



# School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018

Dorset Road  
Christchurch BH23 3DA

Number 11

Dear Parents

### Class Mass for Years 3 and 4

We thank Father John for coming to celebrate Mass for our Years 3 and 4 on the feast day of the Conversion of St Paul last week. The children read and served well and it was lovely to have so many parents and families join us.

### Fossil Artist - Year 3

Last week John House, an artist who works with fossils led a workshop for our Year 3, linked to their topic Rocks and Fossils. John writes; *'There is a fascination about fossils, that when viewed for the first time it transports the viewer to a completely different world; where all sorts of wondrous creatures lived and breathed. By recreating these fossil pictures I hope to inspire the viewers' imagination, to think about these alternative worlds not just of the past but of fantasy and futuristic worlds through my Fossilart.'*

The children created their own piece of art, making a Brittle Starfish using string, wood, glue and paint. At the end of the session everyone received their very own shark's tooth to keep! Amelia commented: "I really enjoyed sprinkling the sand over the string and wood and it really looked like a starfish at the end. I loved getting a shark's tooth – I've never had one before."

Once again thank you to the PTA for agreeing to fund this. Without a PTA we would not be able to have such enrichment activities.

### 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.

### 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. Once we hand children over to you at the end of the day they are your responsibility and we ask you to ensure that the children are not whizzing around the playground on their scooters. We do remind them at school.

### 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 for your convenience. To download the form please visit [www.stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk).

### Beware of strangers

Dorset police have alerted schools of a series of approaches being made to children in the Dorset area by people in cars and vans. Please take some time to remind your child of stranger danger and how to remain safe when out and about.

### Year 6 Cake Sale

Year 6 will be holding a Cake Sale on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February after school with the proceeds of the sale going towards the PTA supporting Year 6 leavers' activities. Cakes will be there rain or shine so please bring some money to buy something yummy!

### 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. Once registered you can download the ParentMail app to receive instant school notifications.

## Dates for 2018

Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Years 2 and 6 E-Safety sessions
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 2 visit Streetwise
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 7pm	PTA meeting, all welcome
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February Half Term Holiday</b>	
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Christchurch Food festival chefs in - Years 4 & 5
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Bikeability Year 5
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	School Nurse Drop-In Clinic – all welcome
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 7.30pm	Race Night
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Inset Day - school closed to children
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' evening
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Parents' evening
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	PTA sponsored bounce
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April (inclusive) Easter Holiday</b>	
Week beginning Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs (tests)
16 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 Leeson House residential visit
Week beginning 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 6 Avon Tyrell residential visit
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 3 trip to Winchester Science Centre
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June Half Term Holiday</b>	
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Inset Day - school closed to children
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer Fayre
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June, pm	'Alice in Wonderland' performed by M&M Productions
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July - Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Book Fair
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of school for pupils
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Inset Day - school closed to children
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August (inclusive) Summer Holiday</b>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Children return to school

### School Closure - Inset Days

Please note Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June are training days and so the school is closed to children.

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

The children will be returning to school Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. It won't be an inset day so please book holidays accordingly.

## Dates for Friday class assemblies

Parents and family are invited to the following Friday assemblies.

Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February, 2.20pm*	Year 4
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February, 2.30pm	Year 3
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March, 2.30pm	Year 2
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March, 2.30pm	Year 1
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> 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.

### Date for your Diary – Parents' Evening

Parents' evening will be Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

### PTA Events

Our next meeting is Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February when we are planning events such as our race night, Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and a sponsored bounce, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The date for the Summer Fayre will be Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018, so please put this date in your diary.

### Race Night at School

Fancy a flutter?! Then come along to the **PTA Race Night** here at the school at 7.30pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 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! Proceeds to the buying of Year 6 leavers' hoodies so it would be great to have a good representation for our Year 6 parents! We will be sending out a Race Night letter next week.

### Sports Update

#### Badminton Festival at Twynham School

Seven Year 3 children attended a Badminton Festival where they learnt positional skills, forehand and backhand shots. They all had a lovely time and represented the school well.

#### Indoor Athletics at Purbeck School, Wareham

Eighteen children from Years 5 and 6 travelled to Wareham to compete in the Indoor Athletics play-offs. Competition was very tough as these were the four best teams from the Christchurch and Purbeck area. The children acquitted themselves very well but unfortunately didn't make the county finals. Well done to all those that took part.

## **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.

## **Medication in School**

If your child needs to take any medicine whilst at school we must have a completed Parental Agreement form 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.**

## **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.

## **First Holy Communion**

Dates are as follows:

Session 5- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 9-11am

All invited to Mass- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 9am

Parents' session- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm

Session 6a- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 9-11am

Session 6b- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 9-11am

## **Weekend Mass Times**

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](http://www.avonstourpastoralarea.org)*

## **Reminder Year 5 Bikeability**

Just a quick reminder that Year 5 children are completing their Bikeability scheme when we return after the half term. Please be aware that the date has now changed to **Monday 26th February**. If you wish for the bikes to be stored overnight we ask that you tell your child to wheel their bike around to the bike rack through the staff car park, securing them with a lock. This ensures the bikes don't attract unwanted attention from people using the park!

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

Best wishes

***Louise Buxton***