



School Newsletter

Friday 12th May 2017

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Dorset Road
Christchurch BH23 3DA

Number 17

Dear Parents

Well done Year 6!

I just want to congratulate our Year 6 for all their hard work and conscientious attitude as they approached and completed their end of key stage SATs. We are so proud of how they rose to the challenge set by the government. Each and every one of them should be proud in knowing they did their best. I hope they really enjoy their time at Avon Tyrell on the residential trip in a couple of weeks.

Year 6 are holding a cake sale after school this afternoon to continue to raise money towards their leavers' hoodies. Don't forget to bring some change in your purse when collecting this afternoon!

Rosary Club

Throughout the month of May we remember how special Mary our Mother is. Currently we are holding a Rosary Club at lunchtime in our Prayer Garden - something that seems quite popular with the children and something I enjoy doing with them. I would like to thank The Catenians for their donation of 40 rosary beads which will really enhance our lunchtime club.

Lenten Alms - Sponsored Spell for Bamenda

Thank you to everyone for their efforts to raise money for Bamenda. In total we raised a fantastic £1,000 and this will be presented at the annual schools' Mass at the cathedral in June.

Learning about our Parliament

Last week we welcomed into our school Roz Birch who works for our UK Parliament as a schools' officer. Roz came and led an assembly on the importance of democracy and followed up with two sessions for Years 4 and 5. One workshop was called '*It's all in the debate*' with children learning about the art of debating, a current issue.

The second workshop, '*My vote counts*' had the children looking at the history of voting and debate what the future of voting could be. All very timely.

Year 5 Residential to Leeson House

Our Year 5 children had a fantastic three days at Leeson House. Luckily the weather was on their side as they spent three days outside walking and seeing the beautiful Jurassic Coast, playing games, team building, pond dipping and orienteering. The children were a credit to the school - behaving well and also sleeping well (much to the relief of the adults!). Thank you to Miss Thomas who organised this trip and to those who gave up their time to ensure our children had a wonderful experience.

ParentMail upgrade

We have upgraded our ParentMail system to bring you the latest version – ParentMail PMX. By now you should all have received an email or text to ask you to re-register. If we don't have an email for you please can you let the office know so that we can add you to the database. The benefits of the latest version include a dedicated app that you can download so you have instant access to your ParentMail messages, keeping you informed at all times. To use the latest version of ParentMail all you need to do is verify your account and follow the instructions. If you do have any issues with the process please contact the school office as soon as possible.

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 attached Letter join letter which shows you how to access the site.

School Uniform

Our school uniform supplier, Qdos can be contacted on 01202 434233 or 07971 309826 or emailed at enquiries@qdosclothing.co.uk. Just to remind you that we do sell ties from the School

Office - £2.50 for an elasticated tie and £3 for a junior size tie.

School Games

On May 4th, some of our Year 4 pupils took part in a swimming competition held at Two Riversmeet. There were over 15 schools participating and therefore very strong competition. Well done to Hughie and Jasmine who both finished 2nd place in their race.

Football

On May 4th we also had our final football match against The Priory. It was an excellent game, end to end excitement but The Priory scored late in the first half and that's how it stayed until the end. Well done to St Joseph's as all of the Priory team were Year 6 pupils, most of which play for the same football club.

Tri-Golf

On 5th May Year 3 and Year 4 competed in our House Tri-Golf competition. There were 8 different events that they had to compete in and the winning teams were St Mark's, St Luke's and St John's from Year 4 and St Matthew's in Year 3. These teams will play in our school final on 12th July. Well done to our sports leaders in Year 5 for setting up and running the competition.

Table Tennis

On 8th May Year 6 competed in our House Table Tennis competition. Five children from each house were ranked and played against each other. The two teams with the most points, St Mark's and St John's, will play in our school final on 12th July.

PTA Summer Fayre – new date

Our Summer Fayre will be held on Friday 9th June, 4.30-7pm. The PTA will be organising the main attractions, such as BBQ and bouncy castle, while our Year 6 will be organising and managing their stalls - a real highlight of the event. The PTA still need lots of volunteers for the event - both in setting up stalls throughout the afternoon and for the event itself. If you are able to help please contact your class representatives, listed below. All are welcome at the next PTA as well, 7pm Wednesday 17th May. Thank you in advance for your support.

Class Representatives:

Ducklings: Tish Dauncey; **Year 1:** Katya Benedetto; **Year 2:** Kate Aimson; **Year 3:** Dee Kenny; **Year 4:** Emma Piper; **Year 5:** Jen Leonard; **Year 6:** Janet Abraham.

There will be a **Mufti Day on Friday 26th May** in return for Summer Fayre donations. Our suggestions for donations are:

Ducklings: Homemade or boxed cakes to come in on the morning of 9th June;

Year 1: Children's Tombola Unisex Pocket Money Toys (approx. value £1-2);

Years 2 & 3: Bagged or wrapped sweets (no chocolate please);

Years 4, 5 & 6: Bottles for the Tombola.

All year groups: Nearly new books and toys suitable for all ages 4-11. If bringing games and puzzles please ensure that there are no missing pieces. Please bring in on the mornings of the week commencing 5th June. Thank you.

Walk to School Week

Our termly curriculum enrichment week begins Monday 22nd May. We are focusing on the magic of maths and the PTA has funded a 'Maths Magician' to come in for the day. We are hoping that the week's work will show children the wonder and beauty of maths (well that's the aim anyhow!) We've planned a number of events for the week, as well as our annual sports day. This means it is our annual 'Walk to School' week too. The school staff will be organising the *Walking Bus* from the Somerford Pub car park each morning - leaving at 8.40am. You are welcome to join us and older children can walk with the group independently.

