



School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 20th October 2017

Dorset Road
Christchurch BH23 3DA

Number 4

Dear Parents

Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who donated to our three harvest charities this year - as always you were very generous and I've been asked to pass their thanks on to you.

RE Enrichment Week

Through last week the children thought about service, linked to our mission statement, "We are all God's children and will live, love, work and serve as Jesus taught us."

The children considered how we can serve others in 21st century Britain. This could be through charity and voluntary work so we had representatives from the Christchurch Foodbank, Hope charity for the homeless and a volunteer from the Mudeford RNLI. We also welcomed CAFOD back in to lead workshops 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. Finally we welcome in a number of our parents to talk to the children about how they serve others through their job. Children heard about being an air traffic controller, aircraft cabin crew, a chief engineer, a design manager/builder, a school chaplain, a drama teacher, a nurse, a caretaker and working in childcare. Hopefully some seeds were planted in their minds!

Thanks again to everyone for their generosity and to Miss Thomas for overseeing the organisation of the week.

Life Education Bus

Harold the Giraffe returned this year with the Life Education Bus. The children learnt about aspects of personal and health education - such an important part of their learning.

Ducklings Welcome Liturgy

Thank you to Father John and all the parents who were able to join us for our welcoming liturgy. You are all officially part of the St Joseph's family now!

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have a concern about a family you know, for example someone in your neighbourhood, you can phone the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01202 228866. All the school's safeguarding related policies and procedures can be found in the safeguarding section on our website, or a copy can be obtained from the school office.

Poppies for sale

As always on our return from Half Term we will be selling poppies to aid the work of the Royal British Legion. Poppies really should be a £1, while we also have friendship bracelets, slap rulers and LED torch all again for £1. Wrist bands and reflectors are 50p. These will also be on sale but each year they go very quickly. Year 6 will go around each class during the school day - please can children bring in correct change. As always we will be holding a small remembrance service with the children where we remember those who have died for their country and pray for peace.

Changes to your child's end of day collection

Something that links to safeguarding and that we like to remind you about at this stage of the school year is that we need you to let us know by 2.45pm if there are any changes to the usual end of day collection for your child. It is very embarrassing having to tell a parent or family member that we don't have permission to release your child. A verbal message on the door in the morning will suffice, or call the office. Many thanks for your support with this.

Smoking

We would like to remind you that the entire school site is a **No Smoking zone**. Please note that this rule also applies to E-Vapours, Vapes and E-Cigarettes as well. It would also be appreciated if no-one smoked around the school gates as it is not nice for a child to have to walk through clouds of smoke.

Buxton Best Break

Each class teacher has chosen two children, who show good behaviour and do as they are asked 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	Luca	Lia
Year 1	Alex	Eddie
Year 2	Faith-Marie	Josie
Year 3	Amelia	Max
Year 4	Chester	Jadon
Year 5	Jasmine	Alex
Year 6	Emily	Eddie

House Points

Congratulations to St Matthew's house who won last half term's house point competition with a whopping 728 points!

1st - St. Matthew's – 728

2nd - St. Luke's - 688

3rd - St. Mark's - 651

4th - St. John's - 621

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

When visiting another school recently I saw some interesting facts on a poster. If at the end of the year your attendance is the following percentage then it details the amount of learning lost.

%	Days/ weeks missed	Lessons missed
100%	0 days	0 lessons
99%	1 day	5 lessons
97%	1 week	25 lessons
96%	1.5 weeks	35 lessons
93%	2.5 weeks	50 lessons
90%	3.5 weeks	90 lessons

Hence I write to anyone with attendance below 90% and follow up with a meeting if things don't improve. If our children are going to maximise their potential they need to be in school learning.

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.

Consultation on admission arrangement for 2019-2020 – 23rd October- 4th December 2017

The Governors of St. Joseph's School are consulting on admission arrangements for the academic year 2019-2020. The consultation will run for six weeks from 23rd October 2017. The Draft Policy can be accessed on our website at <http://www.stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk> or is available by email from the school office – admin@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk. Comments on the arrangements should be submitted to the school by the closing date of 4th December 2017.

Sports Update

Girls' Football

On 10th October the girls' football team played away at Mudeford Juniors. It was a fantastic team effort against tough opposition – St Joseph's won 4-0. Well done.

Wednesday 18th October was the girls' football tournament with five schools competing. St Joseph's played well and had a great time but sadly didn't win the tournament.

St Joseph's Admissions 2018

Application websites 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

School Uniform

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.

PTA Events

Our AGM was held last week. Thank you to everyone who came to support the PTA. We discussed the School Disco which will be held on Thursday 7th December. We are looking for volunteers to help at both the KS1 and KS2 discos so please let the school office know if you can offer a helping hand. We have organised Father Christmas to visit the school on Christmas Party Day, Friday 15th December, and surprise the children with a little gift each to take home. We are always looking for more helping hands on the PTA so we welcome any offers of help for our events. The little extras from the PTA make all the difference to the children.

Our next PTA meeting is Tuesday 7th November.

Dates for 2017- 18

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
Friday 8 th December	Chartwells Festive Lunch
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	
Tuesday 2 nd January	Inset Day - school closed to children
Wednesday 3 rd January	Children return to school

School photographer

Family and individual photos were taken in school today. The school office will keep you informed official dates for ordering.

Annual Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Remember this year's shoebox appeal officially closes today, Friday 20th October. However, for those who may still have some more gifts to buy over the half term, or perhaps the children have nearly new toys that can be passed on, it is not too late. Collection is Wednesday 1st November. Thank you to all those who have participated this year. Your generosity is a real gift of love.

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.

Parish Bazaar – Saturday 18th November 11-2pm

The Immaculate Conception & St Joseph's Church, Purewell are holding their Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 18th November 11am-2pm. Come along for the tombola, craft stalls, face painting, cakes, refreshments and the Grand Christmas draw. Our own Mini-Vinnies will be running a stall to help with the fundraising. Come along and support them and our parish.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

First Holy Communion

Dates are as follows:

Session 2 - Saturday 4th November 9-11am

Invitation to Mass - Sunday 5th November 9am

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*

Wishing all of you a lovely half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 30th October.

Louise Buxton