

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



6th March 2026

ATTENDANCE SPOTLIGHT:

This week's attendance

96.11%

Target attendance

97%

Best attendance this week



YEAR 6
98.15%

Remember: Every Day Counts!

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this week's Celebration of the Word we heard the story of Jesus' Transfiguration on Mount Tabor. In the story God instructs the disciples to 'listen' to Jesus.

I said that this isn't just listening to what God wants us to do and say but also listening to God telling us how much he loves us. If we look around us we will see him and his love everywhere. In how our families and teachers care for us, in the words we hear from the Bible, when we look around us at God's creation. So often we can fail to see that there is more to the place we are in, and to the people we are with, than we realise.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Doherty



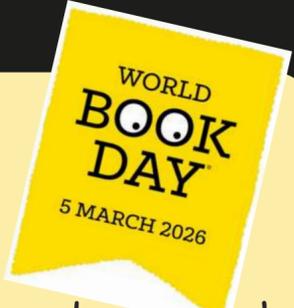
DIARY DATES

- Mon 9th - Skateboarding After School Club - Years 1-6
- Tues 10th - Art After School Club - **Year 4, Year 5, Year 6**
- Tues 10th - Abs Football After School Club - **Years 1-6**
- Tues 10th - Football Tournament at Chapel Gate, Y2
- Wed 11th - Ducklings Mother's Day Liturgy
- Wed 11th - Coding After School Club - **Years 2-6**
- Wed 11th - Y5 Leeson House Parent Meeting, 2.50pm
- Thurs 12th - Tennis After School Club - **Years 1-4**
- Thurs 12th - Netball Tournament, Twynham **Y5/6**
- Fri 13th - School Class Photos
- Fri 13th - Football Festival at Highcliffe School, Y2 9-11am
- Fri 13th - Gymnastics After School Club - **Years 1-6**

We are all God's children and will live, love, work and serve as Jesus taught us.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2026



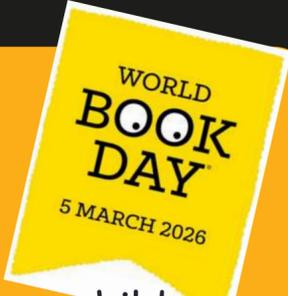
Thank you to everyone who took part in World Book Day this week. You have all made so much effort to prepare your children and it made the day very special. Thank you to all of our wonderful staff too for planning lots of amazing reading related activities for the children. We hope the children have been inspired to read even more. A special thank you to Miss Thomas (our English lead) for organising another successful World Book Day.



During World Book Day, the children were involved in a variety of book related activities, which they loved. All children took part in paired reading with another class and they moved between classes listening to stories read by each teacher. One of these was *The Demon Headmaster* read by the demon headmaster himself, Mr Doherty! The biggest buzz came from the book swap, with children being extremely excited to choose a new book to them to be able to take home. Thank you for all the contributions to this. It was so lovely to see around 100 parents in school at the end of the day reading with their child. Miss Thomas



WORLD BOOK DAY 2026



Thank you to all of our parents who turned up on World Book Day to read with your children. We had over 100 parents visiting and I have to say it was VERY special to see you all sharing books with your children. 'Children are made readers on the laps of their parents'. When you read to your children, even before they can understand words, they learn to associate books with love and affection. Thank you for being wonderful role models.



THE BIG LENT WALK

CAFOD
Just one world



During Lent we are asked to think of others and give to those less fortunate than ourselves.

This year we, your Mini Vinnies, have decided that they will be supporting the work of CAFOD with a sponsored 2.5 mile Big Lent Walk in Waterman's park on **Wednesday 25th March at 9am**. Your money will help fight global poverty.

Thank you to all of the parents who have volunteered so far to help on the day.

All of your children have taken home a sponsorship form home. Please try to get as many sponsors as possible.

You can also donate via our Just Giving page link below or by using the QR code. Please share with others.

