



School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 10th March 2017

Dorset Road
Christchurch BH23 3DA

Number 13

Dear Parents

World Book Day

Thank you to everyone who made our book day last week the success it was. Clearly many of you made great efforts to dress the children up as their favourite book characters.

Throughout the whole week a number of book focused activities were held. The week began with the author M.P. Robertson joining us for the day, beginning with a whole school assembly and then holding workshops with all the classes. He has written many children's favourites including *The Egg* and *The Great Dragon Rescue*. His day began with a wonderful whole school assembly and he then went on to lead drawing workshops with all our children. I expect some of you had your children drawing dragons for the rest of the week. With the older children he went through the creative process of writing a book.

World Book day saw us all dressed up as favourite book characters - fortunately I turned no one to stone dressed as Medusa! On that day Mr Stevens, one of our parents, came in to tell our older children all about being an author. He's written books, such as *The Mapmaker's Monsters* so the children were keen to know all about the editing and the re-drafting that a writer has to do. This is something Year 5 and 6 spend a lot of time doing themselves.

Thank you to all who made the week special - allowing us all to celebrate books and authors especially to our PTA for helping to fund the week. We hope it was a memorable week for the children and enhanced their love of books and reading. I would also like to thank Mrs Dayantis, Mrs Hills and Mrs Corallo for organising what turned out to be a wonderful week. Please see our school website for pictures of some of the wonderful costumes we saw on World Book Day and class updates of the activities throughout the week.

For families new to our school we dress up every other year for World Book Day as we appreciate the effort that goes into these costumes.

Lenten Alms - Sponsored Spell for Bamenda

As some of you will know the Diocese of Portsmouth is twinned with the Catholic Diocese of Bamenda in Cameroon, West Africa. This Lent, Bishop Philip has asked for schools to raise money for Bamenda. Back in 1974 the first missionaries from Portsmouth went out to Bamenda to spread the Gospel. Today the situation is now reversed with, as of autumn 2015, six priests from Bamenda ministering in our Diocese of Portsmouth.

Money raised is spent on supporting projects in Bamenda in collaboration with the local communities in areas of faith, health, education and social welfare. The link below leads to photos of how schools have been supported by Portsmouth and makes me realise just how fortunate we are here at St Joseph's - not wanting for much! The average fees for one child for the year is £20, they also need uniform and materials. Just imagine with our efforts how many children might be able to access an education who currently can't. The fundraising from our schools would support vulnerable children across the whole diocese in rural and urban areas.

<http://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com/education.php>

In order to respond to Bishop Philip's request our Lenten charity this year will be Bamenda and we will be holding a sponsored spell in each class. Spelling lists and sponsor forms will be given out by class teachers Monday 20th March with the sponsored spell happening on Monday 3rd April. Ducklings will be having a sponsored name write. We have chosen a sponsored spell as improving our spelling is part of our school improvement plan for this year.

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 Year 4 was Egyptian cuisine, and healthy eating for Year 5. This was a wonderful enrichment of the children's curriculum and also, hopefully, encouraged them

to think about the importance (and fun!) of cooking. Thank you to Mrs Reader for organising this.

Kidz Kitchen – at Highcliffe Revival Food Festival Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 May 2017

For children aged 7-11yrs old. Learn to make and cook tagliatelle with Rachel Hills of Skylight Kitchen Cookery School and Sarah Steward – Head of food at Ringwood School. Tickets £8 each from Chris Watson Family Butchers in Highcliffe.

St. Joseph's Chefs!

On Tuesday 7th March, Years 4 and 5 enjoyed a day of cooking with Mary Reader and her team of chefs from Christchurch. The children chopped, diced and cooked their three different meals – leek and potato omelette, vegetable soup and ratatouille with trout – before trying them. All of the children tried the food and lots found that they actually liked it! The children's behaviour was fantastic with Year 5 being told that they were the best Year 5 class that they've ever worked with! Thank you to Mary Reader and her team.

St Peter's School 80th Anniversary

On Saturday 29th April St Peter's is celebrating 80 years of excellence with an Anniversary Reunion. They hope that this will be a marvellous opportunity to catch-up with old school friends and reunite! Enjoy a FREE cream tea in our fabulous new building and view our exhibition celebrating the life of St Peter's. Let your friends know. For more information go to www.st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk/80th-anniversary-reunion

Year 2 are Streetwise!

