



School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 1st March 2019

Dorset Road
Christchurch BH23 3DA

Number 12

Dear Parents

Lent

We are about to embark upon our Lenten journey for 40 days and 40 nights beginning next Wednesday - Ash Wednesday.

To begin this liturgical season, the children will participate in (weather permitting) a Burning of Palms liturgy on Monday. This liturgy will allow the children to learn more about the origin of the ashes and their symbolism in preparation for receiving these ashes at the Ash Wednesday Mass at 2pm to which all are invited.

Attached with this newsletter is our Lenten Prayer Diary, which you will also have as a paper version. Please consider using it with your children – 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.

God Matters - Lent RE work

The children will be beginning the Lent unit of work in their 'God Matters' RE learning from next week. 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*

CAFOD

This week we welcomed CAFOD into the school to lead a whole school assembly and then Lenten-based workshops with each of the classes. Years 4, 5 & 6 learnt about fair-trade and enjoyed a workshop called the 'Banana Split' game. Years 2 & 3 also enjoyed learning about fair-trade and spent time as part of their workshop in 'Anna's Shop' and making a poster.

Ducklings followed on from the theme of the assembly by making drawings for a healthy river and identifying what a healthy river would look like. The adults, as well as the children, came away from the various assemblies and workshops having learnt from the messages from Rosemary & Isabella. The RE page on the school webpage will have the presentations available for viewing. We would like to thank Rosemary & Isabella for their presentations and the lovely way in which they pass this information on to the children at many levels. We're very pleased to have them as part of our school family.

E-Safety

Due to some information that has come to light over recent days, a separate Parentmail was sent out yesterday about ensuring that you please keep an eye out for pop-ups when your child(ren) are online. I suggest you read this.

Next week our Years 2 and 6 will have workshops delivered by the Schools Safety and Communities Team as part of Safer Internet Day 2019. In addition, I have attached a copy of the Online Safety Parent Newsletter from this same team.

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>

Kiddle – Search engine for Children

In terms of a visual search engine for children, you could use: www.kiddle.co

NSPCC – Visit to School

A separate letter has been sent out to you via Parentmail informing you of the above visit. The date has now changed to Friday 15th March. More information can be found at:

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

Breakfast & After School Care Provision Bright Sparks

We would like to say thank you to Bright Sparks for their provision of wrap around care over the past number of years. We appreciate all they

have done in being a central part of our school community and family. We wish the Bright Sparks team all the very best for the future. Their time with us will end today, on Friday 1st March 2019.

Funtastic Club

We would like to welcome Funtastic Club to our school community and family. Their time with us will begin on Monday 4th March. If you have any queries, then please refer to their website: www.funtastic101.co.uk. We will also have the club's contact details on our school webpage under 'Wider Community' > 'Breakfast and After School Club'.

We look forward to establishing a strong working relationship with Funtastic Club and with our school and families.

Year 5 Leeson House information meeting

There will be an information meeting for parents only on Tuesday 26th March at 4.30pm.

Year 5 Visit from Orangutan Appeal UK

'On Wednesday February 13th, John O'Malley from 'Orangutan Appeal UK' came to speak to Year 5 as part of the work they had been doing on Running Wild by Michael Morpurgo. The Orangutan Appeal UK is a small charity and works in Borneo, Sumatra, Indonesia and Malaysia. They save orphan orangutans and rehabilitate them, so they can eventually go back to the wild. He told us that because of deforestation, there are a lot more orphan orangutans that need help. It costs around £10,000 to rehabilitate the baby orangutans. There are many things that you can do to help Orangutan Appeal, such as: adopt an orangutan, raise awareness and tell people about the charity and fundraise. It was a really interesting presentation and we learnt lots.' Written by Chloe

Year 3 Cooking

On the afternoon of Tuesday 12th February, Year 3 were very lucky to have a cookery demonstration and tasting session led by Mary Reader, Ian Hewitt, Susan Spooner and Katya Benedetto who are from Christchurch Food Festival Education Trust. The afternoon consisted of a demonstration and information on the healthy eating message. Mary and her team cooked food which came from different cultures and included a lot of local produce and a sugar free recipe. We enjoyed watching the cooks preparing and cooking the recipes and then had fun tasting the different foods. These are the recipes that we tasted: Spanish omelette with chorizo, Turkish Lamb Pilau, Fish Tagine, Spiced pork with stir fried vegetables and Sugar-free spiced oat cookies. We were encouraged to try

out all the different foods even if we thought that we might not enjoy them. Most of us liked all the different foods, especially the sugar-free cookies. Thank you Mary and team for giving us such an informative and fun cookery demonstration.

