



# School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018

Dorset Road  
Christchurch BH23 3DA

Number 12

Dear Parents

## Lent

I would like to thank Father John for coming into school on the Friday before half term to lead a liturgy burning last year's palms to make this year's ashes for Ash Wednesday. We decided to do this as the children were on half term break for Ash Wednesday and we thought it would be a memorable experience for them. It certainly was a memorable event as we watched the flames get higher and higher (and Miss Buxton get more and more nervous). The children received the ashes on Monday in a Liturgy that we held in school.

Next Tuesday Father John will be offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) to our older children, as is traditional during this season of Lent.

Attached with this newsletter is our Lenten Prayer Diary, which you will also have received in paper version before half term. Please consider using it with your child/ren – maybe as a bedtime thought and prayer, or in the form of grace before dinner. Prayer doesn't have to be complicated to be powerful- especially when it is children who pray.

## Goodbye Mrs Reeves

At the end of April Mrs Reeves will be leaving us with plans to do some travel with her husband and spend time with her family. I will be thanking her again when she leaves but at this point would like to share my gratitude of her expertise and knowledge that has helped many children. Governors have appointed a new SENCO who will begin after Easter, having a two-and-a-half week handover period with Mrs Reeves – which I am very thankful for.

## Mini Vinnies

In the last week, new Mini Vinnies for each class have been elected – many giving fantastic speeches as to why they should be a Mini Vinnie. They are now busy planning for Lent: thinking about how we can give alms, ideas for the prayer garden and cross of life, as well as helping to plan any liturgies coming up. Thank you to Emma, Mariah, Daniel, Joshua, Amelia, Thomas,

George, Finley and Hannah for their work for the last two years as Mini Vinnies.

## CAFOD

This week we welcomed CAFOD into the school to take a school assembly and lead workshops with each of the classes. The children were introduced to the difficulties for some African communities living without access to clean water and every day essentials. The workshops showed how CAFOD is helping communities to build their own farms and become self-sufficient. Lyla in Year 5 commented: "We learnt how much harder than us people have to work in some countries and how we take things for granted."

## E-Safety Sessions

In the week before half term our Years 2 and 6 had workshops delivered by the Schools Safety and Communities Team as part of Safer Internet Day 2018. The children responded: "A police officer came to teach us about being safe online. Year 6 learnt about cyber bullying and how it can affect your social life but you can avoid it by not giving away any personal details. After the police officer left we felt a lot safer about being online."

Rules that you may wish to consider can be found in our newsletter 9 on our website and the following pages may also be useful:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

## Year 5 Leeson House information meeting

There will be an information meeting Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm for parents.

## Parking on Dorset Road

Within the Traffic Regulation Order near the school there is a loading ban in place during 08.30 am – 9.30am and 3pm– 4pm. We have been informed that this will be closely monitored from our Enforcement Office. Please could everyone be considerate to our neighbours when dropping off and picking up.

## Morning Gates

Please can we remind all parents that the school gates close at 8.55am as registration begins at

this time. Anyone arriving after gates close will need to go through the School Office and sign their child in. Thank you.

### **Year 2 are Streetwise!**

Before half term Year 2 visited *Streetwise*. They had a fantastic morning and learned how to stay safe in different day to day situations. They learned about the dangers around the home, including electrical appliances such as curling tongs and electric fires. The children also had the opportunity to practice making a 999 call in case of a fire. They then had some time to think about the dangers outside of the home, including road safety and how to use a pedestrian crossing correctly, as well as how to be extra safe in the park and at our beautiful local beaches. Year 2 had a fantastic day – well done! We would also like to thank the parent helpers - their support was greatly appreciated.

### **Christchurch Food Festival Chefs Visit**

This week Mrs Reader, founder of the food festival, visited us with two local chefs to lead cookery demonstrations and tastings with our Years 4 and 5. The theme for both classes was healthy eating. This was a wonderful enrichment of the children's curriculum and also, hopefully, encouraged them to think about the importance (and fun!) of cooking. They made:

1. Sugar free breakfast bar and Rainbow salad (demonstration)
2. Fishcakes with Tomato salad
3. Chicken chow mein
4. Breakfast omelette with bacon and mushrooms. Perhaps the children will be able to show you their talents on the cooking front as we approach Mothering Sunday?! One parent has since told us that her son went home that night and cooked his own supper and is very motivated to make other healthy meals. Well done! Thank you to Mrs Reader for organising this event.

