



# School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dorset Road  
Christchurch BH23 3DA

Number 6

Dear Parents

## Advent

Next Sunday, Advent begins - a time of waiting, preparation and expectation. Accompanying this newsletter is an Advent prayer calendar that you may wish to use as a family in the weeks before Christmas. Once again we will also be having our "Travelling Nativity" which the children can take home to their families each night to play and pray with. I wrote to each family last week inviting you to join us with this; if you would like to, please let the office know by returning the reply slip.

The children will be beginning the Advent unit of work in their "God Matters" RE learning. They will be hearing that this is a special time when we get ready for the birth of Jesus, looking at the response of Mary and Joseph to the news they received and learn about the symbolism of Advent. Children in Lower KS2 will be thinking about Jesus' ancestors and how they help us to understand God's plan. Finally, our oldest children will think about how the parables help us to understand the second coming of Jesus.

*"The Lord himself will give you a sign: a young woman who is with child will have a son and name him Immanuel" Isaiah 7:14*

## Advent Liturgies

Parents are invited to join our Infants Liturgy on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 9.15am and our Juniors (Year 3-6) Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 9.15am for a short Advent liturgy.

Meanwhile Years 5 and 6 will be leading our Advent service at St Joseph's Church, Purewell, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm. Once again everyone is invited- it is a lovely service (about 45 minutes) that always helps me prepare for Christmas. There will be carols, readings and dance. It is a special event.

## Mini-Vinnies Stall at the Parish Bazaar

Thank you to the Mini-Vinnies who came and helped Mr Curran and I with a "Guess the Name of the teddy" stall at the parish fayre.

## The Creepy Crawly Show

Thank you PTA for funding "The Creepy Crawly Show" that visited us this morning. As part of their topic and science learning, some of our children got to meet snakes, a tarantula, cockroaches, scorpions and more! For the classes that took part this show ties in with these year groups' curriculum. I would also like to thank Mrs Whyte, one of our Year 4 team, for wanting the children to get excited about their learning, ensuring animal welfare was central in this venture and for convincing me to have a snake in the school. (For once my office door was firmly closed!!)

## Consultation on admission arrangement for 2019-2020 – 23<sup>rd</sup> October- 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:admin@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk). Comments on the arrangements should be submitted to the school by the closing date of 4th December 2017.

## School photographs

Your school photo orders have been collected. Once we receive the prints we will send them home with your child. If you would still like to order any photographs please send directly to Cardwell & Simons however this will incur an additional fee of £5 per order.

## 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 – It's Strictly the Nativity". Years 5 and 6 will be leading a separate Advent Service to be held at St. Joseph's Church. 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.

### Attendance Update

The overall attendance figure so far this school year is **96.31%**. The individual class figures are:-

Ducklings	96.19%
Year 1	96.44%
Year 2	97.30%
Year 3	95.21%
Year 4	97.41%
Year 5	96.09%
Year 6	95.55%

### Sports Update

#### Dare to Believe

Last Friday we took 16 children to the Dare to Believe Festival at Testwood School in Southampton. This was an event sponsored by Allianz to promote Paralympic sports and encourage children to believe in themselves to achieve anything. They participated in a variety of sports including wheelchair volleyball and Boccia.

#### Multi-Sports

On 21<sup>st</sup> November we took 9 children from Years 3 and 4 to The Grange for a Multi Sports Festival. There were 12 schools attending from both Christchurch and Bournemouth areas. They participated in a variety of different sports and had a wonderful time.

#### Dance Festival

We also took 4 girls from Years 3 and 4 to the Dance Festival at Christchurch Junior School. They were taught The Charleston, The Twist and contemporary dance.

### Christmas Dinner & Party Day

The Chartwells Festive Christmas lunch will be on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</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. There will be no school uniform that day so children can come dressed in suitable party clothes. If you prefer you may order an Away Day Packed Lunch – please contact Chartwells directly to organise this.

### 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](http://www.stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk) for your convenience.

Please can I remind all parents that school footwear is to be proper shoes and not trainers or boots. Shoes are to be brown, black or a dark blue. Boots are not comfortable all day for the children as classrooms can get quite warm.

Traditionally watches have not been allowed until Year 3. I am very happy to override this policy if our younger children wish to wear analogue (watches with hands) in the hope that it will help them tell the time. However, I do need to remind all parents that it is the child's responsibility to look after their watch and I don't expect any complaints should they be lost or broken. I will review this policy should it not remain calm on the 'watch front'.

### Dates for 2017- 18

Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November, 7pm	PTA meeting in the school hall. All welcome
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December, 7pm	Year 5 and 6 Advent Service, St Joseph's Church. All welcome!
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 9.15am	Infant Advent Liturgy All welcome!
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 9.15am	Junior Advent Liturgy All welcome!
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 4-5pm KS1 Disco 5.15-6.45pm KS2 Disco	PTA Christmas Disco
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Chartwells' Christmas lunch
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December, 1.30pm	Christmas Play (Year R- 4)
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec., 1.30pm and 6.30pm	Christmas Play (Year R- 4)
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party Day Non-uniform day
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January (inclusive) Christmas Holiday</b>	
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Inset Day - school closed to children
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Children return to school
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February Half Term Holiday</b>	
Week beginning Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs (tests)
16 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 Leeson House residential visit
Week beginning 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 6 Avon Tyrell residential visit
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Inset Day - school closed to children

### **School Closure - Inset Days**

Please note Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January is a training day and so the school is closed to children.

Please note the final inset will be Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018. This means that the final day of the school year will be Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018. I am letting you know this early so you can book your holidays accordingly.

### **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 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/](http://www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/) or you can contact Mrs Holmes in the school office.

### **PTA Events**

As mentioned in the last newsletter the few people who regularly support the PTA are working hard to ensure our children still have all the fun at Christmas, along with a summer fayre. Please consider popping along to our next PTA meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November in the school hall. **Please note that this is a change of date.** The meetings are very informal with lots of chat and laughter.

### **First Holy Communion**

Dates are as follows:

Parents' evening - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November

7.30pm

Session 3 - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.avonstourpastoralarea.org)*

### **CAFOD World Gifts**

You will probably be thinking about Christmas shopping now we have entered November. If you are lacking inspiration for that person who has everything, I would like to remind you of Cafod's World Gifts. Your donation will allow a family to have the tools, seeds and training to grow their own crops, or to help provide a haven for someone seeking refuge from slave-like conditions. In exchange, a certificate is provided to say that the gift will make a lasting difference to someone in need. They can be bought from [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)

### **Thank you volunteer helpers**

We would like to thank all our volunteer helpers for their commitment and support. You are really making a difference!

Wishing everyone a great weekend and good luck to anyone braving the shops Christmas gift buying!

**Louise Buxton**