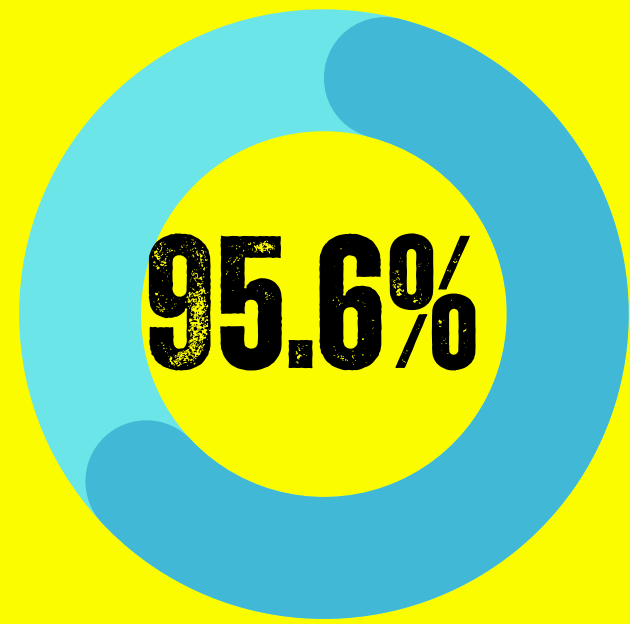


St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



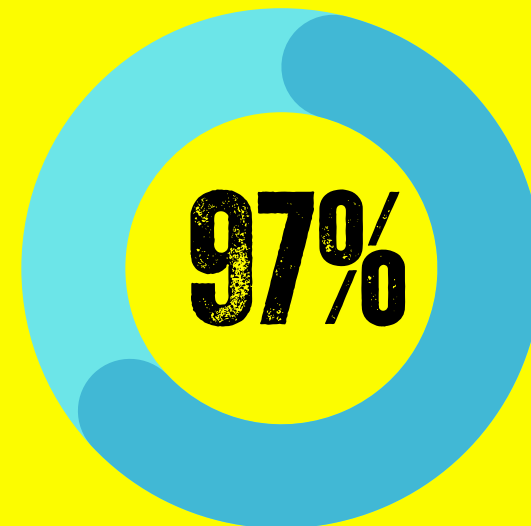
17th April 2026

This week's attendance



ATTENDANCE SPOTLIGHT:

Target attendance



This year's attendance to date:



Remember: Every Day Counts!

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week (in Celebration of the Word) we listened to last Sunday's Gospel reading about St Thomas and his disbelief in Jesus' resurrection. Jesus says 'blessed are those who have not seen yet believe'. I always saw this as making us extra special but I find myself asking, at times, do we really believe? If we all believed then there would be no hungry people, no war, no arguing.

I told the story of the famous tightrope walker Charles Blondin and how people didn't believe he could walk across Niagra Falls blindfolded. He did! He then asked for volunteers to get into a wheelbarrow to be pushed across, while he was blindfolded. The believers were not so confident then! Finally his own mother volunteers. If we really believe we must put our trust in all of Jesus' teachings and metaphorically 'get into the wheelbarrow'.

I asked the children to see Jesus in everybody and show that they believe this through action, thought and word. St Thomas went on to take the most extraordinary of actions by delivering God's message to India where he was eventually martyred and is today revered as their Patron Saint. If we really believe then let's turn our beliefs into actions.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Doherty



DIARY DATES

- Mon 20th - Skateboarding After School Club - Years 1-6
- Tues 21st - Art After School Club - **Year 4, Year 5, Year 6**
- Tues 21st - Abs Football After School Club - **Years 1-6**
- Tues 21st - Forest School After School Club - **Years R-6**
- Wed 22nd - Coding After School Club - **Years 2-6**
- **Thurs 23rd - Start of Summer term Mass in school at 2pm. Families welcome.**
- Thurs 23rd - Tennis After School Club - **Years 1-4**
- **Fri 24th - Science Fair in school hall at 8.50am. Families welcome**
- Fri 24th - Gymnastics After School Club - **Years 1-6**

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



We are the Benchball Champions!!!

Our Year 6 girls' benchball team delivered an outstanding performance in this year's inter-school tournament on Thursday 16th April, emerging as overall champions without losing a single game!

From the very first match, the team showed determination, teamwork and excellent sportsmanship. Their passing was sharp, their movement well-coordinated and their communication on court made a real difference. Each player contributed to the success, supporting one another and maintaining a positive attitude throughout the competition.

