active Kids

We will once again be collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. Over the years they have proved invaluable in providing the school with extra free resources, so please make sure you

and your family members keep hold of these when you are doing your shopping!

Hearing your child read

It is so important that parents support their children by hearing them read on a daily basis. Children can only make progress in reading with such support. When hearing your child read, try the following approach:

* Before beginning, go through the book, look at any illustrations and discuss what might happen in the story. Say tricky words that children will have to read, e.g. *“Look at that big tortoise in the picture”*. This will help children later.

* Whilst reading, if your child gets stuck, try these methods:

1. Sound out words phonetically: c-a-t = cat, sh-o-t = shot, h-oo-d = hood, l-ou-d = loud, r-ou-n-d = round, p-r-ou-d = proud;

2. Use the pictures as prompts for tricky words;

3. Encourage your child to read in context, e.g. *“The dog was hungry so he ate the b__”* (bone).

* When you have finished reading, ask your child about what they have read. Get them to talk about what has happened so that they can develop their comprehension skills. Ask them about how certain characters might be feeling in the story. Ask them how they know, where in the text does it give this information?

* Go over any words that your child got stuck on. Get them to read the words again, individually.

* If you're finding it difficult in knowing what to write in your child's reading journal then please don't let this hold you back from reading with your child(ren). Ideally we would appreciate some form of comment to say how well your child has read including difficult words, what page number they're reached, their level of enjoyment etc.

Useful websites to support home learning

We know many of you support your children with their learning at home. You may find the following websites useful. Hearing your child read remains one of the most important things you can do to support your child's academic progress. Often when we are talking about an individual's overall progress we can correlate their success with their reading ability and interests. Younger children need to be heard at home.

www.theschoolrun.com

Primary grammar glossary for parents

Primary numeracy glossary for parents

www.schoolreadinglist.co.uk

Suggested reading lists by year group

www.timestables.me.uk

Online test and worksheet generator

www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk

(Woodlands Junior School) plenty of interactive maths and literacy questions and exercises

Dates for 2017

Tuesday 24 th January 7pm	PTA meeting in hall - All welcome
Monday 30 th January	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Thursday 9 th February	PTA Race Night – All welcome
Monday 13th – Friday 17th February (inclusive) Half Term Holiday	
Tuesday 21 st February, 4.30pm	KS1 SATs parents information evening (Year 2)
Wednesday 1 st March 2.15pm	Keeping Your Child Safe Online Workshop
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book day - children come as their favourite book character (fancy dress)
Tuesday 28 th March	Parents' evening
Wednesday 29 th March	Parents' evening
Monday 10th – Friday 21st April (inclusive) Easter Holiday	
Monday 22 nd May	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Monday 12 th June	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Friday 30 th June	Inset Day – school closed to pupils

Three more inset days announced

Please note, not only do we have an inset day on Monday 30th January, but also Monday 22nd May, Monday 12th June and Friday 30th June.

Dates for Friday class assemblies

Families are invited to the following Friday assemblies.

Friday 20 th January, 2.30pm	Year 5
Friday 10 th February, 2.30pm	Year 4
Friday 3 rd March, 2.30pm	Year 3
Friday 10 th March, 2.30pm	Year 2
Friday 24 th March, 2.30pm	Year 1
Friday 31 st March, 2.30pm	Ducklings

Date for your Diary – KS1 SATs Information

The Key Stage 1 SATs Information Session for Year 2 parents will be held on Tuesday 21st February at 4.30pm in the Year 2 classroom.

St Joseph's First Holy Communion dates

You are invited to Mass - Sunday 5th February, 10.45am

Session 5 - Monday 6th February, 3.45pm

The next parent and toddler Mass at St. Joseph's Church is Tuesday 7th February at 9.30am.

Date for your Diary - Parents Evening

Parents' evening will be Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th March.

PE Kit

In your class curriculum letters that you received last week, the teachers will have given you a reminder of what day PE kit needs to be in school. To be honest, it is probably easier that PE kits are in school at all times and if children are doing after school sport they bring a separate kit in from home.

When children forget their PE kit they go to the office where clean spare kit is kept and their names are recorded in a book. Sometimes this is a one-off incident but some children never have their kit in school and go each week for a kit that we then have to launder. The office has then written to parents to highlight this, but if it continues I will be taking Golden Time off the child as they need to remember their PE kit. PE kit is blue shorts and white t-shirts that can be bought from all major supermarkets with pumps/trainers and jogging bottoms for outside. All kit must be named.

School Office Opening Hours

The school office is open between the hours of 8.45am and 3.30pm. If you need to speak to a member of the office team or leave a message for a teacher, please could you try to ensure that it is within these hours. The answerphone will be in operation outside of these times.

Scooters and bikes

Please can I remind you that scooters and bicycles should not be left in the playground overnight. We cannot accept responsibility for possessions left on the premises outside school hours.

Reminder – after school French and Spanish

A little reminder that we have a French and Spanish club after school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Le Club Français & El Club Español introduce French and Spanish to Primary school children, in a French & Spanish-speaking club environment. It's natural and fun and our lesson plans and courses are fully progressive. Each club session consists of a

language learning point, an opportunity to practise what has been learnt & plenty of games, songs, drama & activities to strengthen this learning procedure. For more information please call Sam Wilkes on 07968 042462 or email sam@lcfdorset.co.uk.

A plea from Miss Fox

Our Ducklings teacher, Miss Fox would be very grateful to any parents who are able to bring in old newspapers to cover the tables for art & craft lessons. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Calling all Grandparents

The next meeting of the Avon and Stour branch of the Catholic Grandparents Association will be held at 10.00am on Tuesday 24th January in the parish centre of St Joseph's, Christchurch after morning Mass.

Inset Day

Finally, can I just remind you that we have an Inset Day next Monday 30th January. The school will be closed to pupils.

Best wishes

Louise Buxton