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/fundraising/st-josephs-big-lent-walk-fundraising-page2027>

Thank you all in advance for for your support.

Mini Vinnies



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Lent crown of thorns

During Lent the children will be taking part in our Lent crown of thorns tradition.

The thorns represent the times when we hurt God through what we do and fail to do. Lent is a time of repentance when we turn back to God by showing greater generosity - not just with money but with love, forgiveness and mercy.

When our children act with generosity towards others they will be recommended by staff and other children to remove a thorn from the crown. We hope that by the end of Lent all of the thorns will have been removed.

If you would like to recommend your own child for being extra kind or helpful at home please email the office or send a note in to their class teacher. It would be lovely to hear from you.

Mr Doherty



We have had some lovely messages from the children placed on our altar. I have attached some examples below:

To Mrs Whyte
got teaching us lots of stuff
stugg
from the woles
year 3

Franklin - Duchis
Always makes sure George joins in his games at playtime.

Alfie yr6 -
doic would like to say thankyou for giving him hugs and making sure he is ok.

Franklin
rolled the hoop for ronnie ducks



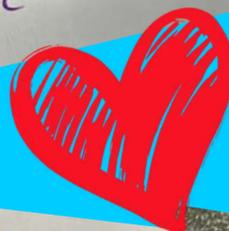
Charrlotte in y5
Always making sure I have someone to play with

Maggio always cheers me on when I run in cross country



Harriet for helping me in class to be brave
from Aoige yr5

TO FINNELL
got being a kind friend
from Abbie



To Lilly
Year 4
because she's such a nice friend she always helps me when I'm sad

For my whole class they always help me when I feel down and everybody is so kind and have nice manners. For yr5
[From Julia]



Well done Josh!

Imagine my surprise when I saw Josh (our Rocksteady teacher) on Britain's Got Talent on Saturday night!

I'm hoping you all saw his band's performance and if not I have put the You Tube link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsHHSwGIDs8>

We are so proud of you Josh. Well done and may you go all the way to the final. We can't wait to follow your journey.



Baby Ralph!

We are so happy to share these wonderful photos of Miss Fox's new baby Ralph and his big sister. It is lovely to see baby looking so well. Thank you for all of your prayers.



Parents' Evening times

Today your parents' evening appointment time slips were sent home. We are looking forward to seeing you all on 16th or 19th March.





WOW Top Ten Challenge

Well done to all of our children who are travelling actively to school. In February's WOW Top Ten Challenge we finished in 5th place out of all the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole schools taking part. A wonderful achievement. Keep it up!

LEADERBOARD- BCP

1. Queen's Park Infant Academy
2. Canford Heath Junior School
3. Mudeford Junior School
4. Stanley Green Infant Academy
5. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Christchurch
6. Baden-Powell and St Peter's Church of England Junior School
7. St Walburga's Catholic Primary School
8. Kingsleigh Primary School
9. Winton Primary School
10. Old Town Infant School and Nursery

SPRING 2026 #WOWTopTen

Jiu jitsu champ!

Well done to Lucas in Year 5 who was 2nd in his most recent Jiu Jitsu competition against competitors fighting at a much higher level than him. Well done Lucas!



Cross country squad

Well done to the children who were selected to represent the school at the forthcoming Cross Country event. This week's runners of the week were Unika, LJ and Lincoln for vast improvement in their personal best times.



