



School Newsletter

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

Friday 20th July 2018

Number 22

Dear Parents

It seems that I am writing the final newsletter after what is a seemingly a shorter period of time each year! (I believe that is a sign of growing old!) So here we are again at the end of yet another year of growing in faith, learning, laughter, at times sadness, school visitors, visits, lots of sport, welcoming new members to our school family and now saying goodbye to others.

We have enjoyed three curriculum enrichment weeks. We learnt about 'Citizenship in 21st Century Britain', learning about charities, homelessness and refugees, along with thinking about how our future careers can contribute to society. The week in the spring term saw all in the school turn into superheroes as we wrote comic strips, stories involving superheroes - as well as thinking about true superheroes from the past and present, including from the Bible. Our final one was entitled "Wow Week" and shared the awe and wonder of Science and Maths, with Mr Gee joining us for the day with his fantastic experiments, along with the children attempting world records - and everyone outside dancing the Macarena (yes, me too!)

The children have also enjoyed many educational trips and visitors, including CAFOD, 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: Boys' Football tournament, Indoor Athletics, Tri-Golf Tournament, Primary Water Sports Competition and we were third in the County Finals Football 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, a local charity for Refugees

and the annual Shoe Box Appeal at Christmas. Thank you for all your generosity.

Meanwhile, the results for those leaving our school in Year 6 are once again very strong - particularly in the progress they have made. We were significantly above national averages in attainment by an incredible percentage in all subjects and one fifth of our Year 6 achieved *Greater Depth* in all three subjects - reading, writing and maths. What we are most proud of, though, are individual children who have not always found learning easy and yet showed great perseverance with their learning and resilience when completing the tests. This is an amazing achievement by all.

This summer we had Dorset County Council moderation teams in who checked the judgements of our Ducklings and Year 2 teachers - and they were very complimentary not only about the preciseness of their assessments for individual children but just how knowledgeable and organised the teachers were.

Our Year One children made good progress in their phonics, some of them exceptional progress. I would like to thank all who worked on this and supported Year One this year.

I am very proud of both our Year 2 and Year 6 children and how they rose to the occasion when facing assessments and gave it their best.

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!

Next week we will say goodbye to Mrs Corallo whose kindness, sensitivity and commitment to the role and children will be greatly missed.

Mrs Hills is someone else who will be very much missed, having joined us since her first year of teaching. Her calmness and wisdom have always been notable qualities.

Meanwhile it is not just the teachers who have been with us for a few years that have had an impact and will be missed. Both Mrs Callister and Mrs Nicolet have been excellent teachers during their short time with us - and have also had a wider impact on the school than many teachers can do over a much longer period of time.

We also say goodbye to our lovely Year 6 - of whom we are so proud. Watching them grow, learn, develop and indeed blossom over the seven years has been a great privilege. We wish them God's blessing as they start their new schools in September. May they never forget the mission statement of St Joseph's as they journey through life.

Finally we say goodbye to Father John Cooke, and our pastoral assistant, Mrs Ryan. I would like to thank them for all their support with liturgy, as well as the pastoral care they have provided this year. We wish them all the best in their work within the Fareham parish, and within encouraging vocations to the priesthood.

I hope that paths may cross again with all those leaving this year.

Leavers' Mass

Thank you to everyone who attended our Leavers' Mass at St Joseph's Church this week, along with Father John who celebrated the Mass and to those who helped with refreshments. The Leavers' Mass is a very important part of what we do for our Year 6 at this stage of their journey from primary to secondary school, as we give thanks to God for our children, their families and the school, along with praying that they settle quickly into secondary school life and continue to become the best they can be.

'Moving on up' morning

This week our children moved on up to their new classrooms and more importantly met their new teachers. I am appreciative that our two new teachers, Miss Tharme and Miss Wright, were able to come in to meet their new classes.

Year 6 Leavers' Play

Well done to our Year 6 children and staff on their production of *The Adventures of Superstar*. I know many were impressed with how the children played their characters, their comic timing and their ad-libbing, especially when the pants were lost! These things don't just happen so well done to the children and thank you to the parents for the costumes and to Mrs Loader and Mr Curran for their talents as directors.

Awards & Trophies

During the leavers' assembly this afternoon the following cups and trophies were awarded to Year 6 children.

The Ewart Cup for Perseverance	Emily
The "John 10:10" Cup for outstanding progress	Giles
The Jubilee Cup for living the school's mission statement	Harry
The Thomson Prize for Religious Education	Daisy W
The Barnabas Cup for being the best encourager of others	Emma
Sports Awards	Jayden Lucy

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	Aviah	Isaac
Year 1	Cara	Luka
Year 2	Jonny	James
Year 3	Ben P	Ben A
Year 4	James	Mya
Year 5	Ella	Hughie
Year 6	Ollie	Silvie

Attendance Update

The attendance figures for the school year 2017-18 are as follows:-

Ducklings	96.05
Year 1	96.15
Year 2	96.37
Year 3	95.41
Year 4	97.61
Year 5	95.73
Year 6	96.72

Congratulations to Year 4 for having the best attendance this year. The final overall attendance for the whole school during 2017-18 is 96.32% which is slightly up on the 96.01% this time last year. Well done to the following children for their 100% attendance this year:

Seth (Yr 3), Zahra (Yr 6), Xander (Yr 1), Eddie (Yr 1), Felix (Yr 5), Harry (Yr 4), James (Yr 4), Alan (Yr 1), Ciara (Yr 6), Hiyab (Yr 2), Luleya (Yr 4), Naod (Yr R) and Saron (Yr 6)

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. It should be noted that local schools are recently begun operating a financial penalty system- something our governors would rather not have to consider but will if needs be.