As the tournament progressed, it became clear that our team was a strong contender. They faced several challenging opponents but remained focused and confident, winning every match they played. Their unbeaten record is a testament to their hard work.

The final game was particularly exciting, with the girls demonstrating resilience and skill under pressure to secure a well-deserved victory. Their achievement of winning the tournament without losing a single game is something they should be extremely proud of. Well done to the entire team for representing the school so brilliantly—you have set a fantastic example for others to follow!
Mr Curran

Thank you to Miss Thomas for preparing the children so well and to Mr Curran for accompanying the children on the day.

The champions: Amy, Iris, Alicia, Ava, Sasha, Ellie, Ella, Lily, Klaudia and Tilly.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Benchball Champions 2026

CATHOLIC LIFE

Start of term school Mass

Father Paul will be celebrating Mass with us in school next Thursday (23rd April) at 2pm. Parents/Carers and families are welcome to attend. Please aim to arrive by 1.50pm at the latest so we can seat everybody.



May Procession

May is the month dedicated to Mary the mother of Jesus. In her honour the children will be taking part in a May Procession and open air service on 19th May at 2pm. Parents/Carers and families are welcome to attend.

Our current Year 4 children, who made their First Holy Communion last year are welcome to wear their Holy Communion outfits from last year on the day.

They will be able to change into them at lunchtime. We will be choosing two of these children to crown Mary at the service.