Year 5 Bikeability

Well done to the Year 5 children who completed their *Bikeability* this week achieving level 1 & level 2! They are now able to cycle safely on our roads. A reminder to all parents whose child has a bike - please make sure their bicycles are road ready every time they are out on the roads and that they always have their own helmet.

Primary Catholic Partnership – Teacher Training information events

Would you like to train as a primary teacher with an Ofsted 'Outstanding' Catholic partnership?

Come along to find out more on Monday 4 March 2019. You can attend an afternoon taster session from 12.00-14.00 or an evening information session 17.00-19.00, both at our training centre in Southampton.

We offer personalised, school-led training, rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and can arrange placements in schools across Hampshire as well as in Dorset and parts of Wiltshire. You will be taught by practising teachers and leaders in a high quality training centre with family-friendly hours.

If you have an honours degree and you're keen to teach primary children, we would like to meet you. You can learn more, including directions to the venue, by calling 023 8077 9753 or at www.pcp-scitt.org.uk

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.

Roadworks on Dorset Road

From Monday 11th March there will be roadworks along Dorset Road as gas works are carried out for six weeks. I'd like to remind you that parents can park at the Somerford Pub to the left of the car park for drop off and pick up.

Morning Gate

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.

Dogs

Could I please remind dog owners that if they have to be brought on to the playground they must be held by and under the control of an adult. Some parents choose to leave their dogs attached to the school fence and come into the playground to collect their children. This has led to some parents commenting that their children are worried walking past dogs that are left unattended.

Attendance Update

The overall attendance figure so far for St. Joseph's this school year is **95.51%**. The government expects attendance to be at least 96% so we are below this benchmark. Please have your child in school as much as possible. I will have to hold meetings where attendance is becoming a persistent concern. The individual class figures are:-

<i>Ducklings</i>	94.00%
<i>Year 1</i>	95.22%
<i>Year 2</i>	95.40%
<i>Year 3</i>	95.88%
<i>Year 4</i>	95.56%
<i>Year 5</i>	96.47%
<i>Year 6</i>	95.78%

100% Attendance – Halfway through the year

Congratulations to the 24 children who before half term had 100% attendance. They will be given a certificate in a future assembly to celebrate this achievement.

Curran's Cracking Children

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	Harriet	Joshua
Year 1	Frankie	Daniel B
Year 2	Cara	Jimmy
Year 3	Eduardo	Isabella W
Year 4	Alice H	Sasha
Year 5	Luleya	Bruno
Year 6	Katherine	Felix

House points at the end of last half term!

<u>St. Matthew</u>	<u>St. Mark</u>	<u>St. Luke</u>	<u>St. John</u>
1845	1924	1972	1613

Congratulations to St. Luke's house who won last half term's house point competition with a whopping 1972 points! Keep up the great work that allows you to earn house points.

Letter-Join Password for Parents

In our continuing strive for improvement in written presentation, we have continued to invest 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 that we use at school. This was something that we informed parents about last year and issued a letter about. If you need to retrieve your password and to access the website, please find it at: www.letterjoin.co.uk/

School payments – download the App

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.

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.

Volunteering

If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer 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.

Dates for Friday Class Assemblies

Parents and family are invited to the following Friday class assemblies.

Friday 8 th March, 2.30pm	Year 2
Friday 22 nd March, 2.30pm	Year 1
Friday 29 th March, 2.30pm	Ducklings

Sports Update

Tag Rugby Competition

Multi-Sports Years 5 & 6

We took nine children to The Grange on Wednesday 13th February to take part in the multi-sports event with 6 other schools. The children played bench ball, table tennis and

rounders. The children had a fantastic time and represented the school well.

Multi-Sports Years 1 & 2

We took seven children to Highcliffe Secondary School on Thursday 28th February to take part in the multi-sports event which was organised by the Sixth Form students. For some of these children it is the first time they have represented the school at a different venue and many of them were very excited to go. One of the children on their return was quoted as saying to their teacher: "I had the best time ever!"

