



School Newsletter

Friday 26th May 2017

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

Number 18

Dear Parents

Curriculum Enrichment Week

The Magic of Maths

We have just enjoyed our last enrichment week for the year - organised by our maths subject working party of Mrs Loader, Mr Curran, Mrs Walls and Miss Fox.

The children have spent the week engaged in curriculum activities, designed around the theme of magic, from Roald Dahl's *Magic Finger* in literacy, to amazing science activities and problem solving in maths. The highlight of the week was welcoming 'Gerry Magic' (not to be confused with our deputy head!) He held a series of workshops with each class, during which the children had opportunities to solve maths puzzles and take part in unusual maths games. It was a real success and all the children thoroughly enjoyed the interactive day.

Thank you not only to the teachers for organising this but to the PTA for funding the maths magician. We hope the children discovered some of the 'awe and wonder' of maths and science.

Winchester Science Museum

On Wednesday our Year 3 pupils visited Winchester Science Museum and enjoyed a day of investigating. The children were amazed by the mad science professor Phil, who captivated his audience about gravity, atoms and forces.. Two children helped him with the experiments which were very entertaining. We stargazed at the night sky learning about the planets, and we soared around the Earth in the Planetarium. The centre itself is full of at least 100 activities from stands helping us to understand about recycling, including The Colon Café, Wheelchair Basketball and Voice Tunnel to name a few. Year 3 said it was the 'best trip ever!' and the teachers and helpers agreed.

Walk to School Week

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 'Walking Bus' that we held from *The Somerford Pub* cark-park each day this week. It was lovely to see regular faces and we especially enjoyed the good weather. We'd love to welcome more

people next year. Remember, *The Somerford Pub* is a Park & Stride all year round, so you are welcome to always park there and walk to school.

First Holy Communion

Two weeks ago 27 of our children made their First Holy Communion at St Joseph's Church. It was a real privilege attending both Masses and seeing our children receive the Eucharist for the first time. I hope many "forever" memories were made that day and that each child is able to receive this sacrament regularly throughout life.

Mass celebrating First Holy Communion

On Monday 19th June at 2.00pm we will be celebrating a Mass at school for all those Year 3 children who made their First Holy Communion. Our Year 3 parents are invited to attend and the Year 3 children are allowed to bring their special Holy Communion outfits to change into for the

Mass. Those Year 3 children who did not make their First Holy Communion are also allowed to bring a special dress or shirt to change into if they would like. This is a chance for us to celebrate this key moment of the faith journey.

'Open the Book'

Children love stories – especially Bible stories when they're interactive, engaging and fun! Open the Book (dramatised storytelling of Bible stories) began in 1999 and since then thousands of school children have discovered Bible stories, during assembly and collective worship. The children at St. Joseph's engaged in the Bible in a very different way on the morning of Monday 15th May when they enjoyed a visit from members of the local Open the Book team of volunteers who dramatised the story of the resurrection of Jesus. There are teams of volunteers throughout the country who use drama, mime, props, costume – and even the children and staff themselves – to present the Bible stories in lively and informative ways. If you are interested in joining the team or starting up your own local group, then please check out the website: www.biblesociety.org.uk. We look forward to welcoming the Open the

Book team to St. Joseph's throughout the school year and next. Quotes from children:

"It was really cool because we could see the story of what happened when Jesus rose from the dead being acted out."

"In the Bible there are no pictures so it really helped to see it being acted out."

"We liked the way they set it (props) up and used the heater to make noise."

"Really good acting and made the Bible more real."

Rosary Club

Following on from our Rosary Club update in the last newsletter, two members of our prayer club have written the following account of what takes place:

"We regularly run Rosary Club. This takes place at lunchtime and in the prayer garden. Every child is invited to say a decade of the rosary with us and Miss Buxton. The children are provided with a prayer mat and have the opportunity to pray for their friends, family or anyone in need. There is a whiteboard where everyone is welcome to write a prayer; here are some examples:

'Dear Lord, please help us to love one another like Jesus taught us. Amen'. 'Dear Lord, please help everyone through the good times and the bad. Amen.'

Rosary Club is a calm and peaceful environment and a great place to spend time with God. We would be delighted if you could encourage your child to come and join us."

Saron and Jasmine, Year 5 Prayer Buddies.

Christchurch Singing Festival

This year our Ducklings took part in the annual Christchurch Singing Festival for younger children. They joined other local schools at the festival held at Christchurch Infants School and entertained everyone with "Eye of the Tiger" – although not an air guitar was in sight! Well done Ducklings on your performance.

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.

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	Adam	Cassy
Year 1	Sophie	Jayden
Year 2	Carlos	Evie
Year 3	Matilda	Oliver
Year 4	Isla	Freddie
Year 5	Shannon	Alfie
Year 6	Jasmine	James

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

Sports Achievements

Once again please let us know of your child's sports/dance achievements for our half yearly sports newsletter. This can be done via the school office or email.

Sports Day

Congratulations to St. Mark's house for winning this year's KS1 sports day (the yellow team), which makes it two years in a row. St. John's was the successful KS2 team (the green team). Thank you to all those who helped with the event, especially to Rachel Cocking from Christchurch Tennis for all her support and advice, along with the Sports Ambassadors from both our own school and The Grange. I really enjoyed watching the children compete and was very impressed with their resilience and their excellent sportsmanship. I'm also relieved that the sun was almost out for us too!

Outdoor Activities Day - Years 5 and 6

We took eight pupils from Year 5 and 6 to Moors Valley along with five other schools to experience orienteering and mountain biking. Although the weather was poor, they had a fantastic day.

Quad Kids

We entered two teams for the Quad Kids event, one for Year 5 & 6 and one for Years 3 & 4. This is an athletics event consisting of a short sprint, a long run, howler throw and standing long jump.

The Year 5 & 6 team came up against stiff opposition and finished 6th overall but we are delighted to say that the Year 3 & 4 team came first in their event. Well done to everyone involved!

Multi-Sports

Ten children went down to The Grange on Tuesday after Sports Day and spent another hour-and-a-half playing handball. Well done to those who participated. They were extremely tired afterwards!

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. 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.

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to the summer fayre through our **Mufti Day**.

Please remember;

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

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.

Final Inset Days

Please note the following days are school closures due to teacher training; 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.

Samba Concert for Year 4 parents

At present our Year 4 children are learning to play Samba drums - so I am often finding myself dancing down the corridor to the rhythms of South America (and occasionally closing all the doors between them and my office!).

All Year 4 parents are invited to attend their concert on Thursday 13th July, 1.45pm. It is always a great event!

Dates for 2017

Monday 29 th May- Friday 2 nd 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 June, 2pm	Mass to celebrate Year 3 children's First Holy Communion. All invited.
Wednesday 21 st June, pm	Treasure Island performed by M&M Productions
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
Thursday 13 th July, 1.45pm	Samba concert for Year 4 parents
Wednesday 19 th July, 2pm	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly
Friday 21 st July	Final day of school
Monday 24 th July- Friday 1 st 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).

Dates for Friday class assemblies

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

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

Dates for Year 6

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.

St Joseph's Church

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

Wishing all our families a lovely half term next week and we look forward to welcoming the children back into school Monday 5th June.

Louise Buxton