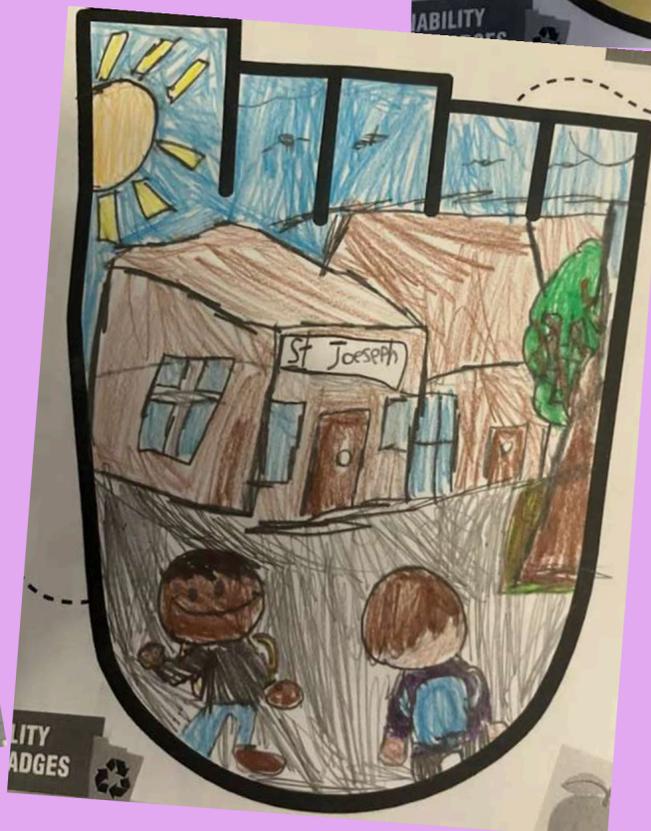
Maths star



Well done to Eva in Year 5 who was sent to see me with her fantastic maths work. Year 5 have been finding fractions of amounts. Eva was able to explain the process wonderfully. Well done Eva.

WALK TO SCHOOL DESIGN COMPETITION

I was so impressed at the amount and standard of entry for this year's National Walk to School badge design competition. Below are some of our favourite entries:



Girls' Shooting Stars Festival

Well done to the girls from Years 2,3, and 4 who took part in Thursday's Shooting Stars Festival. The girls did a carousel of football themed activities. They represented St Joseph's amazingly, giving 100% and worked together really well with girls from other schools. Thank you to Mrs Walls for accompanying our children. We owe so much to our dedicated staff who go the extra mile to give our children these wonderful opportunities.





Let your Light Shine Awards

Well done to this week's 'Let your light shine' award winners. What a special week to be awarded the most special of awards. Like Jesus shone at the transfiguration so our children have shone once again through their actions and words. Well done children.



Super talented Ella

A huge well done to Ella in Year 6 who was sent to see me by Miss Thomas because she achieved full marks on her last 4 SATS practice mental maths tests! An incredible feat! She is also the fastest girl so far in our cross country trials running an incredible 6 minutes 10 seconds for 1.5km. Ella is making the very most of her God given talents.



Attendance

Well done to Year 6 who are this week's attendance winners with 98.15% attendance. Whole school attendance was 96.11%



St Joseph Feast Day service

To mark the Feast of St Joseph on 19th March, Deacon Richard will be leading a service in school. This will start at 2pm. Parents and family members are welcome to attend.





First Holy Communion preparation

Please see the following information which was shared in the Parish newsletter regarding Holy Communion preparation at St Joseph's Church:

The 10-week First Holy Communion Preparation Programme is now open to children in Year 3 and above, who have already been Baptised and wish to take their First Holy Communion this year. Weekly sessions will take place at St Joseph's Church after 9am Sunday Mass alongside sessions for parents.

The programme begins on Sunday 19th April and the course culminates in the First Holy Communion Mass on Sunday 21st June. For further information and enrolment forms, please contact Juliette at FHC@icsj.org.uk



Family Mass at St Joseph's Church

Thank you to all of the families who joined the Parish at last Sunday mornings Family Mass. A big thank you to Grace, Keeva and Tilly who read so beautifully with their parents at the Mass. The next family Mass at St Joseph's Church will be on Sunday 3rd May.