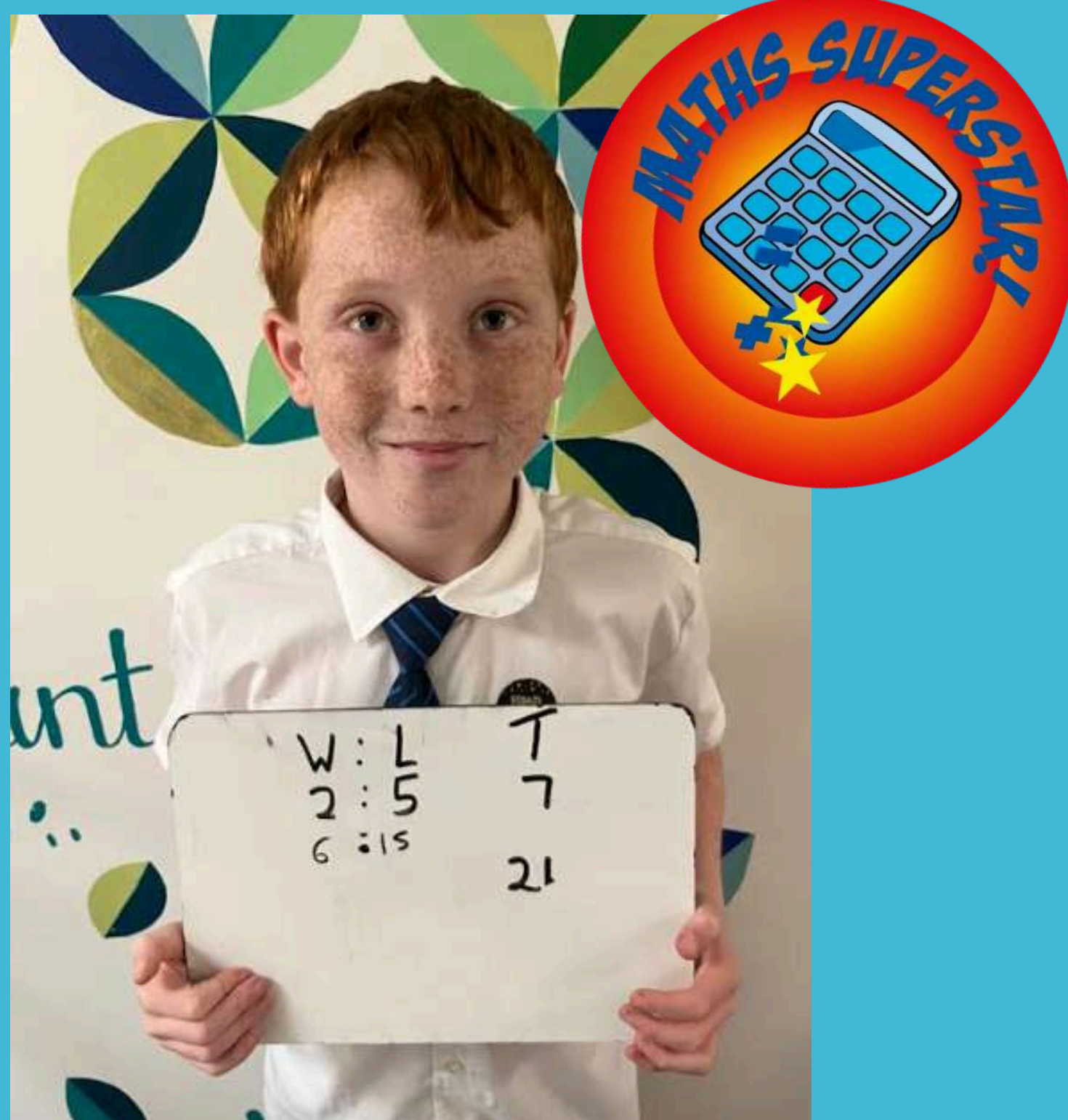
SCHOOL LIFE



Maths stars



Well done to Connie, Aria and Harlowe who were sent to see me for a Headteacher sticker this week. They have all been doing amazing work in maths on column subtraction, which they were so keen to explain to me. Amazing work girls! It is so lovely to see you all so enthusiastic about your learning.



Well done to Ronnie in Year 6, who was sent to see me with his incredible algebraic formulae, which he used to solve complex ratio problems in maths. Super clever Ronnie!

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



Attendance

Well done to Year 1 who are this week's attendance winners with an INCREDIBLE 99.07% attendance! Well done Year 1! Whole school attendance was 95.64%.



Easter gardens in Year 1

Year 1 made some fabulous Easter gardens today, which is a lovely way for the children to learn about the Easter story. They did a wonderful job!



