



# School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dorset Road  
Christchurch BH23 3DA

Number 9

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! I hope your Christmas was special - enjoying loved ones and being able to give thanks for the gift that is Jesus. May you and your family's 2017 be filled with good health and fulfilment.

In RE, the children are learning how God reveals Himself in scripture and in our everyday lives through the topic 'Revelation'. The youngest will learn this through some of the parables that Jesus told us, as well as learning about some of his miracles.

Lower KS2 will be thinking about how Jesus is revealed at Mass, as well as the importance of light as a symbolism of revelation.

Meanwhile, the oldest children will be thinking about the role of baptism in revealing God and learn about the importance of the Pope and Bishops and the role they play in revealing Jesus to us today.

'A voice from Heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am pleased."  
Matthew 3: 17

## Mass for the Epiphany

Thank you Father Tom for coming to celebrate Mass today, to the Mini-Vinnies for having prepared it and to all who are able to join us at 2pm this afternoon.

## Admissions to Reception 2017

The closing date for admissions to Reception September 2017 is Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Please note that this is also the date by which the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) must be returned to the school office. For more information please see our website.

## Spring Term Curriculum Letters

You will be receiving this term's class curriculum letter for your child over the next few days. This gives information about what your child is learning in all subjects and how you can support them with their learning. These letters will be also available on the school website.

## Uniform

A reminder that all children should be in their Winter uniform, which for KS2 boys consists of white shirt and the school tie. A number of KS2 boys are still wearing the polo shirts – please can you ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform. Ties are available to purchase from our uniform supplier Qdos, their contact details are below. We also have a small supply of ties available to buy from the office, at £2.50 for an elasticated or £3.00 for a standard.

Please note that boots *do not* form part of the school uniform for either boys or girls. Whilst we appreciate that bad weather may necessitate the need for boots to be worn on the way to school, can you please ensure that your child also has the correct footwear to change into when they arrive at school. Hair ribbons and bands should be blue or of another dark colour, with long hair tied up.

## School Uniform

For those of you who ordered uniform items at the beginning of term from QDOS most orders are ready to be collected from the School Office. Mrs Medcraft at QDOS can be reached on 01202 434233 or 07971 309826.

## Labelling Uniform and PE kit

A considerable amount of time seems to be spent looking for lost clothing - not to mention the cost for our families in buying replacements. I have asked all class teachers to check regularly that uniform and PE kits are named. Where clothing is not named a reminder letter will be sent home. On a similar note, while children need to be properly dressed for playtimes this term, we sometimes have a trail throughout the school of odd gloves, hats etc. It really helps if all property is named, or even initialled, to help us reunite the item with its owner. Our lost property is periodically disposed of through recycling so if you do not want to permanently lose any of your child's uniform items then please ensure that they are all clearly named. Thank you.

## Mini-Vinnies

Miss Thomas writes;

The Mini- Vinnies have continued to work hard to help those in the school and wider community.

Before Christmas, they helped to make and deliver over 50 Christmas cards to people in our local area. Also, they decided on new rules for lunchtime and had many ideas as to how the behaviour in the hall at lunchtime could be even better. The children also helped prepare the Mass today, as well as reading and serving for us. Thank you Mini-Vinnies.

### Adverse Weather Procedure

As our weather turns colder, here is a reminder of emergency school closure procedure: If we have to close the school due to poor weather I will inform **Heart FM 102.3**, (although it can take some time for this information to be broadcast), emailing and texting parents on **ParentMail** and via Dorset County Council's **Dorsetforyou** website where the information will be displayed under 'Winter Weather' - closed services - closed schools. The decision to close the school is never an easy one to make but I always try to make the decision as early in the day as is possible. Let's hope we do not need to use this procedure this winter. If you do not currently receive Parentmail emails and would like to please ask for a form from the office.

