



School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 23rd November 2018

Dorset Road
Christchurch BH23 3DA

Number 6

Dear Parents

Advent

Next Sunday (2nd December), 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. Miss Thomas 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' R.E. learning from Monday for the next three weeks. 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 older 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

As we prepare ourselves for Christmas and the coming of Christ, so we invite you to our Advent services.

Parents are invited to join our Junior Liturgy (Years 3-6) on Tuesday 4th December, 2.30pm and our Infant Liturgy on Thursday 6th December, 2.30pm.

Meanwhile, Years 5 and 6 will be leading our Advent service at St. Joseph's Church in Purewell on Wednesday 12th December at 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 very special event.

Mini-Vinnies

The Mini Vinnies have been busy with the run-up to Advent. During one meeting, they worked in groups to help write the Advent prayer calendar, which you will all receive today. Our older Mini Vinnies have been leading Rosary Club once a week, as well as starting to lead worships in their own class. The children also enjoyed preparing the Travelling Nativity bags ready to go home at the start of Advent. They have lots of other things planned for the rest of the term. We will keep you posted.

Fire Engine

Last week, following the fire safety sessions that our children enjoyed earlier in the term, we welcomed a visit from a big, red, shiny fire engine to the playground!! The children learnt about what was inside the engine, how health and safety was really important, the importance of teamwork and communication and how water was pumped to put out fires. The children even managed to safely climb up into the cabin.

A couple of our Year 5 pupils said: "It was good to see it from a science point of view, like how much pressure is in the hoses."

"It was really fun and a good experience. I liked seeing all the equipment that I didn't know they had."

A Year 2 pupil said: "I liked to see the ladders - they were so big!"

Children in Need

I would like to thank you all for your continued generosity. It was a joy to see everyone adding a little yellow to their school uniform to show they were thinking of all those children who need our thoughts and prayers - not just for one day but all year round. I'm pleased and proud to say that we raised **£102.85**.

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 are named, as we would rather not add a mountain of hats and gloves in our lost property!

Mufti Day (non- uniform) for Christmas Fayre (PTA) – Monday 26th November

A reminder that on Monday, 26th November, we are holding a Mufti Day in return for donations for our PTA Christmas Fayre. We are asking for the following donations by class:

Ducklings - Pocket money toys and chocolate coins;

Year 1 - Pocket money toys and chocolate coins;

Year 2 - Diaries, calendars and socks;

Year 3 - Mince pies (nut free) and gingerbread men, or alternatively a Christmas pudding;

Year 4 - Mulled wine;

Year 5 - Wine for adult tombola;

Year 6 - Wine for adult tombola.

We are asking all years for an approximate spend of £3 - £4 if possible. We are also asking all years for any unwanted gifts (brand new) which can be used for our 'Secret Santa Room'. We look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Fayre on Friday 30th November!

PTA Christmas Fayre – Friday 30th November

It's now 1 week to go until our Christmas Fayre! We're busy putting the finishing touches to our PTA Christmas Fayre. Our Secret Santa Room is just for children (no adults allowed!) This will be stocked with gifts that our children can buy and wrap (with the help of some of Santa's magical helpers) and then give to their loved ones as a surprise gift at Christmas. Secret Gifts will only cost £1 or £2 so should be affordable for all children who wish to enter Santa's secret workshop! Children will also be able to visit Santa in his winter wonderland **Grotto** and receive a gift on the night. (£2 suggested donation).

We'll have a great selection of gift stalls including Tropic Skincare, The Book People, Flamingo Paperie cards, designer perfume with Sorelle, hand knitted items from Crafty Wools, handmade bows and home décor with Emily Lockyer, wax melts with Aroma Amore and beeswax products with Hannah Louise Christopher, and locally made honey with beekeeper Johanna Mills.

Other stalls include tombolas, homemade cakes, hot chocolate cones, biscuit decorating, glitter tattoos with Sparkle Art Face Painting, Christmas garlands with Ericka Golding and great prizes to be won in our Christmas Raffle (a list of prizes to be announced soon!). Our children's choir will be singing festive songs and we even have a brass band playing Christmas carols. We'll also have real Nordmann Fir Christmas trees for sale in the playground.

All this, plus some delicious food and drink on the night including mince pies, mulled wine, hot dogs and delicious Papa John's pizza!

I would like to add my appreciation to the PTA for their planning, time, energy, enthusiasm and effort to make this an extremely successful event for all. Please support them and the school.

Christmas Play

As Christmas approaches, children from Reception up to Year 4 are 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 have received a letter this week 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.