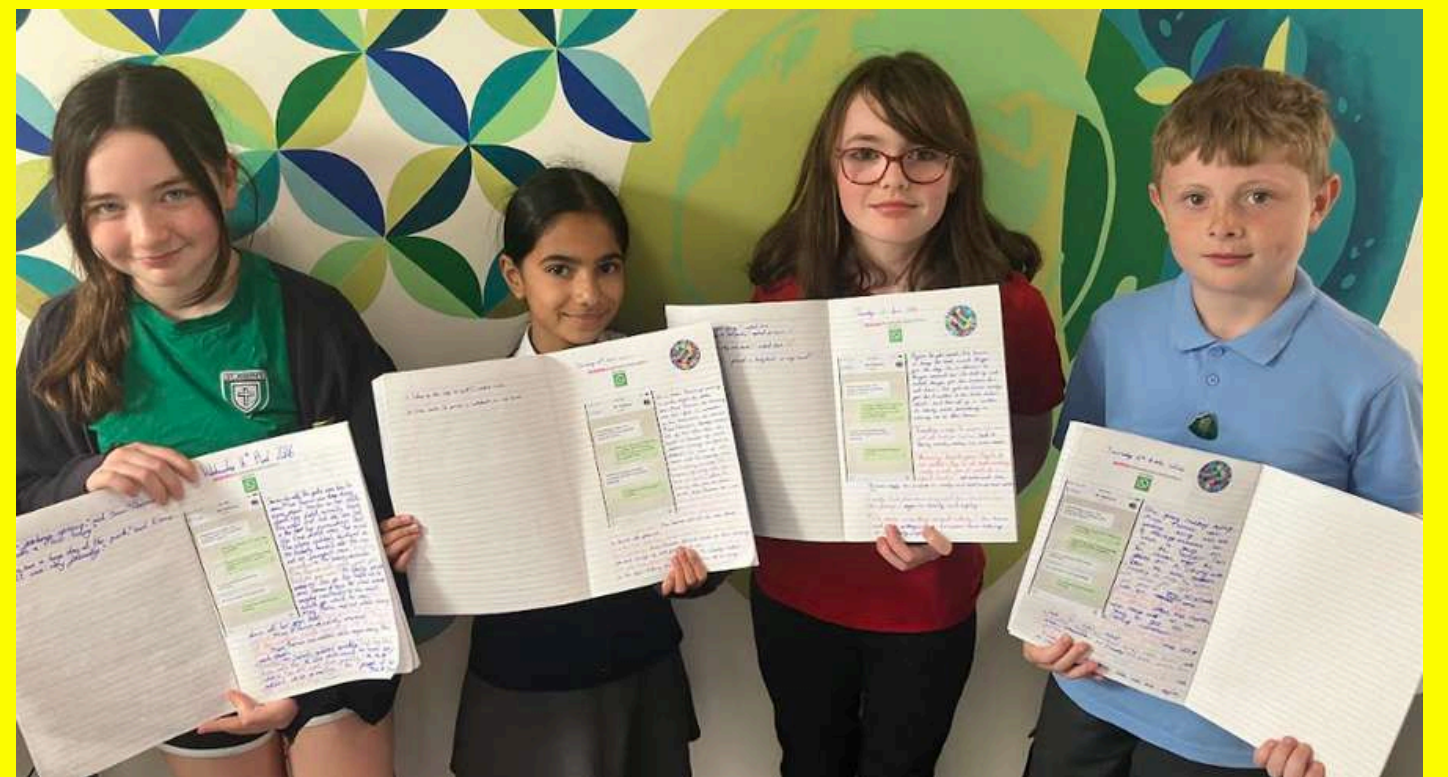
Super Year 6 writing

Well done to Alfie, Lily, Amy and Sienna who were sent for Headteacher award this week for their writing.

Year 6 have been working on punctuating speech this week before moving on to writing dialogue within stories.

They enjoyed writing a 'fake' text conversation into a real conversation between Miss Thomas and Mr Doherty.

Well done Lily, Sienna, Amy and Alfie for your brilliant (and sometimes very funny) conversations! Miss Thomas



Walk and wheel school champions!

This week we found out that St Joseph's was the top ranked school (out of 27) in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole district during the walk and wheel fortnight! What an amazing achievement.

As a result of our success, the school will receive a BMX stunt show from Matti Hemmings this term. Well done everybody and thank you to Mr Curran for being the driving force behind healthy travelling to school.





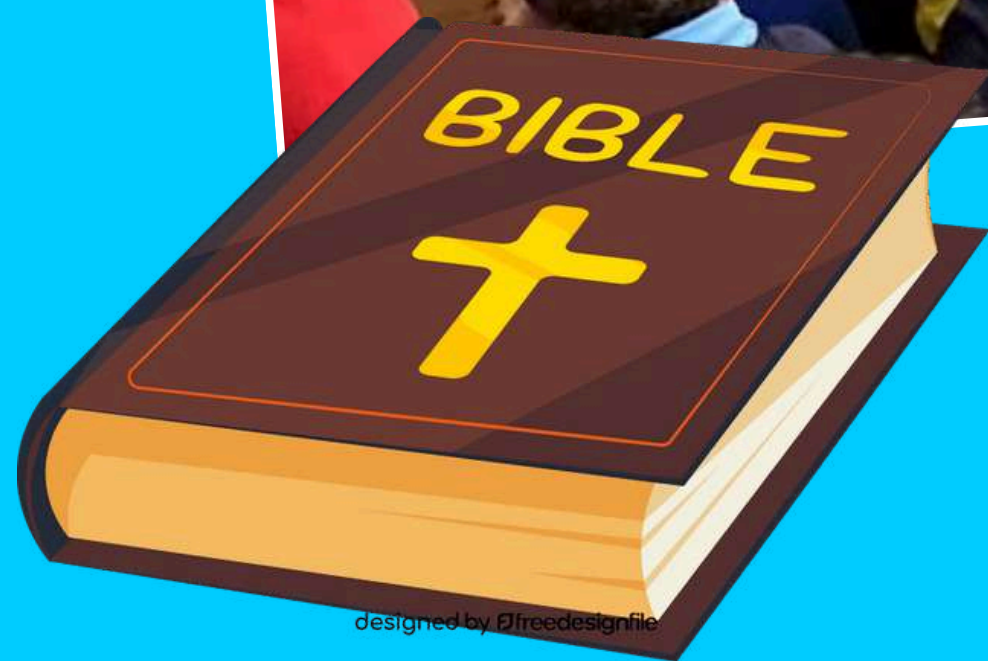
Visit by Keith Jewell

This week we were visited by Keith Jewell from the Pace Trust (pace.org.uk) who delivered our assemblies to Years 1, 2 and 3 and then Years 4, 5 and 6 on the theme of courage.

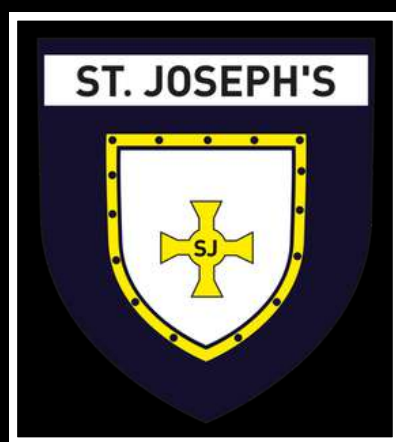
Courage is one of our schools 'core values' and as such the children should recognise it in themselves and others and know why it is important.