For your convenience, term dates for academic years 2018-19 and 2019-20 are now on our website.

Book Fair

Thank you to all who helped with the Book Fair. We raised over £937 from the sale, which has earned the school over £234 in commission to spend on our school library.

Family Summer Challenge - Active Summer

As many of you know we try to set an annual summer project for families to complete. In the past we've done 'Book Trails', a photographic competition and match box challenge. This year we are setting you an 'Active Summer Challenge' where we challenge our children, and even you, to be active and try something different – recording your success in our booklets which will be returned in September for celebration of participation.

Summer Library Reading Challenge 2018 'Mischiefs Makers'

Last year over 8,000 Dorset children aged 4-12 years participated in the Summer Reading Challenge, which is run annually by libraries. This year's challenge, 'Mischiefs Makers' celebrates the 80th anniversary of the Beano comic. Children taking part will follow clues to explore their map of Beano Town. As they read library books they will collect special stickers to help them find the mysterious buried treasure.

You can join the challenge from July 7th until 8th September simply by filling in a registration card ad collecting a fold out poster. The website www.mishchief-makers.org.uk offers a range of information, useful links and activities.

General Data Protection Regulation

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

Thank you

I would like to thank one of our Year 6 parents, Ms Jarvis, who gave up an afternoon to work under relentless sun to dig over our 'Cross of Life' flower bed. It was a very generous gesture and much appreciated.

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 Monday and the results are as follows. A big thank you to the sports leaders for helping during the day:-

Netball

St Mark's 4; St Matthew's 7

Tri-Golf

St Mark's 431 points
St Matthew's - 429 points
St John's - 401 points
St Luke's - 280 points

Rounders

St John's 6; St Matthew's 7

Tennis

St Matthew's 220 points; St Mark's 230 points

Football

St John's 4; St Mark's 1

Tag Rugby

St John's 13; St Matthew's 18

Handball

St Matthew's 6; St John's 8

Table tennis

St Mark's 92 points; St Matthew's 81 points

Christchurch Cycling event

We took part in the inaugural cycling event run by British Cycling at Somerford School on 10th July. We took 8 Year 5 children and competed in a variety of races over a set course against Christchurch Juniors and Somerford. The

children had a fantastic time and we hope to run this event again next year. Dan Moody presented all schools with a trophy as a memento of the occasion.

Football match

We played Christchurch Junior School in a final football match of the season as we had only competed in the football tournament in November in a 5 minute match which was 0-0. It was a very competitive match with some great football from both teams, but in the end St Joseph's won 3-0. Well done to Ollie, Riley, Jayden, Jack, Charlie R, Charlie S and Hughie.

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 coach, Adam who comes 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.

Class Representatives:

Ducklings: Marie Delgado & Deborah Knights
Year 1: Paula Harrison; **Year 2:** Katya Benedetto; **Year 3:** Kate Aimson & Eve Holmes;
Year 4: Dee Kenny; **Year 5:** Emma Piper & Lorraine Walters; **Year 6:** Jen Leonard & Dee Kenny;

PTA Events

Our next meeting is Tuesday 11th September, 7pm when we are planning future events such as our Family Christmas Fayre. Please consider popping along and joining the group - we are

very friendly! The annual PTA AGM will be held Tuesday 9th October, 7pm when a new committee come forward. Please consider becoming part of this as last year only a few people were left to run the PTA. Why not get together with a few friends and consider joining the team.

PTA Thank you

Refreshments for school events

Thank you to Paula Harrison and Annie Gillard for helping with the refreshments at Sports Day and after the Leavers' Mass and 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.

Dates for 2018-19

Tuesday 24 th July	Last day of school for pupils
Wednesday 25 th July	Inset Day - school closed to children
Wednesday 25th July – Friday 31st August (inclusive) Summer Holiday	
Monday 3 rd September	Children return to school
Monday 3 rd , Tuesday 4 th , Wednesday 5 th September	Home visits for new Ducklings children
Thursday 6 th & Friday 7 th September	Ducklings start (youngest AM, oldest PM)
Friday 7 th September, 2pm	Mass celebrating the new school year. All welcome
Monday 10 th September	All Ducklings full time
Tuesday 11 th September, 7pm	PTA Meeting. All welcome
Friday 21 st September	Inset Day - school closed to children
Tuesday 2 nd October	Parents' evening
Wednesday 3 rd October	Parents' evening
Tuesday 9 th October, 7pm	PTA AGM. All welcome
Monday 22nd – Friday 26th October (inclusive) Autumn Half-Term	
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
Monday 24th December- Friday 4th January (inclusive) Christmas Holiday	

Inset Day- academic year 2018-19

Friday 21st September is the first of our Inset Days for 2018-19.

School Uniform

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

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 - 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 £2.20 from September.

Return to school for Autumn Term

We will be returning to school on Monday 3rd 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!**

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>

Alpha Course

Ever wondered what life is all about...?! ALPHA is a course that explores the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. To find out more about the course there is an Alpha Taster Session on Tuesday 11th September, 7.15-9.15pm at St Joseph's Church, Purewell. If you would like to attend please email alphaavonstour@gmail.com for catering purposes.

Weekend Mass Times

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

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. 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 John, 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