### Parent Contact Details

Did you receive a new phone this Christmas? Please inform the school if you have a new number. Changing it on the ParentMail website does not update it on the school system so please let us know. We also need new numbers for any emergency contacts and/or change of address. On that note, we will be sending out a Data Collection Sheet which shows the current information that we have on file for your child in respect of addresses, contact numbers, doctors surgeries and medical conditions. If any of the information is incorrect and needs updating please can you alter the form where necessary and return it to the School Office so we can amend our records and ensure that all our information is up to date.

### Sports Update

#### House Tag Rugby

Years 5 & 6 have started their House Tag Rugby matches and will continue competing into next week.

#### Skateboarding

Years 2 and 3 will be enjoying a day's skateboarding next week over the days of Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January where they will be learning basic skills and the importance of wearing padding and head protection.

### Multi-Sports

Teams from Years 1 and 2 will be attending a Multi-Sports event at Highcliffe School on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January, where they will be trying a variety of games and sports.

### Multi-Skills

Teams from Years 1 and 2 will also be attending a Multi-Skills event at The Grange on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

### Badminton Festival

A team from Year 3 will be attending a Badminton Festival at Twynham School on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January where they will be learning badminton skills through lots of different activities.

### Dates for 2017

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January, 7pm   | KS2 SATs parents information evening (Year 6)                                  |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> January   | Admissions to Reception 2017 closing date                                      |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2pm  | PTA meeting in the Staff Room – toddlers welcome                               |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 7pm  | PTA meeting in hall - All welcome  |
| Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> January   | Inset Day – school closed to pupils  |
| Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February   | PTA Race Night – All welcome   |
| <b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February (inclusive)<br/>Half Term Holiday</b> |  |
| Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February, 4.30pm   | KS1 SATs parents information evening (Year 2)                                  |
| Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2.15pm  | Keeping Your Child Safe Online Workshop  |
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March  | World Book day - children come as their favourite book character (fancy dress) |
| Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March  | Parents' evening   |
| Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March  | Parents' evening   |
| <b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April (inclusive)<br/>Easter Holiday</b>       |  |

### Date for your Diary – KS2 SATs Information

The Key Stage 2 SATS Information Session for Year 6 parents will be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm in the Year 6 classroom.

### Date for your Diary – KS1 SATs Information

The Key Stage 1 SATS Information Session for Year 2 parents will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 4.30pm in the Year 2 classroom.

### **Date for your Diary- Parents' Evening**

Parents evening will be Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Dates for Friday class assemblies**

Families are invited to the following Friday assemblies.

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January, 2.30pm  | Year 6    |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January, 2.30pm  | Year 5    |
| Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February, 2.30pm | Year 4    |
| Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March, 2.30pm     | Year 3    |
| Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March, 2.30pm    | Year 2    |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March, 2.30pm    | Year 1    |
| Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2.30pm    | Ducklings |

### **St Joseph's First Holy Communion dates**

Parents' evening - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30pm

You are invited to Mass - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January, 9am

Session 4 - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 3.45pm

The next parent and toddler Mass at St. Joseph's Church is Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am.

### **PTA Events**

Our next afternoon meeting is Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm and evening meeting is Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00pm.

The PTA is delighted to be hosting another Race Night, which is always very well attended and great fun. The event will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017. More details to follow.

### **House Points**

Congratulations to St Matthew's house who have started the year with the most house points. The totals are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - St. Matthew - 1458
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - St. John - 1394
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - St. Luke - 1367
- 4<sup>th</sup> - St. Mark - 1260

### **Keeping Your Child Safe Online**

Here is advanced notice of our annual workshop we hold for parents with regards to helping to keep our children safe online. Please put Wednesday 1st March at 2.15pm in your diary as the session will be delivered by the Schools Safety and Community Team and everyone is invited to attend. The session will finish at 3.10pm in time for end of school

collections. Feedback from parents is always very positive.

*Our children can be so vulnerable when on-line. One final question...have you ever googled your child's name? Try it, you might be surprised with what you find.*

*Best wishes to you and your family for 2017*

**Louise Buxton**