



School Newsletter

Friday 22nd September
2017

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

Number 2

Dear Parents

Well it's been a lovely start to the school year. The children have come back refreshed, looking smart and ready to learn. Thank you for all your efforts to ensure the children look smart and are ready to learn with earlier nights and a breakfast inside them - it really makes a difference.

We welcomed the Ducklings full-time last week as they, and their parents, joined our school family. The children are settling into class well - enjoying their outside area and making new friends. They are a lovely group of children.

Welcome to Father John Cooke

This weekend we have Father John Cooke joining our school family. We very much look forward to welcoming him to St Joseph's School and hope that his time in Christchurch is a happy and fulfilling one.

RE Topic – Creation

'God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased.' Genesis 1: 31

Over the next few weeks the children will be learning about *Creation* from our diocesan 'God Matters' RE scheme. Our youngest children will be thinking about how God created the world, how they can look after his creation and the different ways in which we can give thanks to God. In lower KS2, children will be describing how we are made in the 'image and likeness' of God and the joy this brings to believers, as well as learning about the importance of Jesus' baptism and baptism today. The oldest children will be thinking about how the words of the Gospel and the ten commandments influence our lives today and will be engaging and responding to questions of life, such as 'Why does God let bad things happen to good people?'

Harvest Festival

This year's Harvest focus and collection will take place during our enrichment week, w/c 9th October, based on part of our mission statement, "We are all God's children and will serve as Jesus taught us."

The children will be considering how we can serve others in 21st century Britain. Our younger children in Ducklings, Years 1 and 2 will be learning about the Christchurch Foodbank, with Tracy, who works there, visiting to talk about how we can help our neighbours. Meanwhile Julie, from HOPE charity for the homeless, who we have now supported for many years, will be leading a session with our Years 3 and 4, teaching them about why people become homeless and how we can help them. Finally, our Years 5 and 6 will be learning about the issue of refugees and will be supporting the charity, Samara's Aid that donates dignity bags for everyday living, for those who find themselves fleeing their homes.

On Wednesday 11th October, we will be welcoming back into school the CAFOD team who will be leading a whole school assembly on brightening up our world, followed by workshops with each of the classes on either people who do not have enough food, homelessness or refugees.

During this week we are welcoming three types of donations. Firstly, we will be collecting mainly tinned vegetables, including potatoes and tinned fruit as requested by the Christchurch Food Bank although other packet items would still be gratefully received. We will also be collecting any items of hardware that we can donate to the HOPE charity. Suitable items for HOPE, who support homeless people as they begin in a new home of their own, would be toiletries, especially shower gel, shaving foam, tooth brushes and men's deodorant. They would also love any second hand unwanted towels, mugs and washing powder.

Finally, we will be collecting for Samara's Aid, a charity helping refugees. We will be hoping to put together dignity bags for women and teenage girls. Suitable items would be: sanitary towels, toothbrush, toothpaste, roll on deodorant and hairbrushes. For more information on what to include in the dignity bags, please look online at <http://www.samarasaidappeal.org/dignity-bags/> These items can be brought into school during the week and will make a fabulous centre piece for our Harvest Liturgy, led by year 5, which you are warmly invited to attend on Thursday 12th

October beginning at 2pm in the school hall. During this week we have also invited you to come in to speak to our children about your job and how you serve others in that role. A wonderful part of primary education is planting seeds in the children's imagination that may not come to fruition until many years later and this is a great opportunity by which to do this. Please let the school office know if you can come and speak to a group of children or even a whole class about what you do – you never know but it may make all the difference to one child's life – and how wonderful is that! We can fit in with whatever time you are available during that week or the week before or after.

Phonics 'Stay and Play'

We look forward to welcoming Ducklings to our 'Stay and Play' sessions on Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th October. We hope that the Ducklings parents find the session informative and continue to share books with your children – not only is reading of vital importance but a love of books is a real gift for life. A letter with further information will be coming out to you today, with a reply slip to return to the school office.

House Captains

The following Year 6 children are our new house captains; George (St John's), Taylor (St Luke's), Shannon (St Mark's) and Wiktor (St Matthew's). These children were chosen for displaying good leadership qualities.

Year 4 – Clarinet

Our Year 4 children have just begun learning the clarinet through a 10 week Musicianship Programme delivered by Dorset Music Service. The children will learn the technical aspects of playing and develop musical skills such as rhythm and beat. Please do encourage your child to practice regularly at home as this does make a difference to their progress. We hope they enjoy this fantastic opportunity to play a musical instrument.

Scooters & Bikes

Please can I remind you that scooters and bicycles should not be ridden on the playground or anywhere on the school premises. If your child rides to school they should dismount at the gate and walk through the playground with their wheels.

