



School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 19th January 2018

Dorset Road
Christchurch BH23 3DA

Number 10

Dear Parents

I hope the new year is going well for you and your families.

During our teacher training day at the beginning of term we looked at how we are teaching reading throughout the school - trying to improve reading lessons and approaches. Reading really is one of the most important skills we give our children, as the following quotes highlight...

'Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope.' Kofi Annan (Secretary-General of the UN)

'Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.' Frederick Douglass (Ex-slave and Abolitionist)

These two quotes remind us that a child's attitude to reading is formed at home, from their parents.

'Children are made reader on the laps of their parents.' Emiliee Buchwald (Award winning children's author)

'You may have tangible wealth untold; caskets of jewels and coffers of gold. Richer than I you can never be. I had a mother who read to me.' Strickland Gillian (American poet)

With these quotes in mind I want to thank all our parents who hear their children read regularly, who share a book together and who are teaching their children that there are wonderful worlds to enter when we become engrossed in a book! I would also like to ask parents who don't do this to make a new year's resolution to begin tonight. I am sending out a poster with this newsletter that shows the advantage a child who is heard read 20 minutes a night has over a child heard only 4 minutes - or not at all. I know all parents want the best for their child and hearing a child read most evenings really makes that difference.

'There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is best of all.' Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis (US Presidential wife)

Hearing your child read

It is so important that parents support their children by hearing them read on a near 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.

* School staff will be checking on a weekly basis that children have been reading regularly at home. I have asked teachers to contact parents if children are not being heard or, for our older children, they are not reading to themselves at home. Even Year 5 and 6 children can be heard read or why not discuss their book with them? Nothing beats sharing a book.

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

Parental Survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete and return the parent survey. Your views are important to us as we strive to improve. The governors will be correlating the responses and we will feedback to you the various actions that may come from the survey.

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!

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 fire-doors replaced.

School Uniform

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.

Children leaving early for appointments

Please can we remind you that all requests for children to leave school early (or arrive late) need to be approved by me (Miss Buxton). Class teachers are not able to authorise such requests; this even includes essential doctor and dentist appointments. I am expected to have sight of any letters relating to hospital appointments – although of course I do trust my parents!

All regular dentist check-ups and non-essential GP appointments are not expected to be taken during school hours.

Toys and Equipment for Ducklings

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all the parents who have generously donated some super toys and games in their post-Christmas sort-out (we promise not to let the children know we have their toys!) If anyone still has toys at home that your child no longer uses or has grown out of and are in good condition, we would love it if you could kindly donate it to our Ducklings class in the New Year. Please see below for items we would really appreciate:

- Metal toy cars or anything to do with vehicle small world, i.e a car garage
- Animal small world toys such as zoo animals, arctic animals, underwater animals etc - not cuddly toys
- Any small Lego or Lego base boards/people
- Any dolls
- Marbles or a marble run
- Simple board games that would be suitable for 4/5 year olds
- Jigsaw puzzles of under 50 pieces or less
- Plastic or metal jugs, buckets and spades
- Metal cooking pans of any shape or size!
- Cooking equipment such as wooden spoons, sieves, spatulas etc. - for the muddy kitchen
- Plastic pots for planting, any gardening and potting equipment
- Seeds for gardening
- Barbies, Kens and action men, clothing for barbies or a Barbie house (Barbies of different ethnicities would be welcomed)
- Road mat
- Magnifying glasses

Adverse Weather Procedure

As our weather turns colder, here is a reminder of emergency school closure procedure: If we have to close the school due to poor weather I will inform **Heart FM 102.3**, (although it can take some time for this information to be broadcast), emailing and texting parents on **ParentMail** and via Dorset County Council's **Dorsetforyou** website where the information will be displayed under 'Winter Weather' - closed services - closed schools. The decision to close the school is never an easy one to make but I always try to make the decision as early in the day as is possible. Let's hope we do not need to use this procedure this winter. If you do not currently receive Parentmail emails and would like to please ask for a form from the office.

Dates for 2017- 18

Tuesday 23 rd January 8.45am	School Nurse Drop-In Clinic
Wednesday 24 th January 4.30pm	Year 2 Parent meeting about SATs
Wednesday 7 th February	Years 2 and 6 E-Safety sessions
Thursday 8 th February	Year 2 visit Streetwise
Monday 12th – Friday 16th February Half Term Holiday	
Wednesday 7 th March	Inset Day - school closed to children
Tuesday 20 th March	Parents' evening
Thursday 22 nd March	Parents' evening
Friday 30th March – Friday 13th April (inclusive) Easter Holiday	
Week beginning Monday 14 th May	Year 6 SATs (tests)
16 th – 18 th May	Year 5 Leeson House residential visit
Week beginning 21 st May	Year 6 Avon Tyrell residential visit
Wednesday 6 th June	Inset Day - school closed to children
Friday 8 th June	Summer Fayre
Tuesday 24 th July	Pupils last day of school
Wednesday 25 th July	Inset Day - school closed to children

School Closure - Inset Days

Please note Wednesday 7th March and Wednesday 6th June are training days 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 Friday class assemblies

Parents and family are invited to the following Friday assemblies.

Friday 26 th January, 2.30pm	Year 5
Friday 9 th February, 2.20pm*	Year 4
Friday 23 rd February, 2.30pm	Year 3
Friday 2 nd March, 2.30pm	Year 2
Friday 16 th March, 2.30pm	Year 1
Friday 23 rd March, 2.30pm	Ducklings

*Please note provisional slightly earlier start at 2.20pm to Year 4 assembly as a liturgy for the burning of palms may follow at 2.45pm.

Sports Update

Thank you Mr Rickard for organising House Tag Rugby matches which are still in progress. We will update you on the results shortly.

Date for your Diary – Parents' Evening

Parents' evening will be Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd March.

Date for your Diary – KS1 SATs Information

The Key Stage 1 SATS Information Session for Year 2 parents will be held on Wednesday 24th January at 4.30pm in the Year 2 classroom.

PTA Events

Our next meeting is Tuesday 20th February at 7pm when we will be discussing future events such as a sponsored bounce and a quiz night. The date for the Summer Fayre will be Friday 8th June 2018, so please put this date in your diary.

Governor vacancies

There are vacancies for two Governors on the school's Governing Body, one of whom must be a practicing Catholic. If you are interested in applying please contact Mrs Brigid Hincks on 01202 470175.

First Holy Communion

Dates are as follows:

Parents' session - Tuesday 23rd January 7.30pm

Session 5 - Saturday 3rd February 9-11am

All invited to Mass - Sunday 4th February 9am

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

Best wishes
Louise Buxton