



School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 10th November 2017

Dorset Road
Christchurch BH23 3DA

Number 5

Dear Parents

Prayers, Saints and Feasts

The children have started their RE unit of 'Prayers, Saints and Feasts'. Within this unit, our youngest children will be learning about different times that we pray and why it is important. They will also be thinking about what a saint is and finding out about different saints. Our older children will be thinking about why Jesus prayed and what we can learn from him. They will also be looking at different saints, thinking about how the effect of their lives has on our behaviour. Meanwhile, Years 5 and 6 will be thinking about why people choose to go on pilgrimages and how influential the different saints are on us today.

'Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God. Be merciful to me and hear my prayer'.
Psalm 4:1

Annual Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated a shoebox to our annual Christmas appeal. We passed 41 boxes to the charity. I am sure your kindness will be much appreciated.

Anti-Bullying Week

Today we welcomed a Police Community Support Officer who came in to speak with our Years 3-6 children about bullying, the impact it can have on individuals and what to do if you feel you are being bullied. Here are some quotes from Year 5 & 6 children: "We learnt about different types of bullying so we know how to recognise it." Erin. "We learnt that we should tell a teacher if we see bullying and we shouldn't get involved." Anna. "Everyone is as special as everyone else and deserves the right to be respected." Daniel. "Everyone has the right to feel safe." Lucy.

We organised these workshops as next week is national Anti-Bullying Week- where, following a special assembly, the children will complete work in class on how to be a good friend and what to do if they feel unhappy or bullied. Our Behaviour Policy is on our website - and in there, the

procedures we follow if someone feels they are being bullied are listed.

You First - support for domestic abuse

Bullying doesn't just happen between children. Domestic abuse, which is a factor in nearly half of all social work assessments, (DfE statistical release 2015), is more common than many people realise. I have attached a leaflet of an organisation that is recommended by Dorset County Council if you or someone you know needs support. I also know people who have used "You First" and found it provided the support they needed. Please remember you can also use my office telephone rather than yours should you need total privacy for protection in making the call.

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.

School photographer

The deadline for return of orders for the school photographs is **Friday 17th November** at the latest. Any late orders will need to be sent directly to Cardwell & Simons and will incur an additional fee of £5 per order so please ensure that they are returned to the school office before this date.

Christmas Play

As Christmas approaches, children from Reception up to Year 4 will be starting to learn their words and songs for this year's Nativity play "Lights, Camel, Action - A Strictly Nativity Play". Years 5 and 6 will be leading a separate Advent Service to be held at St. Joseph's Church. You will shortly be receiving a letter regarding the

Nativity play tickets. There will be three Nativity performances, two afternoon and one evening, and initially we will be allocating two tickets to each family. Please note that the Ducklings children will only be starring in the two afternoon performances and not the evening. This is due to the fact that, in the past, many of the young reception children have found doing all the performances too tiring.

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 you can contact Mrs Holmes in the school office.

Sports Update

Outdoor Activities Day

Monday 6th November was our Outdoor Activities Day and six children from Years 2, 3 and 4 went to Moors Valley with six other schools. They experienced an Autumn walk, play trail activities and learnt orienteering. They had a wonderful day, the sun was shining and they all enjoyed themselves.

Football Tournament

On 7th November we took part in a Football Tournament at Littledown. On a very wet Tuesday afternoon we participated in the Christchurch football tournament. We played five matches over the course of an hour and we won 4 and drew 1 which meant we won the tournament. Well done to Ollie, Riley, Charlie R, Charlie S, Jayden, Freddie and Hughie. We are now through to the County Finals.

Indoor Athletics

On 8th November we entered the Indoor Athletics at The Grange against two other schools. This is a very noisy and energetic event well supported by parents and we are proud to say we won. We are now through to the play-offs to be held in February next year. Well done team!

Netball

9th November – Netball Match at Mudeford Juniors. The girls played a great game against a very strong team and came away triumphant with a 3-1 victory. Congratulations to the girls and thank you to Rachel for her hard work.