School payments

We hope you are finding our new online payment service +Pay a convenient way to pay for school items. If you have an Android or Apple smartphone, we would highly recommend you download the free ParentMail App so that you

can make online payments on the go. To do this simply search for 'ParentMail' in your App store. If you do not wish to make payments online, you can of course, continue to make cash or cheque payments. If you need any additional information or assistance, please use the help site: www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/ or please contact Mrs Holmes in the school office.

Parents' Evening

By now you should have received your Parents' Evening appointment date and time for Tuesday 26th September or Thursday 28th September between 4-6.30pm. I have asked class teachers to chase up families who have not made appointments as working in partnership ensures the children have the best education we can offer.

Please also take a look on our school website for our helpful guide, '10 Tips for getting the most out of Parents' Evening'. Go to www.stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk and click through from the banner on the website Home Page.

Family Summer Challenge

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the summer family reading challenge. We will be displaying the completed challenges in our library. At last Friday's assembly we drew a completed reading challenge from each class and those children got to choose a book from *The Book People*.

Sports Gazebo

Thank you to our PTA for buying us the new sports gazebo at the bottom of our field. This provides a shelter from which the children can watch a game or just find some shelter from the sun during those glorious summers we always have! It is good to know they won't be getting splinters too as it's made of recycled plastic, similar to our trim trail. Thank you to all those who support the PTA - it really makes a difference.

St Joseph's Admissions 2018

Application web sites are now open for children due to start primary school in September 2018 with a closing date of 15th January 2018. The national offer date is 16th April 2018. Remember to apply to your home Local Authority even if a school for which you wish to apply is in another area.

Also make sure that you carefully read the instructions beforehand. Paper application forms are available from your LA on request. Supplementary Information forms (SIFs) for St. Joseph's School are available from the office and should be submitted directly to the school by the same closing date.

St. Joseph's School was established to cater for the Parishes of St. Joseph Christchurch, Holy Redeemer Highcliffe and Our Lady of Lourdes New Milton. The head teacher – Miss Buxton – welcomes visits throughout this term and will show you round the school and discuss your child's specific needs. Please phone the school office on 01202 485976 for an appointment.

Mrs Hincks, Chair of Governors

Secondary School Admissions 2018

Year 6 parents will have received a letter from Dorset County Council regarding the transfer to secondary schools in 2018. The Parents Guide explaining the process and the application form is available on www.dorsetforyou.com, you will be able to apply online or download paper copies to print. The closing date for applications is 31st October 2017, with the offer date being 1st March 2018.

Please contact the school office if you do not have internet access and we will supply you with a paper copy of the application form or give you access to one of our computers. Secondary schools in the area have Open Days/Evenings scheduled – check the local press for details or approach the school(s) you have in mind.

Cool Milk

If you would like your child to receive a daily carton of milk then think about registering with Cool Milk. They deliver to our school each day and the milk is distributed by our Milk Monitors.

Have a look at their website www.coolmilk.com for details of costs and how to register.

Request for absence during term time - Advice from Dorset County Council to Head Teachers (Sept. 2017)

Although the decision is the Head Teacher's, to support your decision-making, we would ask you to consider the following:- Could this request for leave take place during normal school holidays? If the answer is yes then it is not an exceptional circumstance.

The Department for Education is clear that there is no parental/carer right for a family holiday and that cost, experiences for the child or overlapping with school holidays are not factors on which the decision should be made.

If it is an exceptional circumstance you still have to decide whether to approve the absence or not. This decision should be made by considering primarily the pupil's attainment, attendance and ability to catch up on missed schooling; followed by the frequency of the requests; the nature of the event for which leave is sought and whether the parent/carer gave advance notice. You do not have to approve leave of absence even if the reason given is exceptional.

Dorset County Council anticipates that it will be extremely rare for leave of absence for a holiday in term time to be authorised.

If leave is not approved and they are absent the parent/carer is then committing an offence and may be issued with a penalty notice or prosecuted under the Education Act 1996, Section 444(1). Authorised officers have the discretion to issue a penalty notice without warning where the parent/carer has chosen to take the child on leave during term time without authorisation.

PTA Events

Our AGM is Tuesday 10th October, 7.30pm. Please consider joining the team - even if for just one year. Please take a look at our school website: www.stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk to see our Q&A on what the AGM involves.

At our last PTA meeting we discussed Christmas and how we can make it a special time for the children. We are hoping for a few more volunteers in order for this to happen so please keep an eye out for ParentMails.

School photographer

Family and individual photos will be taken in school on Friday 20th October. If you would like a sibling, who has yet to start school, to be included please come to the school hall from 8.30am.

Parking around St Joseph's School

Please can I reiterate:- If you are bringing and collecting your child by car please **do not** use or block the school car park or block the entrances or driveways to our neighbours' houses. Be careful when opening car doors to ensure that no cars or cyclists are just about to pass.

