



School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Dorset Road

Christchurch BH23 3DA

Friday 21st July 2017

Number 22

Dear Parents

Well here we are – this is my 8th end of year newsletter while at St Joseph's, the longest I have ever been at any school, and each year we seem to be taking up more and more opportunities with sport, visits and visitors.

We have enjoyed three curriculum enrichment weeks. We all learnt about "Jonah and the Whale" in our week linked to the Church's Year of Mercy, followed by our World Book Day with the author M.P. Robertson joining us to talk and draw dragons and Rob Steven's talk about his books, including *The Mapmaker's Monsters*. Our final week we celebrated "Magic Maths" with the children learning about the awe and wonder of maths, along with enjoying a magician who worked magic with numbers!

The children have also enjoyed many educational trips and visitors who have enriched their learning. Much of this is on our website - do look at the class pages when you have the chance.

Meanwhile, we have achieved a lot in the sporting competitions that we have trained for and entered. Our highlights this year include winning the following events: Girls' Football tournament, Quad Kids Athletics, Indoor Athletics, Tri-Golf Tournament and we were runners-up in the Tennis Tournament.

In remembering those who aren't as fortunate as us, we have supported various charities throughout the year, including the local food bank, Poppy Appeal, and the annual Shoe Box Appeal at Christmas. We also raised an amazing £1,000 from our sponsored spell for Bamenda during Lent. Thank you for all your generosity.

Meanwhile, the results for those leaving our school in Year 6 are once again very pleasing - particularly in the progress they have made. We were above national by a good percentage in all subjects and one fifth of our Year 6 achieved

Greater Depth in reading, writing and maths. This is an amazing achievement. I am very proud of both our Year 2 and Year 6 and how they rose to the occasion and gave it their best. We have also welcomed new staff and said goodbye to others.

A busy year so it's time now for refreshment and renewal so we can continue working together next year with energy and vigour.

Goodbye and Good Luck!

Today we will say goodbye to the wonderful Mrs Dunn. Mrs Dunn has been Year 6 class teacher for two years and has had an incredible impact during this time due to her skill and commitment to the role and children. We have been blessed having her as part of our school family during this time and I hope we continue to see her on supply work in years to come!

With certain children leaving we are also unfortunately saying goodbye to Mrs Marshall, who continues working in Catholic education at St Peter's. Mrs Marshall has made a great difference to the children she works with through her knowledge and kindness. We wish her every happiness as she continues in Catholic education.

Awards & Trophies

During the last assembly there are cups and trophies awarded to five Year 6 children. This year's awards are as follows:

The Ewart Cup for Perseverance	Jasmine
The "John 10:10" Cup for outstanding progress	Michael
The Jubilee Cup for living the school's mission statement	Angelica
The Thomson Prize for Religious Education	Katy
The Barnabas Cup for being the best encourager of others	Ella
Sports Awards	Luke and Mason

Year 6 Leavers' Play

Well done to our Year 6 children and staff on their production of *Shakespeare Rocks!* The children led us through a funny and up to date look at the life and times of William Shakespeare, with a cast of hilarious historical characters, amusing glimpses into some of his works and how he came 'To Be'.

Buxton Best Break

On the last day of half term each class teacher chose two children, who always show good behaviour and kindness to others, 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	Jamie	Xander
Year 1	Charlie	Nevaeh
Year 2	Reece	Finley
Year 3	Luleya	Patryk
Year 4	Hughie	Mariella
Year 5	Kieran	Daisy W
Year 6	Billy	Kallie

Attendance Update

The attendance figures for the school year 2016-17 are as follows:-

Ducklings	95.4
Year 1	95
Year 2	96.4
Year 3	97
Year 4	96.5
Year 5	95.8
Year 6	96.1

Congratulations to Year 3 for having the best attendance this year. The final overall attendance for the whole school during 2016-17 is 96.1% which is slightly up on the 96.0% this time last year.

On the subject may I take this opportunity to remind you about the legislation regarding parents requesting time out of school for their children. The legislation makes it clear that head teachers **may not grant any** leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional** circumstances. It is extremely unlikely time out of school for a family holiday will be considered exceptional circumstances. It will be the same for requests for time out to spend time with visiting relatives or for birthday celebrations. As a school we fully understand and support the government's drive to ensure pupils miss as little school time as possible. Parents who take their children out without permission may be liable to a financial penalty notice. We are still awaiting

further guidance from the Local Education Authority regarding the fines however it should be noted that other counties close by are already operating a financial penalty system. Once we have received firm guidance from Dorset we will let all parents know via the newsletter.

For your convenience, term dates for academic years 2017-18 and 2018-19 are now on our website.

Book Fair

Thank you to all who helped with the Book Fair. We raised over £1,000 from the sale, which has earned the school over £250 in commission to spend on our school library. We hope that some of those books bought can be used in our school Family Summer Challenge. Indeed, *a book is a gift you can open again and again.*

Family Summer Challenge

This year's challenge, as you know will be for each child to complete a reading trail - that they should all have received by now. I hope they enjoy reading a wide variety of books, find that when we become engrossed in a good book we can be taken to another world and develop the habit of reading regularly and independently at home. *There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book.* Frank Serafini

PTA Events

The next meeting is Tuesday 12th September, 7pm and the AGM Tuesday 10th October, 7.30pm. We have lost a fair few "regulars" - parents who always offered to help with things as their children have left St Joseph's. Why not get together with a few friends and consider joining the team - even if for just one year?