Meanwhile we have always had an arrangement with The Somerford pub that parents can park in their car park at both ends of the day and walk around to school. This scheme is called *Park and Stride* and is so much a better option than children almost being thrown out of a non-stopping car outside of school on the yellow zig-zag lines!!!

Fiddle Spinners

We would like to make all parents aware that we do not allow Fidget Fiddle Spinners in school. They are distracting to our children's learning and we would appreciate your co-operation keeping them out of school.

Cycling to school

Now it looks as if we finally have the sun for the summer term, it is good to see so many children using the school cycle racks in the playground. May we remind you that any bicycles or scooters left on school property remain your responsibility and that they should be padlocked should the need arise to leave them overnight. The gate onto the playground is open from early in the morning and access to the cycle racks is unsupervised.

Bikeability

After writing letters earlier in the year persuading Miss Buxton to let them do it, Year 5 were finally able to do Bikeability. They spent one session cycling on the playground, before being taken out onto the road. The children now have a good understanding as to how to stay safe on the roads.

Summer uniform

Children are now expected to wear summer uniform:

Boys:

Mid-blue (sky blue) short-sleeved cellular cotton polo shirt, grey shorts.

Girls:

Light blue striped dress (obtainable from our uniform supplier Qdos, Barretts, Marks & Spencer and other stores).

We ask that shoes are black, brown or blue and of a sensible style for school, preferably not open-toed or sling-backed, for safety reasons. Thank you for ensuring that hairbands are plain, dark and suitable for school.

Sports Day

Sports Day is Tuesday 23rd May with KS1 (Ducklings, Years 1 and 2) events starting at 9.20am and KS2 (Years 3-6) events starting at 1.30pm. Should we need to cancel due to the weather the reserve day will be Thursday 25th May.

Please can you ensure that your child has a T-shirt in the colour of their house team:-

St Mark's – yellow

St Luke's – blue

St John's – green

St Matthew's – red

Social Networking Sites

As we enter the season of fayres, sports days and school leavers' events, can I remind everyone that while the school allows you to photograph your own children, permission must be obtained from the parents of anyone else who happens to be in the photo before they are placed on any social networking sites.

Sainsburys Active Kids

Thank you for your very generous donations so far! The box is filling nicely.

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.

Inset Day- academic year 2017-18

Friday 29th September is the first of our Inset Day's for 2017-18.

Dates for 2017

Sunday 14 th May	1 st Holy Communion
Monday 15 th May, 6.30pm	Avon Tyrrell Information Evening
Wednesday 17 th May, 7pm	PTA Meeting – All welcome
Monday 22 nd May	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 23 rd – Friday 26 th May	Walk to School Week- meet us in the Somerford car park for 8.40am.
Tuesday 23 rd May	Sports Day
Thursday 25 th May	Reserve Sports Day
Friday 26 th May	PTA Mufti Day for donations to the Summer Fayre
Monday 29th May- Friday 2nd June (inclusive) Half Term	
Monday 5 th June, 7pm	New Parents Liturgy
Friday 9 th June, 4.30-7pm	Summer Fayre
Monday 12 th June	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
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
Wednesday 28 th June	Stay and Play
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
Friday 21 st July	Final day of school
Monday 24th July- Friday 1st September (inclusive) Summer Holiday	
Monday 4 th , Tuesday 5 th , Wednesday 6 th September	Home visits for new Ducklings children
Thursday 7 th & Friday 8 th September	Home visits for Ducklings (youngest AM, oldest PM)
Monday 11 th September	All Ducklings full time
Friday 29 th September	Inset Day – school closed to pupils

Admissions to St Peter's School – Year 5

There will be an information session on Tuesday 27th June, 6pm for all Year 5 parents who are interested in their child applying to St Peter's school for Year 7 (September 2018 entry).

PTA Events

Our next evening meeting is Wednesday 17th May, 7pm.

Dates for Year 6

Avon Tyrell Residential - Meeting for Parents

This will take place on Monday 15th May at 6.30pm in the Year 6 classroom.

Year 6 Trip to Avon Tyrell

Leaving Monday 19th June and returning Friday morning, 23rd June.

Secondary School Transfer Day

This will be held on Wednesday 5th July for our Year 6 children who are going to St Peter's, Highcliffe, The Grange School, The Arnewood School, the grammar schools or Twynham School.

Leavers' Mass

Year 6 parents and family are invited to the Leavers' Mass at St Joseph's Church, 7pm Tuesday 4th July with refreshments afterwards in the parish centre.

Leavers' Play

Year 6 will be performing their play Tuesday 11th July 2pm and 7pm to which Year 6 parents, family and friends are invited too.

Leavers' Assembly

Year 6 parents are invited to the Leavers' assembly 2pm, Wednesday 19th July.

Dates for Friday class assemblies

Families are invited to the following Friday assemblies in the summer term.

Friday 19 th May, 2.30pm	Year 5
Friday 16 th June, 2.30pm	Year 2
Friday 23 rd June, 2.30pm	Year 3
Friday 7 th July, 2.30pm	Year 1
Friday 14 th July, 2.30pm	Ducklings

Change of date for Year 2 class assembly

Please note the change of date for Year 2 class assembly - which is now Friday 16th June, 2.30pm. This change was required due to the change in the PTA summer fayre.

St Joseph's First Holy Communion dates

Session 8 Monday 15th May 3.45pm
Mass of Thanksgiving Sunday 21st May 9.00pm

The next parent and toddler Mass at St. Joseph's Church is Tuesday 13th June at 9.30am.

Please remember our Year 3 children who are making their first holy communion this weekend in your thoughts and prayers. May this sacrament be something they use for nourishment throughout their whole life.

Louise Buxton