The car park is for the use of **staff only** and should **not** be used for dropping off, picking up or turning around. This is especially important in the mornings when staff are trying to park and have, on occasion, found the car park blocked by parents' cars. This also applies when picking up and dropping off at Bright Sparks.

Also a reminder that the disabled parking outside of school is for those who hold a blue badge. We ask you to respect this and to show consideration for those who need such provision.

Please be considerate to our neighbours and local residents.

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 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.

School Closure - Inset Days

Please note the Friday 29th September is a training day and so the school is closed to children.

Please note the final inset will be Wednesday 25th July 2018. This means that the final day of the school year will be Tuesday 24th July 2018. I am letting you know this early so you can book your holidays accordingly.

Dates for 2017- 18

Tuesday 26 th September	Parents' evening
Thursday 28 th September	Parents' evening
Friday 29 th September	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 3 rd and Thursday 5 th October	Phonics 'Stay and Play'
9 th – 11 th October	Life Education Bus
Tuesday 10 th October 7.30pm	PTA AGM - please support your school
Thursday 12 th October, 2pm	Harvest liturgy - all invited
Friday 20 th October (from 8.30am)	School Photos
Friday 20 th October	Deadline for return of Christmas shoeboxes for Samaritans Purse
Monday 23rd – 27th October (inclusive) Autumn Half Term	
Monday 4 th December, 7pm	Year 5 and 6 Advent Service, St Joseph's Church. All welcome!
Wednesday 13 th December, 1.30pm	Christmas Play (Year R- 4)
Thursday 14 th Dec., 1.30pm and 6.30pm	Christmas Play (Year R- 4)
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Party Day
Monday 18th December – Monday 1st January (inclusive) Christmas Holiday	

Annual Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

As in previous years we will be getting involved in "Operation Christmas Child" which is organised by Samaritans Purse. This appeal involves families putting together gifts for

either a girl or boy in a shoebox. These are then sent just before Christmas as a gift of our love to a child in a developing or war-torn country. Samaritans Purse ask that a donation of £3.00 be placed with each box to aid operational costs. While we are conscious that many of you will be donating to our Harvest Festival this half term some of you may still want to build up a box of Christmas gifts for a child and this is why we would like to give you as much notice as possible. You may also have some shoeboxes around the house after buying your child's new school shoes! Leaflets will be sent out should you be interested in taking part. Boxes will need to be returned to school by Friday 20th October. We are always amazed at the generosity of our families in the appeal over the past years and hope that you will continue to support this extremely worthwhile cause.

Life Education Bus

The Life Education Bus arrives at St Joseph's on 9th October. The children will learn about various aspects of personal and health education and every year the feedback is very positive. Harold the giraffe is always a great success! You will be receiving a letter about this in your child's bags. You will be able to pay the £3.50 voluntary contribution through +Pay on ParentMail. Without the majority of parents making this donation such an event could not take place.

St Peter's School Information Evening for Year 7 2018 entry

Year 6 parents and children attending Catholic schools are invited on Tuesday 26th September 6.00 - 8.30pm to attend an information evening at the secondary Southbourne site. This is an opportunity to look around St Peter's and be shown around by staff and pupils, along with a chance for you to photocopy any relevant supporting documentation required for the admissions process.

Email from Macmillan Charity Stall

"The Macmillan Unit at Christchurch Hospital has a small charity stall at The Emporium at Christchurch (old Mostyns Factory shop) and is desperate for some good quality bric-a-brac to sell on their stall. We have plenty of clothes, books and CDs/DVDs and we cannot take electrical items. We do lack good quality objects e.g. ornaments, vases, jewellery, kitchenware especially anything bling!

If you have any lovely objects you can bear to part with please either take direct to the Emporium, clearly labelled for our stall, Macmillan Unit, or drop off at the Macmillan Unit, Christchurch Hospital, any weekday 8-5pm for the attention of Anita Rigler 01202 705353. You

can park free of charge in the turning circle by CAR PARK B/Day Centre if dropping off bags or boxes.”

First Holy Communion

Dates are as follows:

Session 1 Saturday 30th September 9-11am

Mass Sunday 8th October 9am

Messy Church

All children up to the age of about 10 years, with a parent or other carer, are welcome for an hour of fun craft work at High Cross Church, Amethyst Road, Somerford on Thursday 28th September. There will also be a short assembly in church with an interactive Bible story, followed by a hot meal. Still all for just £1.00.

Weekend Mass Times - please note changes

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

Don't forget next Friday, 29th September is an inset day so the school is closed to children.

We look forward to seeing you all at Parents' Evening next week.

Best wishes

Louise Buxton