Sports Update

Girls' Active – Stepping up for Change

On 9th November we took six Year 5 girls to the Girls' Active event which is a Youth Sports Trust (YST) initiative aimed at getting girls more active especially as they transition from primary to secondary school. The event was opened by Kate Gray who was a Paralympic athlete who was very inspirational. The girls had training to be sports active leaders through a series of workshops through the day and then presented a 5 minute advertisement to the adults detailing the advantages and benefits of keeping active. Well done to Scarlett, Chloe, Ellie, Nahla, Mya and Emma. They will now be implementing a girls' active programme in school in the coming months.

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 21st 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.

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.

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'.

Attendance Update

The overall attendance figure so far this school year is **96.61%**. The government expects attendance to be at least 96%. The individual class figures are:-

<i>Ducklings</i>	97.02%
<i>Year 1</i>	96.31%
<i>Year 2</i>	96.46%
<i>Year 3</i>	97.26%
<i>Year 4</i>	95.94%
<i>Year 5</i>	97.64%
<i>Year 6</i>	95.73%

PTA Events

The PTA is planning the School Disco which will be held on Thursday 6th 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 21st December and surprise the children with a little gift each.

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 will be in the next half term when we will review Christmas and talk about exciting events we have planned for next year.

Raise free funds for our PTA while you shop!

As the Christmas countdown begins, don't forget to help raise funds for our school whenever you shop online! Use easyfundraising to shop with over 3,300 big name retailers including Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, and Sainsbury's – and when you shop you'll raise a free donation for us every time. It's that easy and completely free too! We want to raise as much as possible so please sign up and help us at:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjosephcpsptachristch

Annual Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

I would like to thank you for your generous donations towards this appeal which is humbling with so much going on. We collected 57 shoeboxes which were presented to the FSCI (Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion) on Wednesday when the charity arrived to take these boxes to countries such as Bulgaria and Romania. Thank you again to everyone who brought in a shoebox – it will be appreciated by the children who receive them. You can find out more about the charity's work by visiting their website: www.fscinet.org.

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.

SATs Dates

Year 6 SATs (tests) are timetabled for the week beginning Monday 13th 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 25th February immediately following February half term.

Please note the final INSET days of the school year will be Monday 22nd July and Tuesday 23rd July meaning that the last day of the school year will be Friday 19th July 2019. Please can all family holidays be booked accordingly.

All term dates for this year and next academic year, 2019-20 are on our website to aid planning of family holidays.

Dates for 2018-19

Monday 26 th November	Non-uniform day for PTA Christmas Fayre
Friday 30 th November 5-7.30pm	PTA Family Christmas Fayre
Tuesday 4 th December, 2.30pm	Advent Service Years 3-6 All invited.
Thursday 6 th December, 2.30pm	Advent Service Years R-2 All invited.
Thursday 6 th December	PTA Christmas Disco KS1: 4-5pm KS2: 5.15-6.45pm
Wednesday 12 th December, 7pm	School Advent Service at Church – led by Years 5 and 6- all welcome
Thursday 13 th December	Chartwells' Christmas Lunch - for children
Wednesday 19 th December, 1.30pm	Ducklings through to Y4 Christmas Play
Thursday 20 th December, 1.30pm and 6.30pm	Ducklings through to Y4 (no Ducklings in evening) Christmas Play
Friday 21 st December	Christmas Party Day Mufti (non uniform day)
Monday 24th December- Friday 4th January (inclusive) Christmas Holiday	
Monday 7 th January	INSET Day 2 – school closed to all pupils
Friday 11 th January – 2pm	Mass in school hall to celebrate the New Year
Tuesday 15 th January	Final Primary Admission Application date
Thursday 17 th January – 6:30pm	Year 6 SATs Information Evening for Y6 Parents
Monday 18th February - Friday 22nd February (inclusive) Spring Half-term	
Monday 25 th February 2019	Inset Day 3 – school closed to all pupils
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day- children invited to come as favourite book character
Wednesday 26 th June	M&M Production of Wizard of Oz
Friday 19 th July	Final day of school year for children
Monday 22 nd July 2019	Inset Day 4 – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 23 rd July 2019	Inset Day 5 – school closed to pupils

CAFOD World Gifts

As we are nearing December and everyone is thinking about their Christmas shopping 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

Weekend Mass Times

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*

Welcoming Fr. John Chadwick

Fr. John has offered to visit school when he can on a more regular basis from next week onwards. He is keen to get to know the children and be a presence for all in the school family. He has said that when he is in school that he would really like to meet parents on the playground at the end of the day. I would ask that you please make Fr. John feel welcome, introduce yourself and chat to him. We are grateful for Fr John devoting so much time which we will all gain from.

Thank you volunteer helpers

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

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

Gerry Curran