



School Newsletter

Thursday 20th September
2018

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 and I hope they soon start to feel part of the St Joseph's family.

Thank you - Ofsted

I would like to thank all the parents who went on the Ofsted Parent View website to fill in the questionnaire, along with those who were able to speak to our Inspector in the morning. He said he was impressed with the amount of parents who wanted to speak with him – something that does not always happen in a school but reflects on how we work together.

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?'

Phonics 'Stay and Play'

We look forward to welcoming Ducklings to our 'Stay and Play' sessions at 9.10am on Tuesday 16th and Thursday 18th 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.

Harvest Festival

This year, while we let Father John Chadwick settle into his role, we will be holding a Harvest Festival just for the children in school on Friday 5th October. We want to continue to support the Christchurch Food Bank which supports many families in the area. They have asked if we could provide donations of tinned carrots, tinned fruit and tins of soup. Please can donations come in throughout the week beginning the 1st October.

School payments

The school uses +Pay on ParentMail – an online payment service which allows you to pay for school items quickly and easily on your smartphone, tablet or computer. We will inform you about items you need to pay through ParentMail, and you will be able to pay securely using credit or debit cards. If you have an Android or Apple smartphone, we would highly recommend you download the free ParentMail App so that you can make easy, online payments on the go. To do this, simply search for 'ParentMail' in your App store. You can, of course, continue to make cash or cheque payments which you can bring into the school office. If you need any additional assistance please contact Mrs Holmes in the school office.

House Captains

House captains are being voted in this Monday. Any Year 6 who wishes to stand will have to present why they think they will be good captains and others in their house will vote for them..... watch this space!

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.

Parents' Evening

By the end of next week you will have received your confirmed date and time for Parents' Evening. Dates will be Tuesday 2nd October and Thursday 4th October 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 family *Active Summer* challenge. We will be displaying the completed challenges in our library and all children will be receiving a certificate.

Summer Library Reading Challenge 2018 'Mischiefs Makers'

Well done to everyone who took part in the libraries' Summer Reading Challenge. We will be presenting the certificates once received from the library service.

General Data Protection Regulation

Should you have any questions with regards to personal information, please see Miss Buxton.

Hot School Meals

Hot meals are provided by Chartwells Creative Kitchen and meals are ordered online via their website <https://dorset.mealselector.co.uk>. If your child goes on a day trip with their class they will also have the option of having an "Away Day Packed Lunch" to take out with them. You will need to arrange this directly with Chartwells. All state funded infant school children (i.e, those in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are entitled to receive Free School Meals. Please note however that you will still need to place your order online.

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.

PTA Events

Thank you to everyone who attended this week's PTA. The main item discussed was Christmas!!!! If you would like to support us in making Christmas special for our children please let the office know or come along to the next meeting, the AGM on Tuesday 9th October, 7pm. Please consider joining the team - even if for just one year. Our Treasurer will be stepping down at the meeting as she will no longer be a parent after this year. I said I would do one year taking charge so now we need others to step up.

Library volunteers

If you would like to be considered to volunteer in our library to help the children pick their books for an hour one day a week (2-3pm), please can you let the school office know.

St Joseph's Admissions 2019

Mrs Hincks, Chair of Governors, writes:

Application websites are now open for children due to start primary school in September 2019 with a closing date of 15th January 2018. The national offer date is 16th April 2019. 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 around 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 2019

Year 6 parents will have received a letter from Dorset County Council regarding the transfer to secondary schools in 2019. 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 2018, with the offer date being 1st March 2019.

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.

Absence during term time - Advice from Dorset County Council to Head Teachers

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.

School photographer

Family and individual photos will be taken in school on Friday 19th 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.

Annual Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

As in previous years we will be getting involved in the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal which 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. The Christmas Box Appeal asks for a small donation of £3.00 to 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 Monday 19th November. 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 1st 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.

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.

PE Kit

Please can I remind all parents that the school PE kit is blue shorts and white tee-shirts. These can be bought in almost any supermarket, often part of the value range. I expect the children to have their PE kit labelled with their names and in on the PE day. Letters will be sent home if a child regularly forgets their kit. Pumps or trainers are required for outside games and tracksuits/leggings and sweat shirts may be

brought in for the winter months. Football shirts or tee-shirts with logos/pictures are not school uniform. Please can all uniform be named. I have asked teachers to do regular name checks this year of both uniform and PE kit.

Dates for 2018-19

Friday 21 st September	Inset Day - school closed to children
w/c Monday 1 st October	Life Education Bus
w/c Monday 1 st October	Please send in donations of tinned food for Harvest
Tuesday 2 nd October	Parents' evening
Thursday 4 th October	Parents' evening
Friday 5 th October	Final day for donations for Harvest Festival
Tuesday 9 th October, 7pm	PTA AGM. All welcome
Tuesday 16 th and Thursday 18 th October, 9.10am	Ducklings Phonic Stay and Plays
Friday 19 th October	School photos-Family/ siblings 8.30am
Monday 22nd – Friday 26th October (inclusive) Autumn Half-Term	
Wednesday 31 st October	Final Secondary Admission Application date
Monday 19 th November	Final date for Christmas Shoe Box Appeal returns
Friday 30 th November 5-7.30pm	PTA Family Christmas Fayre
Thursday 6 th December	PTA Christmas Disco KS1 4-5pm KS2 5.15-6.45pm
Wednesday 12 th December, 7pm	School Advent Service at Church – led by Years 5 and 6 - all welcome
Wednesday 19 th December, 2pm	Ducklings to Year 4 Christmas Play
Thursday 20 th December, 2pm and 6.30pm	Ducklings to Year 4 Christmas Play
Friday 21 st December	Christmas Party Day Mufti
Monday 24th December- Friday 4th January (inclusive) Christmas Holiday	
Tuesday 15 th January	Final Primary Admission Application date
Monday 25 th February 2019	Inset Day 2 – school closed to all pupils
Friday 19 th July	Final day of school year for children
Monday 22 nd July 2019	Inset Day 4 – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 23 rd July 2019	Inset Day 5 – school closed to pupils

St Peter's School Information Evening for Year 7 2019 entry

Year 6 parents and children attending Catholic schools are invited on Thursday 20th September, 6.00pm - 8.30pm or Tuesday 25th

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.

School Closure - Inset Days

Please note the Friday 21st September (tomorrow) is a training day and so the school is closed to children.

The next inset will be Monday 25th February immediately following February half term.

Please note the final inset days will be Monday 22nd July and Tuesday 23rd July and so the last day of the school year will be Friday 19th July 2019. Please can all family holidays be booked accordingly.

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

Best wishes – and don't forget tomorrow is an inset day so the school is closed to children.
Have a lovely weekend.

Louise Buxton