### **Able mathematicians**

This week some of our younger able mathematicians visited Mundeford Juniors to take part in a Christchurch schools Maths event with six other schools. Finley, Hollie and James had a fun morning solving problems in a timed number chase (they came joint 1st); found highest and lowest scores with dice; worked out tricky triangle problems; played with Tantrix and pentominoes; and other mathematical and number activities, all of which had rules which they had to follow. Our children certainly rose to the challenges set and were very competitive. Finley commented: 'It was fun working as a team and learning that maths can be used in lots of different ways to solve problems. We had a great time.'

### **Buxton Best Break**

Each class teacher has chosen two children, who show good behaviour and do as they are asked, to have an additional break with me over at Waterman's Park. Well done to the following children for being shining examples of how to behave:

Ducklings	Aleyah- Mai	Archie
Year 1	Alan	Justin
Year 2	Poppy	Joseph
Year 3	Jacob	Josh
Year 4	Matias	George
Year 5	Amelia	Theo
Year 6	Harry	Grace

### **House Points**

Congratulations to St Luke's house who won last half term's house point competition with a whopping 1972 points!

1<sup>st</sup> - St. Luke's – 1972

2<sup>nd</sup> - St. Mark's - 1924

3<sup>rd</sup> - St. Matthew's - 1845

4<sup>th</sup> - St. John's - 1613

### **Attendance**

Congratulations to the 41 children who before half term had 100% attendance. They were all given a certificate in assembly.

### **God Matters - Lent RE work**

The children will be beginning the Lent unit of work in their "God Matters" RE learning. Our infant children will be hearing that this is a special time when we get ready for Jesus and a time when we think especially about forgiveness and what that means. Children in lower KS2 will be thinking about Jesus' temptation and the challenges that we face as Christians, as well as thinking about how they can be like Jesus during Lent. Finally, our oldest children will think about why we give alms during Lent and answer big questions, such as 'Can everyone be forgiven?'

*'Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert, where he was tempted by the devil for 40 days'*  
*'Luke 4: 1*

### **Letter-Join Password for parents**

In our continuing strive for improvement we have invested in a hand writing scheme that supports both the teaching and learning of handwriting throughout the school. We are now part of the Letter-join handwriting scheme. Any of our pupils wishing to practice their handwriting at home can now log in to the Letter-join website on iPads and tablets as well as desktop and laptop computers. There you will find the same, easy-to-use

handwriting resources as we use at school. Please see the attached Letter-join letter which shows you how to access the site.

### Parental Survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete and return the parent survey. We have been working on correlating the responses and devising an action plan. Thank you for all your good ideas.

### School payments – download the App

We hope you are finding our new online payment service +Pay a convenient way to pay for school items. Don't forget to download the free ParentMail App to make online payments easier. To do this simply search for 'ParentMail' in your App store. If you need any additional information or assistance please contact Mrs Holmes in the school office

### 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](http://www.stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk) for your convenience.

### Lunchtime staff

If you would be interested in becoming a Lunchtime Supervisor and joining a great team, could you please inform the office of your interest. If you would like to find out more information with regards to the role then please make an arrangement to speak with Mr Curran.

### 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.

### Date for your Diary – Parents' Evening

Parents' evening will be Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. You will be receiving a letter about this shortly.

### Dates for 2018

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
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March, 3.30pm	Leeson House Information Meeting for parents
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March, 7pm	PTA Meeting – all welcome
<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>	
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Mufti Day – non-uniform
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 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

## Sports Update

### Tag Rugby Competition

Bournemouth Rugby was hosting the Rippa Rugby Fair Play Festival on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February. Twenty four teams around the Dorset area competed for the Fair Play Shield awarded for discipline, respect, enjoyment, sportsmanship and teamwork. We took 12 children from Years 5 and 6 who showed excellent values and won 5 out of 6 of their games.

### Multi Sports Day at Highcliffe Secondary

We took 8 children to Highcliffe Secondary School for a Multi Sports Festival where the children from Years 1 and 2 took part in a number of disciplines assessing their stability, locomotion and object control. They enjoyed themselves and were a credit to the school.

## PTA Events

Our next meeting is Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March when we are planning future events including the Summer Fayre which is on 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!

Currently, I am Chairing and Mrs Holmes is Secretary to the PTA. In the long term I am not going to continue Chairing as although the Headteacher is part of the PTA the responsibility for Chairing should not fall upon the Head. If you value your PTA please do consider joining – I will always help whoever steps up to the role.

## First Holy Communion

Dates are as follows:

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

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation- Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 11am

Sacrament of Reconciliation- Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 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 this **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> 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!

Best wishes

**Louise Buxton**