



School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 6th October 2017

Dorset Road
Christchurch BH23 3DA

Number 3

Dear Parents

Harvest Festival

Next week is our curriculum enrichment week based on part of our mission statement, "We are all God's children and will serve as Jesus taught us."

Thank you in advance to all the parents who have offered to come and talk to the children about how their jobs serve others, as well as to the various charities that are coming in. Thank you also for your donations that you are welcome to send in from Monday onwards.

Christchurch Food Bank	Tinned vegetables, including potatoes and tinned fruit
Hope Charity for the Homeless	Toiletries, especially shower gel, shaving foam, tooth brushes and men's deodorant, towels, mugs and washing powder.
Samara's Aid for Refugees	Sanitary towels, toothbrush, toothpaste, roll on deodorant and hairbrushes. For more information on what to include in the dignity bags, please look online.

To find out more about each charity;
<http://avonstourpastoralarea.org/christchurch%20food%20bank.html>
<http://www.hopehts.com/>
<http://www.samarasaidappeal.org/dignity-bags/>

Phonics 'Stay and Play'

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend our Ducklings 'Stay and Play' session. We hope you found it useful and informative.

Parents' Evening

It was good to see the vast majority of our parents this week at parents evening. I hope you found the discussions useful. If you were not able to attend these please can you make a separate appointment to see your child's teacher. It is so important that we work in partnership and it means so much to your child.

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.

Attendance

This time last year the attendance for September was 96.7%. The percentage attendance figure this September is slightly higher at 96.93%. Often there is correlation between low school attendance and poor academic performance. All children are closely monitored on this and I write to all parents whose child's attendance drops below 90% to highlight our concern and request a meeting should attendance not improve as 90% attendance is equivalent to missing half a day each week.

After School Clubs

Attached is a list of after school clubs which are held at the school. This list is also available on the website.

Headteacher's Report

As you will see from the attached Headteacher's report all the wonderful work the PTA has done. It will be a shame if all of this stopped. Please support our AGM on Tuesday October 10th.

Sports Premium

As you know we will be in our fifth year of receiving money for sports and P.E. development. We will be continuing to work with Rachel Cocking from Christchurch Tennis Facility. She will be coaching teachers with their PE lessons and pupils in their learning. Twice a week Rachel's coaches run our active lunchtimes. We are also working with Dan Moody from The Grange School and with the other

Christchurch schools on training, leagues and events for our children to take part in. Let's hope we continue to bring home a few trophies!

Sports Update

Last week ten Year 5 children went to the Dorset Leadership Academy at The Grange School to be trained as Bronze Ambassadors. These are St Joseph's Sports Leaders who help promote sport and healthy living throughout the school. Well done to Alex, Hughie, Freddie, Oscar, Leo, Mariella, Anna, Ella, Amelia and Addie– they had a fantastic day and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Football Team St Joseph's v Burton our first match of the season. It was an even match in the first half but St Joseph's played some fantastic football in the second half and eventually won 6-2.

Save a life – give blood

On Thursday 19th October the blood donation venue will be Church of the Latter Day Saints, 188 River Way, Christchurch between 12.30-3.30pm & 4.20-7pm.

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

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.

Year 2 Trip to Marwell Zoo

On Tuesday 3rd October, Year 2 had their school trip to Marwell Zoo. The weather was amazing and we had a wonderful day. We saw lots of animals including the meerkats, the red lemurs, the gazelles and the zebras. We also saw the Humboldt penguins and everybody's favourite, the giraffes. We visited the Tropical Centre where we saw all the insects and animals from the rainforest. Our favourite was the colourful, poisonous frogs and the hardworking ants. The highlight of the day, however, was when we visited the Education centre. We learnt about a number of animals and their natural habitat. We also had the opportunity to touch a stick insect. A big thank you to all of the helpers and staff for making it such an enjoyable day.

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.

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.

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. 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.

School Closure - Inset Days

Please note Tuesday 2nd January 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

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!
Thursday 7 th December 4-5pm KS1 Disco 5.15-6.45pm KS2 Disco	PTA Christmas Disco
Wednesday 13 th December, 1.30pm	Christmas Play (Year R- 4)
Thursday 14 th December 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	
Tuesday 2 nd January	Inset Day - school closed to children
Wednesday 3 rd January	Children return to school

Annual Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Remember, this year's shoebox appeal closes Friday 20th October. 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. We are always amazed at the generosity of our families in the appeal over the past years..

First Holy Communion

Dates are as follows:

Mass Sunday 8th October 9am

Parents evening Tuesday 17th October 7.30pm

Session 2 Saturday 4th November 9-11am

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

Louise Buxton