Christmas Dinner & Party Day

The Chartwells Festive Christmas lunch will be on Friday 8th December. A special Christmas menu is available including roast turkey with all the trimmings and an alternative vegetarian option. Please make sure you order well in advance via the online booking system.

On Friday 15th December we will be hosting our own St Joseph's Christmas Party Day. There will be no hot meals that day – all the children should bring in a packed lunch in a decorated festive lunchbox. If you prefer you may order an Away Day Packed Lunch – please contact Chartwells directly to organise this.

Packed Lunches

A reminder from our lunchtime team:-

*Children in our school receive some wonderful packed lunches and we know a lot of thought has to go into balancing these in line with home food budgets! Please consider a nutritionally balanced set of items such as a sandwich, yoghurt, fruit and plain biscuit or piece of cake. We respectfully request that chocolate items (biscuits not bars) are used as treats and not regular items in line with current healthy eating guidelines. Crisps again are recommended as treats and sweets are not to be included. Drinks should ideally be water or juice. If possible can fruit be ready peeled or easily accessible for younger children as well as preference for non-tube type fromage frais which usually require scissors for opening! Thank you for trying to fit in with these requests and remembering we are a **nut free** school. They really can make a big difference to the smooth running of lunches.*

Contact Details – please keep us updated!

If you change address or your contact telephone numbers, please let the staff in the school office know as soon as possible. There have been a number of instances recently where there have been delays in contacting parents when a child has needed to go home unwell. We operate a mobile phone texting service for information, for instance when clubs are cancelled or the school is shut, so it is very important that all mobile numbers are up to date. We use the mobile phone numbers which are currently held on our pupil database. If you wish to advise the school of any changes then either pop in to the office or email on admin@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk

Winter warmth!

Please ensure your child comes to school with a warm and / or waterproof coat, marked with their name – playtimes outside continue all year. If hats and gloves are also required please ensure they too are named as we would rather not add a

mountain of hats and gloves to our lost property collection!

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.

Dates for 2017- 18

Saturday 18 th November 11- 2pm	Church Bazaar
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' Christmas 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
Monday 12th – Friday 16th February Half Term Holiday	
Week beginning Monday 14 th May	Year 6 SATs (tests)
16 th – 18 th May	Year 5 Leeson House residential visit
Week beginning 21 st May	Year 6 Avon Tyrell residential visit
Wednesday 25 th July	Inset Day - school closed to children

SATs Dates

Year 6 SATs (tests) are timetabled for the week beginning Monday 14th May. Meanwhile Year 2 will be completing their assessment work throughout May so I ask that no holidays or time off are requested during this period - or immediately before.

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.

PTA Events

Thank you to everyone who came to our PTA meeting on Tuesday. Thank you for supporting our School Christmas Card Project, we have sent off your orders. Items will be delivered in the first week of December and we hope you enjoy seeing your child's artwork professionally printed. We discussed the School Disco which will be held on Thursday 7th December. Thank you to all those volunteers who have offered to help run the event. We have organised Father Christmas to visit the school on Christmas Party Day, December 15th, and surprise the children with a little gift each. Our next PTA meeting is Tuesday 28th November.

Parish Bazaar – Saturday 18th November

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. Come along and support them and our parish. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Coffee Morning

You are invited to a coffee morning at Scout HQ, Mallory Close, Somerford on Saturday 11th November 10am-1pm in aid of the Somerford Scouts' trip to Denmark. There will be raffle, refreshments and stalls selling jewellery, Avon, aprons, oven gloves, bags, purses and plants.

Messy Church – Thursday 16th November

You are welcome to attend Messy Church at High Cross, Amethyst Road, Somerford on Thursday 16th November from 3.15pm. There will be an hour of craft work, a short assembly in church then a tea of pasta with bolognese or tomato sauce, cake and custard to finish. Children up to 8 or 9 years are welcome with a parent or other carer. All for just £1.00 per child.

First Holy Communion

Dates are as follows:

Parents' evening - Thursday 28th November 7.30pm

Session 3 - Saturday 9th December 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*

Louise Buxton