Dates for 2018-19

Tuesday 5 th March	NSPCC Visit School
Wednesday 6 th March – 2pm	Ash Wednesday Mass in school hall – all welcome
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day-children invited to come as favourite book character
Friday 8 th March	E-safety team visit Years 2 & 6
Thursday 14 th March	Parents' Evening 1
Tuesday 19 th March	Parents' Evening 2
Tuesday 19 th March	Mass to celebrate Feast of St. Joseph – 2pm
Tuesday 26 th March	Y5 Lesson House Parents' Talk – 3:30pm
Wc 1 st April	School Holy Week
Monday 8th April - Monday 22nd April (inclusive) Easter break	
Friday 26 th April	Mass for the new term – 2pm
Wednesday-Friday 1 st -3 rd May	Y5 at Leeson House
Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday – not in school
Wc 13 th May	Y6 SATs Test week – Good luck!
Thursday 23 rd May	Years 5 & 6 Class Mass in School Hall
Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May (inclusive) Summer Half-term	
Wc 10 th June	Phonics Screening Test in Y1 and Y2 – Good luck!
Tuesday 11 th June	Sports Day
Thursday 13 th June	Sports Day Reserve
Wc 17 th June	Y6 Residential to Avon Tyrrell
Friday 19 th July	Final day of school year for children
Monday 22 nd July	INSET Day 4 – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 23 rd July	INSET Day 5 – school closed to pupils

School Closure – INSET Days

Please note the final INSET days of the school year will be Monday 22nd July and Tuesday 23rd July meaning that the last day of the school year

will be Friday 19th July 2019. Please can all family holidays be booked accordingly. All term dates for this year and next academic year, 2019-20 are on our website.

Date for your Diary – Parents' Evening

Parents evening will be Thursday 14th and Tuesday 19th March.

PTA Events

Our next meeting is Tuesday 12th March at 7pm when we will be finalising plans for our Quiz Night on Friday March 22nd. Please do consider coming along as more helpers make lighter work!

Dates for your diary:

Come along to our **Quiz Night** on Friday March 22nd, starting at 6.30pm. Enjoy a night of quizzing, games and a fish and chip supper. Bring your own bottle. Enter our raffle to be in with a chance to win a hamper. Teams of up to 8 people can enter. Tickets will be on sale next week.

Our **Summer Fayre** will be on Friday 14th June so please put this date in your diary. Our annual Summer Fayre is always a lovely family event so please do come along.

The Book People Book Fair will be held on the week of Monday 1st July – Friday 5th July 2019. All books from The Book People will be at a bargain price and the commission we earn from selling books will raise valuable funds for our school library.

First Holy Communion

Dates are as follows:

Session 5 - Saturday 2nd March 9.30-11am
 Session 6 - Saturday 9th March 9.30-11am
 Mass with First Holy Communion children
 Sunday 10th March 9am
 Session 7 – Saturday 27th April 9.30-11am
 Parents' Evening – Tuesday 30th April
 Session 8 – May 11th 9.30-11am
 Mass with First Holy Communion children
 Sunday 12th May 9am
 Session 9 – Saturday 18th May 9.30-11am
 Session 10 – Saturday 8th June 9.30-11am

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.o



A reflective story to ponder on until the next newsletter:

A Blank Question Paper

One day a professor entered the classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They waited anxiously at their desks for the test to begin. The professor handed out the question paper with the text facing down as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked his students to turn the page and begin. To everyone's surprise, there were no questions, just a black dot in the centre of the page.

The professor seeing the expression on everyone's face, told them the following, "I want you to write what you see there." The confused students got started on the inexplicable task. At the end of the class, the professor took all the answer papers and started reading each one of them aloud in front of all the students. All of them with no exceptions described the black dot, trying to explain its position in the middle of the sheet etc.

After all had been read, the classroom was silent. The professor began to explain, "I am not going to grade on you this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot and the same happens in our lives. We have a white paper to observe and enjoy, but we always focus on the dark spots. Our life is a gift given to us by God with love and care. We always have reasons to celebrate, nature renewing itself every day, our friends around us, the job that provides our livelihood, the miracles we see every day."

"However, we insist on focusing only on the dark spots, the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, the complicated relationship with a family member, the disappointment with a friends etc. The dark spots are very small compared to everything we have in our lives, but they are the ones that pollute our minds. Take your eyes away from the black spots in your life. Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you. Be happy and live a life positively!"

Moral: As the professor explained, life is a bag of good and bad things, we all have positives and negatives along the way. But we must always concentrate greater on the positives for a healthy and happy life. Life goes on no matter what so do not waste your time thinking about the negatives.

Source: <https://www.moralstories.org/blank-question-paper/>

*Enjoy your week and happy pancake making next Tuesday!
Gerry Curran*



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