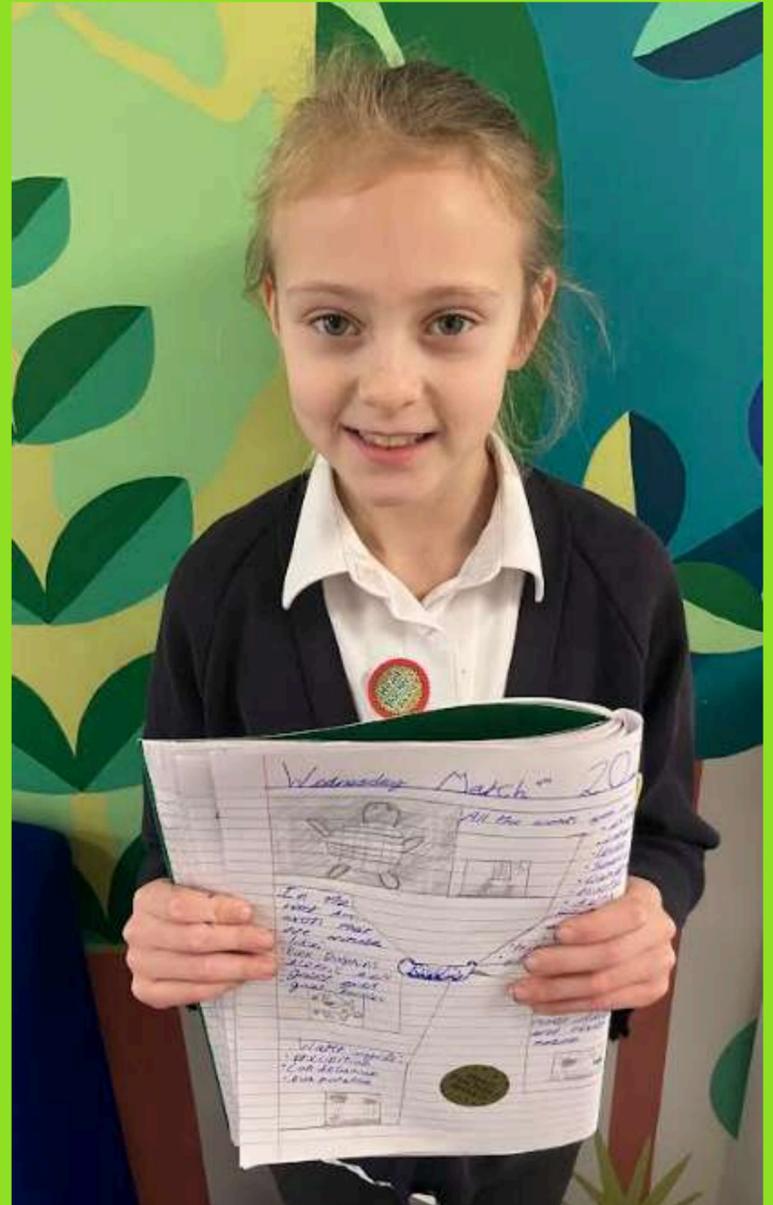


Strictly Fantastic!

Well done to Dominikas and his sister Izadora who, last weekend, both achieved 1st place in the South Coast ballroom and latin dancing championships in Bournemouth. They have promised me a special Strictly Come Dancing performance before the end of the year. It is so lovely to see our children being successful in and out of school. We are so proud of you both and your successes.



Geography Star!

