



School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Dorset Road

Christchurch BH23 3DA

Friday 15th December 2017

Number 8

Dear Parents

Travelling Nativity

Thank you to all the families who took part in our *Travelling Nativity*. As always we have really enjoyed looking at your photos, drawings and reading your prayers. When we began this custom five years ago we had just two bags that I often forced children to take home - we now have four travelling sets (taken voluntarily!).

Christmas Play

Thank you to all the children who performed our Christmas play "*Lights, Camel, Action – It's Strictly the Nativity*", to the staff who helped them to prepare for it and to the parents who helped with costumes. We hope everyone who watched it enjoyed it - I certainly did!

Christmas Tree Thanks

Thank you to the Gillard family for your kindness and generosity - donating a Christmas tree for yet another year. We do love having a real tree in our hall with its Christmas tree skirt hand-sewn by Jen Leonard and Kate Aimson.

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	Frankie	Charlie
Year 1	Ralphie	Indi
Year 2	Nevaeh	Czarina
Year 3	Aidan	Brent
Year 4	Marvin	Florence
Year 5	Lyla	Lloyd
Year 6	Wiktor	Zoe

House Captains

The following Year 6 children are our new house captains; Alfie (St John's), Silvie (St Luke's), Erin (St Mark's) and Ciara (St Matthew's). These



children were chosen for displaying good leadership qualities.

Dates for 2017- 18

Friday 15 th December	Christmas Party Day Non-uniform 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
Friday 5 th January 2pm	Mass for the Epiphany All welcome!
Thursday 11 th January 6.30pm	Year 6 Parent meeting about SATs
Tuesday 16 th January 7pm	PTA meeting – everyone welcome
Tuesday 23 rd January 8.45am	School Nurse Drop-In Clinic
Wednesday 24 th January	Year 6 Parent meeting about SATs
Monday 12th – Friday 16th February Half Term Holiday	
Wednesday 7 th March	Inset Day - school closed to children
Tuesday 20 th March	Parents evening
Thursday 22 nd March	Parents evening
Friday 30th March – Friday 13th April (inclusive) Easter 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
Friday 8 th June	Summer Fayre
Wednesday 25 th July	Inset Day - school closed to children

School Closure - Inset Days

Please note Tuesday 2nd January and Wednesday 7th March are training days 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.

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 Friday class assemblies

Parents and family are invited to the following Friday assemblies.

Friday 12 th January, 2.30pm	Year 6
Friday 26 th January, 2.30pm	Year 5
Friday 9 th February, 2.40pm*	Year 4
Friday 23 rd February, 2.30pm	Year 3
Friday 2 nd March, 2.30pm	Year 2
Friday 16 th March, 2.30pm	Year 1
Friday 23 rd March, 2.30pm	Ducklings

*Please note provisional slightly earlier start to Year 4 assembly as a liturgy for the burning of palms may follow at 2.45pm.

Annual Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated a shoebox to our annual Christmas appeal, Operation Christmas Child organised by Samaritans Purse. We passed 41 boxes to the charity which were taken to children in Latvia.

Mass for the Epiphany

You are all invited to our Mass for The Epiphany on Friday 5th January, 2pm in the school hall. Thank you Father John for celebrating this special feast day with us.

Date for your Diary – Parents' Evening

Parents evening will be Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd March.

Date for your Diary – KS1 SATs Information

The Key Stage 1 SATS Information Session for Year 2 parents will be held on Wednesday 24th January at 4.30pm in the Year 2 classroom.

Date for your Diary – KS2 SATs Information

The Key Stage 2 SATS Information Session for Year 6 parents will be held on Thursday 11th January at 6.30pm in the Year 6 classroom.

Year 5 Fundraiser

We are very proud of our Year 5 children for initiating a class fundraiser in aid of refugees after learning about them in our RE Curriculum Week. The children created hand-sewn Christmas tree decorations (along with some generous parent helpers who came in to help sew!) and sold raffle tickets to raise money. We are delighted to say that Year 5 raised over £200 which will go to Samara's Aid.

Christmas singing at the Somerford ARC

On Wednesday this week 20 children from Year 5 and 6 performed some beautiful Christmas carols, also sung at their Advent Carol Service, to the elderly at their Christmas lunch at The Somerford ARC. The audience especially loved their version of 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' with some interesting actions and encouraged all those dining to join in! The children's singing was fantastic and they made both Mr Curran and Miss Thomas very proud. Councillor David Jones spoke to the children and thanked them for singing to the elderly. We hope this to be the first of many times we will work together with The ARC.

PTA Events

Christmas Party Day

Thank you to the PTA for organising the Christmas Discos and Party Day, which the children have really enjoyed. The staff would like to thank Mr Batsford and Red Cherry Catering for their delicious Christmas Lunch! Father Christmas visits us today - so the children must have all been good this year!!

Also, special thanks to the PTA for the play the Christmas crafts for each class and for organising the Christmas lunch. The PTA really does make a difference and without everyone involved it just wouldn't be the same.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 16th January at 7pm when we will be discussing future events such as a sponsored bounce and a quiz night. We finalised the date for the Summer Fayre which will be held on Friday 8th June 2018, so please put this date in your diary.

Ducklings – arrangements for next term

We think the Ducklings children have settled in very well this term and are now very independent in unpacking their own things in the morning and organising themselves. At the start of next term (beginning January 3rd) we would like the children to enter the school in the same way that the other children do - through the main door of the playground by the Year 3 classroom. The children will then be able to come through the hall and into the classroom themselves - they are very used to doing this as we do this as a class after every playtime and lunchtime. A member of the Ducklings staff will be available to guide the children through this for the first week and there is always a member of staff at this door if you would like to send a message into class in the morning about medicines or collection arrangements. Thank you for your support and if

you need any other information about this please contact Miss Fox at the end of the school day.

Toy donations for Ducklings

If you have any toys at home that your child no longer uses or has grown out of and are in good condition, we would love it if you could kindly donate it to our Ducklings class. We will be sending out a ParentMail with a list of toys we are looking for. Thank you in advance.

First Holy Communion

Dates are as follows:

Parents' session- Tuesday 9th January 7.30pm

Session 4- Saturday 13th January 9-11am

Everyone invited to Mass- Sunday 14th January 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*

Times for Christmas Masses are below.

We all wish you and your families a very happy and holy Christmas and good health for 2018. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Wednesday 3rd January.

Louise Buxton



CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

IV Sunday of Advent Saturday 23rd December

10.30am Christmas Mass at HMP Winchester
6.30pm Mass at St Joseph's

Sun 24th December (as per a normal Sunday)

9am Mass at St Joseph's & 11am Mass at Holy Redeemer

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December

2.30pm Children's Crib Service at St Joseph's
5pm First Mass of Christmas at St Joseph's
8pm Vigil Mass at Holy Redeemer
10pm Carols & Readings at St Joseph's followed by 10.30pm 'Midnight Mass'

Christmas Day Monday 25th December

9am Christmas Mass at St Joseph's
11am Christmas Mass at Holy Redeemer

Help us to put 'Christ' back into Christmas Day!