Hot School Lunches

We would like to remind you that the hot meal menus for the Autumn term are now available on the Meal Selector website. Lunches can therefore be ordered from September through to the end of December. Please don't forget to order your child(ren)'s meals well in advance as if you miss the cut off dates you will have to provide packed lunches for the first week back in September. Have a look at their website for all the details on <https://dorset.mealselector.co.uk/> There will be a small cost increase in hot school lunches to £2.15 from September.

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.

Sports Achievements

School games finals

The Inter-House School Games were held Wednesday and the results are as follows. A big thank you to the sports leaders in Year 5 for helping during the day:-

Netball

St John's 5 St Luke's 6

Tri-Golf

St Mark's Year 4 - 1252 points
St John's Year 4 - 1121 points
St Luke's Year 4 - 875 points
St Matthew's Year 3 - 819 points

Rounders

St John's 6 St Matthew's 6.5

Tennis

St John's 430 points; St Luke's 120 points

Football

St Mark's 4; St John's 4 (after extra time)
St John's won penalty shootout 3-2

Tag Rugby

St Luke's 16; St John's 15

Handball

St Matthew's 6; St John's 11

Table tennis

St Mark's 1; St John's 4

I would like to thank the many people who help with our sports at St Joseph's School:-

Thank you to pupils who are our Sports Leaders, initiating activities, helping staff and assisting with competitions.

Mr Rickard gives so much of his time organising our attendance at numerous sporting events throughout the year, as well as coaching various teams, often with great success at these competitions.

Rachel Cocking, from the Christchurch Tennis Facility has coached all our teachers throughout the year to improve our teaching of curriculum PE as well making our lunchtimes more active. We also thank her coaches, Justin and Adam who come in every Tuesday and Thursday

throughout the year to enhance lunchtime active play and sport.

Also thank you to Dan Moody, from The Grange, organises most of the events we attend and really enriches sport in Christchurch.

Finally I would like to thank all the children who represent our school so well, showing great sportsmanship, along with all the parents who help with transport and cheering on our teams.

Headlice

The summer holiday is an opportunity to check for head lice and ensure that we all come back louse and nit free. A head full of lice is not nice for either the child who has them or others in the class. Ideally long hair should be tied back to help prevent movement of the lice from one child to another. For further information on treatment: <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Head-lice/Page>

PTA Update

Sports Shelter

Following the success of the summer fayre and our Race Night I have been able to put in an order for a replacement sports gazebo - which I am hoping will be completed ready for our children to use in September. The current one is used all lunchtimes in the summer as somewhere to sit (and climb - although not meant to be doing so!) in the shade. However it is becoming a little wobbly and we are beginning to see children get splinters from it. Thank you to all who have made this replacement possible.

Refreshments for Leavers' Assembly

Thank you to Miss Benedetto, Mrs Lucken and Miss Mitchell for helping with the refreshments after the Leavers' Assembly. Please can everyone consider offering to do just one thing like this a year. If that should happen, our school family will become more enriched and vibrant.

School Games – we earned the Gold award!

We are delighted to announce that St Joseph's has achieved the **Gold School Games Mark award** for our commitment, engagement and delivery of competitive school sport in 2016/17! The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

We are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

Inset Day- academic year 2017-18

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

Dates for 2017- 18

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	Ducklings start (youngest AM, oldest PM)
Friday 8 th September, 2pm	Mass to say goodbye to Father Tom. Everyone welcome
Monday 11 th September	All Ducklings full time
Tuesday 12 th September 7pm	PTA meeting- please come!
Tuesday 26 th September	Parents evening
Thursday 28 th September	Parents evening
Friday 29 th September	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 10 th October 7.30pm	PTA AGM- please support your school
Monday 23rd – 27th October (inclusive) Autumn Half Term	

Christchurch Lions Family Day Fun 'On The Quomps'

The Lions Club is organising a family fun day 'On The Quomps' on Monday 28th August 2017 between 10am and 4pm. Why not come along and enjoy the sideshows, stalls and even Punch and Judy. (That's the way we like it!)

Summer Library Reading Challenge 2017

Go to your library this summer and look out for the **Animal Agents**. Furry, scaly and slippery, these guys are out to crack the case and they need your help! Take part and **sign up for FREE to Animal Agents** at your local library or community managed library from **Saturday 1 July to Saturday 9 September 2017**. Start by collecting a **free** folder and go on to **collect 6 Animal Agents** stickers as you read or listen to six library books of your choice. Complete the challenge to receive a certificate and medal. Look out for exciting events and activities at a library near you. Find out more from www.dorsetforyou.com/libraries.

School Uniform

Our school uniform supplier, Qdos can be contacted on 01202 434233 or 07971 309826 or emailed at enquiries@qdosclothing.co.uk.

Return to school for Autumn Term

We will be returning to school on Monday 4th September in summer uniform. If you are buying

a new school bag over the holidays we ask that they aren't too big. **Please remember PE kits!**

Weekend Mass Times

Mass at the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph's church, Purewell are; Saturday vigil - 6.30pm, Sunday 9am and 10.45am.

Website: www.avonstourpastoralarea.org or email tomgrufferty1@gmail.com

During the holidays don't forget to keep encouraging the children to read regularly, practise writing/using a pencil and, for our older children, being secure in their times tables knowledge. Ours and the library's reading challenges should be a reminder to read regularly.

To end this final newsletter of the year I would like to thank Mr Curran and all my staff for their hard work and dedication to the school this year and to Mrs Hincks and all the governors, including Father Tom, for their advice and support; working in such a community has made my job both enjoyable and fulfilling.

Please also join with me in wishing our Year 6 children all the best as they journey into the next stage of their education.

May God's blessing be with you throughout the summer holidays; keeping your families safe and may you have a lovely break.

Louise Buxton