



School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 3rd February 2017

Dorset Road
Christchurch BH23 3DA

Number 11

Dear Parents

Mini Vinnies

Miss Thomas writes;

The Mini Vinnies have made a good start to the new year. They began by helping to prepare and leading our Epiphany Mass – all reading beautifully. Also, the children have been thinking about how they can raise money during Lent for the Bishop's chosen charity, Bamenda (our twinned diocese in the Cameroon). After many ideas, the children decided upon a sponsored spell for the whole school. This will take place on Monday 3rd April and more information will be sent out nearer the time.

Sports Update

Multi Skills Year 1 and 2

On Wednesday 25th January, Years 1 and 2 participated in a Multi Skills event at The Grange led by the Sports Leaders. The teams took part in a range of events including running, jumping and catching and a great time was had by all.

Badminton Year 3

On Tuesday 31st January, seven Year 3 pupils took part in the Badminton Festival held at Twynham. They learnt a range of badminton skills and practised what they learnt in a range of activities. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to parents who helped by taking pupils to the event.

Sainsburys Active Kids

We will once again be collecting the Sainsburys 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!

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.

PTA Events

Our next afternoon meeting is Tuesday 28th February at 2pm and evening meeting is Tuesday 14th March at 7.00pm.

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, 7.30pm! Tickets are £7.50 each and will include a finger buffet. Please bring ticket money to the school office. 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!

Alpha Course

"Is there more to life than this...?" If this thought has ever crossed your mind, then the Alpha course might just be for you. Alpha is for anyone who's curious about life. Short films explore the basics of the Christian faith and encourage conversation in an open, friendly, informal environment. You are free to share as much or as little as you want to. Come along to a taster session with a free meal, film and information about the course on Tuesday 21st February, 7.15-9.15pm in St Joseph's Parish Centre, 67 Purewell, Christchurch, BH23 1EH. No further commitment. For catering purposes, it would help us if you'd let us know if you are planning to come to the taster session: Please contact Richard Martin at alphaavonstour@gmail.com, or phone/text 07990826934.

Free School Meals – Who Qualifies?

When children eat better, they do better.

Are you aware you may be eligible for Free School Meals? To qualify for Free School Meals you must be in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:-

- Income Support (IS)
- Employment Support Allowance (Income Related)

- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual taxable income (as assessed by The Inland Revenue) which from 6 April 2010 does not exceed £16,190
- Income-Based Job Seekers' Allowance (IBJSA)
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- From 1 May 2009 where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit "run on" during the four-week period immediately after their employment ceases, or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week, their children are entitled to free school lunches.

Students who currently receive free school meals may be entitled to additional support.

E-Safety Session

All parents are invited to our annual parent workshop entitled *Keeping Our Children Safe When On-line* on Wednesday 1st March, 2.15-3.10pm. We will be sending out letters next week. During the day the children will also be in workshops delivered by the Schools Safety and Communities Team.

Annie at The Pavilion

Congratulations to our Year 4 pupil Isla who has landed a part in the musical Annie and will be performing at The Pavilion in Bournemouth during the Spring half term. We are always delighted to hear of our pupil's extracurricular success, so well done Isla. If anyone would like to buy tickets to see Annie over half term, the performances are 2pm and 7.30pm 16th – 19th February.

Medication in School

If your child needs to take any medicine whilst at school we must have a completed Parental Agreement form completed which is available either from the school office or downloaded from our website. Medicines should be in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacy. Please note however that we are unable to administer Ibuprofen in any form, i.e Calprofen, Nurofen, Cuprofen, Mandafen, Orbifen, due to guidelines laid down by Dorset CC and School Health.

Should your child need to take painkillers during school time they must be confined to Paracetamol based products, for instance Calpol.

Head lice

Once again, head lice have been putting in an appearance at school. Can I ask all parents to check carefully tonight. Our school nurse recommends that wet hair is covered with conditioner and then combed with a fine-tooth comb. It is then recommended that you wipe the conditioner from the comb off onto kitchen paper to check for head lice or their eggs. If you should find anything in the hair, a pharmacist will recommend a lotion to treat the hair with – if it doesn't work first time use the same lotion again. Treatments are available on prescription from your G.P.

Dates for 2017

Monday 6 th February	Nurse Drop-In Session from 8.45am
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)
Monday 13 th March, 3.30pm	Leeson House meeting for Year 5 parents
Tuesday 28 th March	Parents' evening
Wednesday 29 th March	Parents' evening
Monday 3 rd April	Sponsored spell for Bamenda- Lenten charity
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

School Nurse Drop-In Session

Our School Nurse will be holding a Drop-In Clinic on Monday 6th February. Any parent who has a question about their child's health is welcome to drop in to see the Nurse from 8.45am onwards. Please come via the School Office.

Final Inset Days

Please note the following days are school closures due to teacher training; Monday 22nd May, Monday 12th June and Friday 30th June.

Date for your Diary - Parents Evening

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

Dates for Friday class assemblies

Families are invited to the following Friday assemblies.

Friday 24 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

Change in date for Year 4 assembly

Please note the change in date for Year 4 class assembly to Friday 24th February, 2.30pm. This is because an exciting learning opportunity, involving The Pig Hotel, arose - something we will be sharing with you in the next newsletter.

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.

Year 5 Leeson House information meeting

There will be an information meeting Monday 13th March, 3.30pm for parents. Letter to follow.

St Joseph's First Holy Communion dates

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

Session 5 - Monday 6th February, 3.45pm

Parents evening- Tuesday 28th February, 7.30pm

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

Half term at the Red House Museum

Drop in to the Red House Museum on 14th February, 10.30am-3.30pm, for their Dream Gardens Family Make event. Inspired by their Capability Brown Landscape exhibition, make your own mini dream garden from craft material and seeds. Materials and tray included. An indoor event suitable for the over 5s. Cost is £2.50, no need to book.

This will be the last full newsletter before the half-term holiday so I wish your families a good break.

Best wishes

Louise Buxton