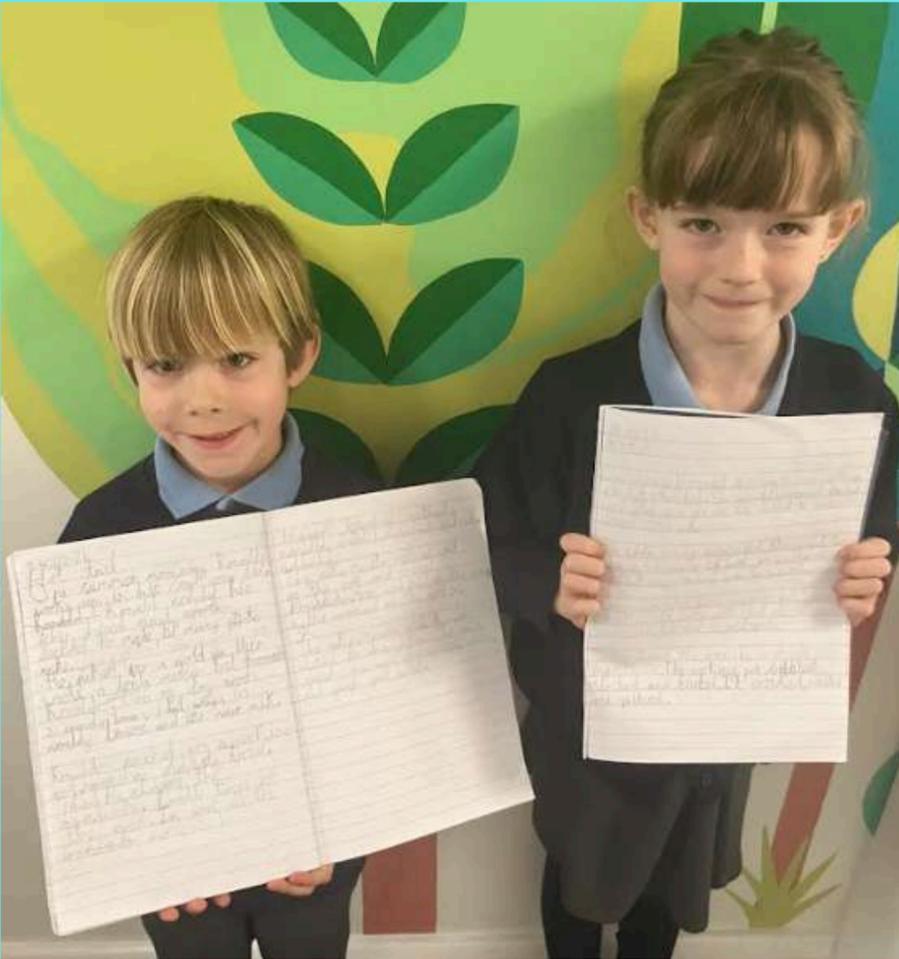


Well done to Elena in Year 4 who was sent to see me with her wonderful mind map on all that she had learnt in her most recent topic on rivers. Mrs Walls has been so impressed at how Elena works in class. She always gives 100%. Well done Elena!

