



School Newsletter

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Friday 5th January 2018

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 2018 be filled with good health and fulfilment.

During the holidays Mrs Hills, our Year One teacher, had a baby boy, Rex Thomas. I am sure you all join me in sending love to her and the family.

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 John for coming to celebrate Mass today, to the Mini-Vinnies for having prepared it and to all who joined us at 2pm this afternoon.

Admissions to Reception 2018

The closing date for admissions to Reception September 2018 is Monday 15th January. The national offer date is 16th April 2018. Also make sure that you carefully read the instructions beforehand. Paper application forms are available from your LA on request. **Please note that this is also the date by which the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) must be returned to the school office.**

Parental Survey

You will have received a copy per child of our parental survey. Please could we ask you to complete and return these to the school office by Wednesday 17th January.

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. Only small bows may be worn.

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.

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 60 Christmas cards to people in our local area. Thank you Mini-Vinnies.

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. Please can uniform and PE kit be named. 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 please ensure that they are all clearly named. Thank you.

Toys and Equipment for Ducklings

With Christmas on the way and new toys replacing old favourites, 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 in the New Year. Please see below for items we would really appreciate:

- A wooden train track
- Metal toy cars or anything to do with vehicle small world, i.e a car garage
- Animal small world toys such as zoo animals, arctic animals, underwater animals etc - not cuddly toys
- Any small Lego or Lego base boards/people
- A doll's house and any dolls
- Marbles or a marble run
- Simple board games that would be suitable for 4/5 year olds
- Jigsaw puzzles of under 50 pieces or less
- Plastic jugs
- Plastic or metal buckets and spades
- Metal cooking pans of any shape or size!
- Cooking equipment such as wooden spoons, sieves, spatulas etc. - for the muddy kitchen
- Plastic pots for planting
- Any gardening and potting equipment
- Seeds for gardening
- Barbies, Kens and action men, clothing for Barbies or a Barbie house (Barbies of different ethnicities would be welcomed)
- Road mat
- Magnifying glasses

House Points

Congratulations to St. John's house who won last half term's house point competition with a whopping 1548 points!

- 1st - St. John's - 1548
- 2nd - St. Matthew's - 1478
- 3rd - St. Mark's - 1471
- 4th - St. Luke's - 1383

Keeping Your Child Safe Online

I expect a few of our children were fortunate enough to receive new phones and tablets for Christmas. While the internet is wonderful please remember our children can be so vulnerable when online. We regularly remind the children of how to stay safe online and we have booked the police safer communities team to come in to speak with Years 2 and 6 on the 7th February. We also have our Year 2 visiting Streetwise on the 8th February - teaching them about keeping safe at home and when out and about - making them aware of *Stranger Danger* too.

Rules that you may wish to consider are found at the end of this newsletter and the following pages may also be useful;

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

One final question...have you ever googled your child's name? Try it, you might be surprised with what you find. I have occasionally googled pupil's names and have had to then contact parents- especially with what I have found on Youtube.

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.

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.

Dates for 2018

Thursday 11 th January 6.30pm	Year 6 Parent meeting about SATs
Monday 15 th January	Closing date for Sept. 2018 admissions
Tuesday 16 th January 7pm	PTA meeting – everyone welcome
Wednesday 17 th January	Parental surveys return date
Tuesday 23 rd January 8.45am	School Nurse Drop-In Clinic
Wednesday 24 th January 4.30pm	Year 2 Parent meeting about SATs
Wednesday 7 th February	Years 2 and 6 E-Safety sessions
Thursday 8 th February	Year 2 visit Streetwise
Wednesday 24 th January	Year 2 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
Wednesday 6 th June	Inset Day - school closed to children
Friday 8 th June	Summer Fayre
Tuesday 24 th July	Pupils last day of school
Wednesday 25 th July	Inset Day - school closed to children

School Closure - Inset Days

Please note Wednesday 7th March and Wednesday 6th June 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.

Date for your Diary – Parents' Evening

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

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.

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.

PTA Events

Did your child enjoy the PTA disco or Father Christmas giving out gifts on party day? If they did please consider joining us to help plan future events. 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.

The date for the Summer Fayre will be Friday 8th June 2018, so please put this date in your diary.

First Holy Communion

Dates are as follows:

Parents' session- Tuesday 9th January 7.30pm

Session 4- Saturday 13th January 9-11am

All invited to Mass- Sunday 14th January 9am

Parents' session- Tuesday 23rd January 7.30pm

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

Best wishes to you and your family for 2018
Louise Buxton

Some top tips for child internet safety

1. Keep computers in the family room and limit home internet time; Make a family rule that keeps laptops out of the bedroom and in the family room. Your child can still enjoy privacy when going online, but is less likely to search out or click on questionable content if he or she knows that you could walk by at any moment. Enforcing internet time also helps you maintain authority over your child's internet usage.

2. Teach your child how to maintain personal privacy: One in five children are sexually solicited online. When your tween's Facebook page shows their full name, picture, hometown, age, gender and school, it becomes easier for peodophiles to locate them. Engage with your child about why it's important to protect personal information online and what is appropriate and inappropriate to post. Setting rules, such as "no meeting up with people you meet online unless accompanied by mum and dad" can help your child understand boundaries.

3. Teach critical thinking skills: As the National Institute of Health notes, children's brains aren't fully developed until age 25. At younger ages, they may lack judgment and critical thinking skills. Walk children through critical thinking about web content using homework assignments as a starting point. For example, if your child needs to write a book report, help her research. Then demonstrate the difference between user-submitted content, authoritative content and spam.

4. Be honest about content redistribution: Sexting apps like Snapchat promise to delete content by a date you request; however, if a user screen shots the content they own a copy of it. Socially shared images have had disastrous consequences for teens. Once posted online content can be dangerous.

5. Use an internet system that offers parental control and personal protection: Older kids may take advantage of home alone time by going online. Help keep them safe by investing in a home internet provider that offers parental protection, firewalls and spamware or malware filters. Call and discuss these different features for home phone and internet deals or for satellite providers before committing.

6. Monitor child internet activity: It is extremely important nowadays to monitor what your child is doing online since there is a big gap between what you can see your child doing at home and what happens in their digital worlds. There are some great products available, like [uKnowKids](http://www.uknowkids.com), that can help you understand and engage with your child's digital life and act if necessary.

<http://resources.uknowkids.com/blog/bid/324349/6-internet-safety-rules-for-parents-of-teens-and-tweens>