Yesterday Year 2 visited *Streetwise*. They had a fantastic morning and learnt how to stay safe in different day to day situations. They learnt 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 and they learnt 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 the local beach. Year 2 had a fantastic day – well done! We would also like to thank the parent helpers - their support was greatly appreciated.

Attendance update

Attendance at St Joseph's so far for this academic year is 96%, which is down very slightly from our attendance rate at this point last year, which was 96.3%. We appreciate that there

has been a stomach bug going around which has had an impact on attendance. We will continue to work hard to ensure that attendance is at the highest possible level. Thank you for your on-going support.

Parents Evening

Parents evening will be Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th March. This Monday 13th March is the last day your request slips can be handed to the office before we organise the meetings. We will be sending out your appointment time by the end of next week. We ask all parents to attend these meetings as we share your child's work with you and their progress to date. I will be asking the teachers to contact you separately if an appointment is not made as not only is working in partnership essential but your child will want you to see their work.

Keeping Your Child Safe Online

Last week the Safer Schools' and Communities Team were in delivering our annual e-safety workshops to all class and to parents. Attached is the latest Safer Schools Communities Team's e-safety newsletter which we also sent out last week. The safeguarding page on our website has further information on how you can ensure the safety of your child when online.

Child Protection

If you have a concern about the long term safety of a child or young person Dorset County Council Children's Services has a single point of contact for any new referrals or safeguarding concerns. Anyone can make a referral on **01202 228866** or childrensafeguardingferndown@dorsetcc.gcsx.gov.uk. Referrals can be anonymous. They encourage the person who has the concern to make the referral and not to wait to pass it onto a third party, such as a member of school staff. Please remember anyone can make a referral and safeguarding is everyone's concern!

Sports Update

Netball House Matches Years 5 and 6

The Netball House Tournament Results for this term are as follows:

St Mark's **0** vs St John's **6**; St Matthew's **1** vs St Luke's **6**; St Mark's **14** vs St Matthew's **3**; St John's **2** vs St Luke's **3**; St John's **8** vs St Matthew's **2**; St Mark's **3** vs St Luke's **8**.

St Luke's and St John's will compete in the final at St Joseph's School Games Day on Wednesday 12th July.

PTA Events

Our next evening meeting is Tuesday 14th March at 7.00pm.

Once again thank you to our PTA for helping to fund our special book week. We are very lucky having the supportive parents and finances that we do at St. Joseph's.

Dates for 2017

Tuesday 14 th March, 8.45am	School Nurse Drop In Session – all welcome
Tuesday 14 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	
8 th -12 th May	Year 6 SATS week
Monday 15 th May, 6.30pm	Avon Tyrrell Information Evening
Monday 22 nd May	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 23 rd May	Sports Day
Monday 12 th June	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Friday 16 th June 5-7pm	Summer Fete
Monday 19 th – Friday 23 rd June	Year 6 Avon Tyrrell residential trip
Monday 26 th June	Year 6 Skateboarding
Tuesday 27 th June 6pm	Year 5 Parents – St Peter's Meeting
Friday 30 th June	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 4 th July, 7pm	Year 6 Leavers' Mass at St Joseph's Church
Monday 10 th July 9.30am	Year 6 Play Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 11 th July, 2pm and 7pm	Year 6 Play Performance 1 & 2
Wednesday 12 th July	Year 6 Inter-House Finals
Wednesday 19 th July, 2pm	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

School Nurse

Our School Nurse will be holding a Drop In Clinic on **Tuesday 14th March**. 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.

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.

Year 5 Leeson House information meeting

There will be an information meeting Tuesday 14th March at 3.30pm for parents.

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.

Dates for Friday class assemblies

Families are invited to the following Friday assemblies.

Friday 10 th March, 2.30pm	Year 2
Friday 24 th March, 2.30pm	Year 1
Friday 31 st March, 2.30pm	Ducklings

St Joseph's First Holy Communion dates

Session 6b - Monday 13th March, 3.45pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation- Saturday 18th March 11am or Saturday 25th March 11am
Session 7a- Monday 24th March, 3.45pm

The next parent and toddler Mass at St. Joseph's Church is Tuesday 14th March at 9.30am.

Messy Church – High Cross

The next session of Messy Church at High Cross, Amethyst Road, Somerford, is on Thursday 16th March. Craft work, a short assembly which is followed by a hot meal – all for £1.00. All children welcome with a parent or carer.

Best wishes and please remember our Year 3 children who are preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the next few weeks.

Louise Buxton