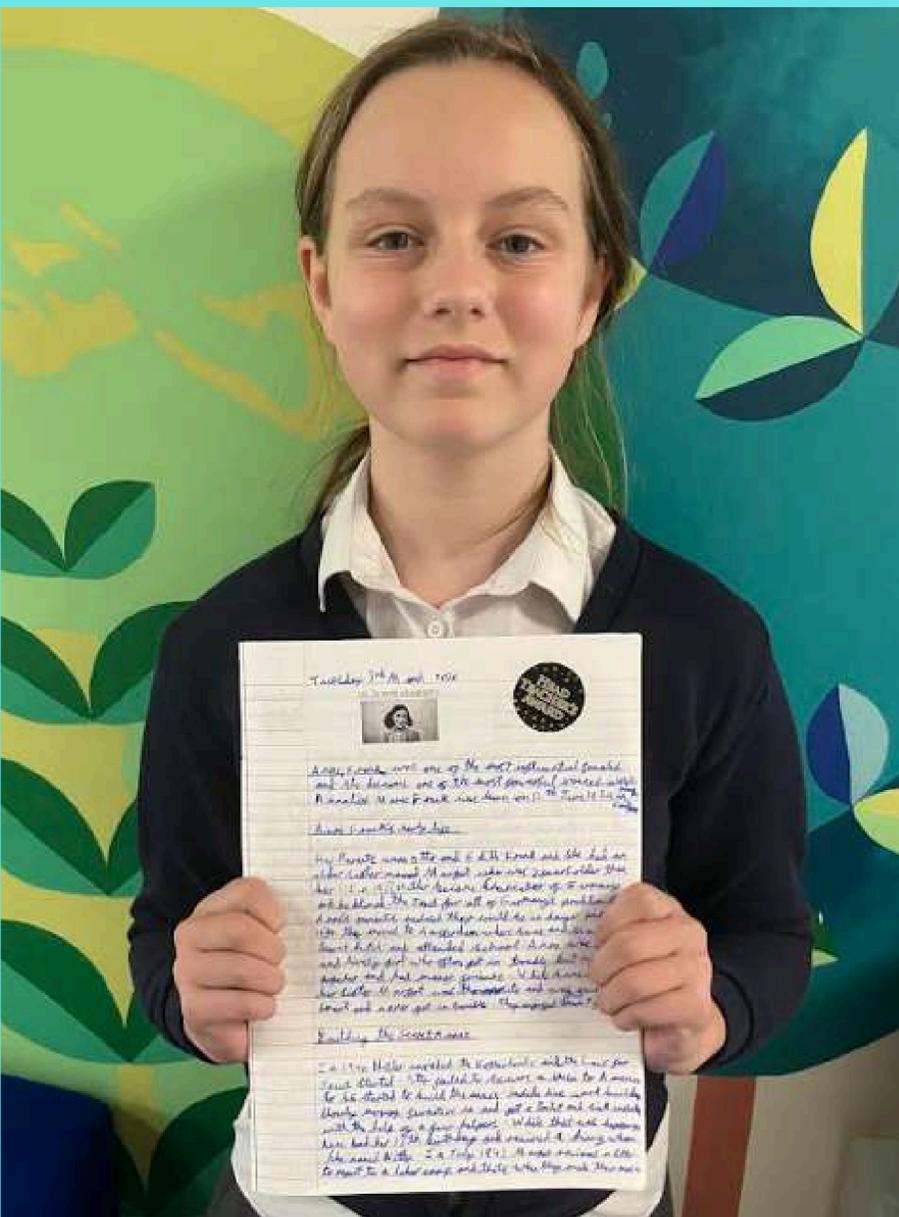




WRITERS OF THE WEEK



Well done to Freddy and Roxy in Year 2 who were sent to see me with their fantastic writing. The children have been writing a stories based upon the book Rascally Cake.



Well done to Zailly for her outstanding writing in Year 6. The class were writing an Anne Frank biography having heard about her story from the diary of Anne Frank. Miss Thomas is so impressed at the consistent quality of Zailly's writing. Well done Zailly!



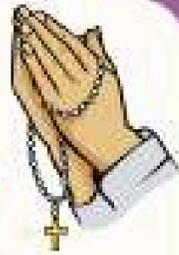
Please find the family prayer sheet for March below. This is a lovely resource to share with your families and friends.



Families of Faith

† MARCH †

Prayer Corner



Dear St. Joseph,
You listened to God, even while you were asleep.
Please watch over our family, keep us safe, and help us to trust that God can do anything.
Help us to rest in His love and stay close to Jesus and Mary.
Amen.

Saints to Inspire



24 March - St Oscar Romero

Patron of El Salvador, Champion of Justice and Peace

To celebrate St Oscar Romero's feast day at home, follow these simple steps:

📺 Watch the video (QR code) to learn about his life and message.

🕯️ Light a candle and pray together for peace and justice; choose one act of kindness to do this month.

🖼️ Create a "banner of hope" with one of his quotes.

🍽️ Share a traditional El Salvadorian dish, like Pupusas



Good News from the Gospel



Sunday 1st March - Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus is our guiding light and teacher. Whisper a message to remind your family to listen carefully to him.

