



# School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dorset Road  
Christchurch BH23 3DA

Number 5

Dear Parents

As you will be aware from your recent letter from Mrs Hincks, our Chair of Governors, I am helping another Catholic school at present. While it is a privilege being asked to do so I know I will also miss St Joseph's. Please remember me along with Mr Curran, the leadership team (Mrs Lithgow and Miss Thomas) and both schools in your prayers. I have every confidence Mr Curran will lead the school successfully.

## 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

## Curriculum Enrichment Week - '100 years on'

This week, we have been focusing on remembrance as a school, thinking about 100 years on from the end of World War 1. Every child in school has painted a pebble, which during a class worship, was placed to make a big poppy by the cross of life. Each class has completed their own remembrance art, including poppy collages and stained glass windows of poppies. During the week, every class either learnt or wrote their own war poem which were read out during our remembrance service at 11am today.

## Remembrance Sunday

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the Poppy Appeal this year. We held a service

this morning in the school where we remembered all those who have died so we can live in the democracy we do today, and just as importantly, we prayed for peace within our own homes, school and wider peace in the world.

## Mass for All Saints

I would like to thank Father John Chadwick, our new priest, for celebrating Mass for us on the feast of All Saints. We hope he is settling into life in Christchurch.

## 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 "The Inn-spectors!". Years 5 and 6 will be leading a separate Advent Service to be held at St. Joseph's Church. You will soon 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.

## Christmas Dinner & Party Day

The Chartwells Festive Christmas lunch will be on Thursday 13th 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 have already ordered a hot meal this will be cancelled by Chartwells and any paid meals will be refunded to your account.

## Sports Update

### Moors Valley Outdoor Activity Day

On Monday we took 10 children from Years 2, 3 & 4 on an Outdoor Activity Day to Moors Valley. The children learned orienteering and how to

read a map, went on the play trail through the forest and took part in a nature walk. The weather was fantastic and the children had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

### Football Tournament

We took two teams to the Christchurch Football Tournament held at Littledown Centre. Our A team played against 6 other schools and we finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall. Our B team played in the development tournament against 5 other schools and finished 2<sup>nd</sup>. Well done to all who took part.

### Children in Need

St Joseph's will be joining in with the nation and supporting Children in Need on Friday 16th November. We appreciate that the school family is already being very generous with donations to our Christmas Fayre so we are not asking for a donation. Instead, to get into the spirit of Children in Need, we are asking children to come into school on this day with anything yellow. This will still be a uniform day but you can enhance your uniform with an additional yellow item of clothing but we don't want you to go to any extra expense. We hope the children will enjoy getting into the spirit of Children in Need.

### 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. 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.*

### Congratulations Lunchtime Team

I would like to congratulate our lunchtime team on achieving a five star food hygiene rating last week following an inspection from the Food Standards Agency. Our lunchtime team work hard to make lunchtimes a happy time for our children.

### 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!

### Routes into Teaching

Are you interested in becoming a primary school teacher? Do you already have a degree? On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, St Walburga's are hosting an Open morning run by the Primary Catholic Partnership and the Catholic Teaching Schools Alliance. It will be an opportunity to hear about different routes into teaching, meet the trainers and meet some students who are currently on the PGCE course and the Schools Direct course. You will also meet some of our staff who trained through these routes! The Open Day will take place between 9.30 and 11.30am. If you would like to go along, please contact the school office on 01202 528811 to let them know.

### PTA Events

The PTA is busy planning the Christmas Fayre which will be held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November. If you would like to offer a helping hand setting up on the day please let the school office know.

We are also planning the School Disco which will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

### School photographer

Cardwell & Simons will be collecting all photograph orders on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Please can you return your order forms by this date. Any late orders may incur an additional fee.

### 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](mailto:admin@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk)

### World Book Day Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

As many of you know we celebrate alternate World Book Days by inviting the children to come dressed as their favourite book character. I want to give you advance notice that this will be Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 - and so hopefully alleviate the stress of you having to find something last minute!!!!

### Annual Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Remember, this year's shoebox appeal closes Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

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. Please include a donation of £3.00 with each box to aid operational costs. We have always been amazed at the generosity of our families in the appeal over the past years.

### 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](http://www.coolmilk.com) for details of costs and how to register.

### SATs Dates

Year 6 SATs (tests) are timetabled for the week beginning Monday 13<sup>th</sup> 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

The next inset will be Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February immediately following February half term.

Please note the final inset days will be Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July and so the last day of the school year will be Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Please can all family holidays be booked accordingly.

### Parish Winter Fayre – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 11-2pm

The Immaculate Conception & St Joseph's Church, Purewell are holding their Christmas

Bazaar on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 11am-2pm. Come along for the tombola, craft stalls, face painting, cakes, refreshments and the Grand Christmas draw. Come along and support them and our parish.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

### Dates for 2018-19

Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> October (inclusive) Autumn Half-Term	
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> November 1am – 2pm	Parish Winter Fayre at church
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Final date for Christmas Shoe Box Appeal returns
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 5-7.30pm	PTA Family Christmas Fayre
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA Christmas Disco KS1 4-5pm KS2 5.15-6.45pm
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December, 7pm	School Advent Service at Church – led by Years 5 and 6- all welcome
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December, 2pm	Ducklings to Year 4 Christmas Play
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December, 2pm and 6.30pm	Ducklings to Year 4 Christmas Play
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas Party Day Mufti
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> December- Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> January (inclusive) Christmas Holiday	
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Inset Day 2 – school closed to all pupils
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Final Primary Admission Application date
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Inset Day 3 – school closed to all pupils
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day- children invited to come as favourite book character
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Final day of school year for children
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2019	Inset Day 4 – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2019	Inset Day 5 – school closed to pupils

### 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](http://www.avonstourpastoralarea.org)

Best wishes

**Louise Buxton**