Sunday 8th March - John 4:5-42

Jesus is the living water. Talk about why we need water and look at photos of your child's Baptism, noticing how water was used.

Sunday 15th March - John 9:1-41

We are called to actively live our faith. Blindfold each other and point to objects in the room, then talk about how we don't always see who around us needs our help.

Sunday 22nd March - John 11:1-45

Jesus offers us eternal life if we are open to him. Talk about how we can show we are followers of Jesus.

Sunday 29th March - Matthew 26:14-27:66

God freely forgives us because God is mercy. Think about how you are going to celebrate Holy Week as a family.

Family Faith in Action



This month, try placing your worries into the gentle hands of Sleeping St. Joseph, perhaps with a picture or statue by your bedside, as a reminder to rest and trust in God's care.

On Mother's Day, present the jar to Mum and read the notes together as a family, thanking God for her love and guidance. This simple act helps us celebrate the gift of family and remember to pray with gratitude each day.



Mothering Sunday - 15th March

As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you (Isaiah 66:13)

Feast Day of St Joseph - 19th March

The Bible describes St Joseph receiving messages from God through dreams in his sleep, with an angel appearing to him, to provide guidance.



We are all God's children and will live, love, work and serve as Jesus taught us.

Primary Forest School and Outdoor Education are back offering an after school club on Tuesdays after school. Please see the attached flyer for more information:



School: St Joseph's Catholic Christchurch

During this club, children will develop their forest skills; shelter building, crafts, using tools, bug hunting, campfire cooking and have free exploring time. Each club is tailored to the children attending! This half term we will incorporate First Aid Skills too

Day: Tuesday

Dates: 24/02/2026 - 24/03/2026

Time: 15.15 - 16.15

Club: Forest School with Nature Crafts

Year Group: All

Cost Per Block: £25.00

All equipment will be provided, please note if less than 6 children book this club may be cancelled.

10% Sibling Discount use **SIBLINGS in the voucher code box at the checkout**

BOOK ➔ <https://www.primary-forest-school.co.uk/bookings?tag=after-school-clubs&month=>

Please book via our website and not on your school's app (such as Arbor, ParentPay etc), places are only secured when booked and purchased through our website, please do not send your child to our club without receiving an order confirmation via email from orders@primary-forest-school.co.uk

Any issues with booking on our website or if you have further questions about the after-school club, please contact Rachel: admin@primary-forest-school.co.uk



EXPLORE LEARN GROW



SCHOOL LIFE

Important Dates for your diary

EVENT	DATE
Football Development Tournament (Y4) at Chapel Gate	Tuesday 10 th March
Ducklings Mother's Day Liturgy	Wednesday 11 th March
Imaginative Prayer for Y6	Thursday 12 th March
Netball Tournament at Twynham Primary Y5/6	Thursday 12 th March
Football Festival at Highcliffe School (Y2)	Friday 13 th March
Class Photographs with Fraser Portraits	Friday 13 th March
Parents' Evening	Monday 16 th March
Cross Country at The Grange Y3,4,5,6	Tuesday 17 th March
Parents' Evening	Thursday 19 th March
St Joseph's Feast Day	Thursday 19 th March
St Joseph Feast Day Service at school	Thursday 19 th March, 2pm
Netball Tournament at Twynham Primary Y5/6	Thursday 19 th March
The Big Lent Walk	Wednesday 25 th March, 9am
Rocksteady Concert	Thursday 26 th March
Last day of term - finish at 1.30pm	Friday 27 th March
Back to School for Summer Term	Monday 13 th April
Imaginative Prayer for Year 6	Thursday 23 rd April
KS2 Science Fair	Friday 24 th April
Dr Bike - bring your bike along for a health check	Wednesday 6 th May
Y5 Residential to Leeson House	Wednesday 6 th - Friday 8 th May
Year 6 SATs week	Monday 11 th - Thursday 14 th May
Ducklings class trip to Nick's Farm	Monday 20 th May
Year 6 Avon Tyrrell Residential trip	Monday 8 th - Friday 12 th June
Multiplication Tables Check	Starting from Monday 1 st June
Sports Week	Monday 15 th - Friday 19 th June
PTA Colour Run	Friday 19 th June
Year 1 class trip to Beaulieu	Friday 26 th June
PTA Summer Fayre	Friday 3 rd July

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PTA NEWS

Could you be our PTA Treasurer?

Want to be our next PTA treasurer? With a clear head for numbers, you will control the PTA funds in line with the committee's decisions, as well as charity law. You will also make sure upcoming events are affordable and profitable, and report financial information to the rest of the team. For more information or to come in for a chat, please contact the school office on 01202 485976 or please email on admin@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk

The treasurer's responsibilities:

- Manages the day-to-day finances.
- Keeps a detailed record of the PTA's financial activity.
- Reports on the finances at meetings in a clear, concise way.
- Banks the takings from events and fundraisers.
- Arranges floats for events.
- Ensures money is kept safely before and during events.
- Makes Gift Aid claims.
- Implements procedures for making payments and claiming expenses.
- Completes the Charity Commission annual return.
- Arranges audits for accounts.
- Reports at the AGM.
- Prepares the financial report.

Suits people who are...

- Confident at handling money and budgets.
- Good with numbers.
- Methodical.

If you are interested in this role please contact the school office.

SAVE THE DATE

PTA SUMMER FAYRE

FRIDAY 3RD JULY 2026

3.15-6.15PM



PTA COLOUR RUN

19th JUNE 2pm



Easyfundraising

Did you know that you can raise funds for our school everytime you shop online? Every time you shop online you raise donations for our school! We have already raised £1,869.14 with 101 supporters. If you haven't already signed up it's easy to join - please join below:

[Easyfundraising](#)

Pre-loved uniform

Just a reminder that we have our very own second hand uniform shop on the Uniformd platform where we sell good quality pre-owned uniform. All funds raised going directly back to the school. To view our catalogue of clothes and to purchase, please visit the Uniformd shop here: [Uniformd](#)

Our next collection day

We are raising money for our school by collecting reusable clothing.

Our next collection dates are:

8th May 2026

14th September 2026



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SEAGULLS

SWIMMING CLUB



Come join the fun
swimming
sessions for everyone

Junior and Development



Competitive



Seagulls competitive swimming club run classes for all ages. We are a friendly club which has a long history of national, regional and county level swimmers.



Masters



Artistic

**Build Skills,
Confidence &
Character**

**Make friends
Win medals**

Timings

Morning, Evening and Weekend sessions available.

Full timetable on website.



www.seagullsswimming.club



membership@seagullsswimming.club

secretary@seagullsswimming.club



SEAGULLS
SWIMMING CLUB

Community

TICKETS ON SALE NOW



28TH MAR

BOURNEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

MORE LEGO THAN YOU CAN DREAM OF

BOURNEMOUTH BRICK FESTIVAL

Last chance to apply for Junior Bake Off.

Could your child be the next Junior Bake Off champion? If you have a young baker at home aged between 9 and 15 years old who enjoys baking, then Love Productions (the production team behind The Great British Bake Off and The Great British Sewing Bee) want to hear from you!

Applications are now open for the 12th series of Junior Bake Off - the Channel 4 competition series celebrating Britain's young baking talent.

If your child is interested in applying, please apply online via the link below:

www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk

Filming will take place from July 2026, but applications close on Sunday 15th March 2026. Good luck!

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK

AGED BETWEEN 9-15 AND WANT TO GIVE YOUR BAKING SKILLS A GO?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

LAST CHANCE TO APPLY 15TH MARCH 2026

We are all God's children and will live, love, work and serve as Jesus taught us.