They heard the story of David and Goliath and how David's complete trust in God meant that he had the courage to be himself and face the giant. Thank you to Huxley and George for being courageous enough to volunteer to be David!

Over the coming term the children will be learning about the other core values: independence, honesty, respect, resilience, curiosity, community and compassion and making links to stories in the Bible. We will communicate this in the newsletter. Please make sure you are talking to your children about what they have learnt and/ or get them to retell the linked story.



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



SEPTEMBER RECEPTION PLACES AVAILABLE

**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Tours available

**Please call to arrange a
tour with our Headteacher,
Mr Doherty.**

Please contact the school office

 01202 485976

Or email

 admin@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk

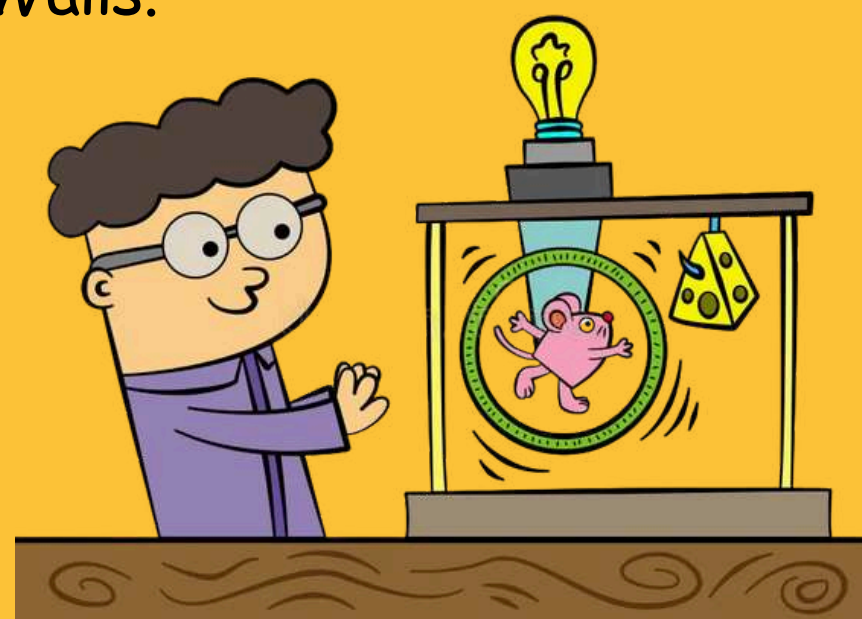
Let your light shine awards

Well done to all of our children who received 'let your light shine' awards this week. Each of the children has lived out one of the school's core values including honesty, resilience and curiosity. Well done children!



Science Fair 24th April

It has been very exciting to come back and hear some of the children discussing their science projects for the Science Fair next week. A reminder to years 3, 4 and 5 that the Science Fair is Friday 24th April, any questions or any resources required please come and see Mrs Walls.



First Holy Communion



The 10-week Holy Communion programme will begin this Sunday- the 19th of April. Sessions for both Children and Parents will take place on Sunday mornings after our 9am Mass from 10.15am till 11.30am each week.

The programme is designed not only to teach children and parents about the Sacrament, but also to help them grow in their friendship with Jesus and sense of belonging within our Parish community.

We hope you will attend 9am Mass followed by preparation sessions for both Parents and Children until 11.30am.

Dates for your diary.

- Session 1 - Sunday 19th April
 - Session 2 - Sunday 26th April
 - Session 3 - Sunday 3rd May
 - Session 4 - Sunday 10th May
 - Session 5 - Sunday 17th May
 - Session 6 - Sunday 24th May (First Sunday in half term)
 - Session 7 - Sunday 31st May (Second Sunday in half term)
 - Session 8 - Saturday 6th June Reconciliation
 - Session 9 - Sunday 7th June
 - Session 10 - Sunday 14th June
- First Holy Communion Mass- Sunday 21st June during 9am Mass.

For further information and enrolment forms, please contact Juliette at FHC@icsj.org.uk





Welcome

This week we welcomed Robyn to our Year 2 class. I am delighted to say that Robyn had a lovely first week that was made extra special by Alba and Kennedy, who were very good friends to Robyn in her first week. 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me'. Matthew 25:35.

One of the pillars of Catholic Social Teaching is 'Community and Participation'. No one should be excluded from being a part of our community. When we welcome new children to our school in such a warm way we are living our faith.

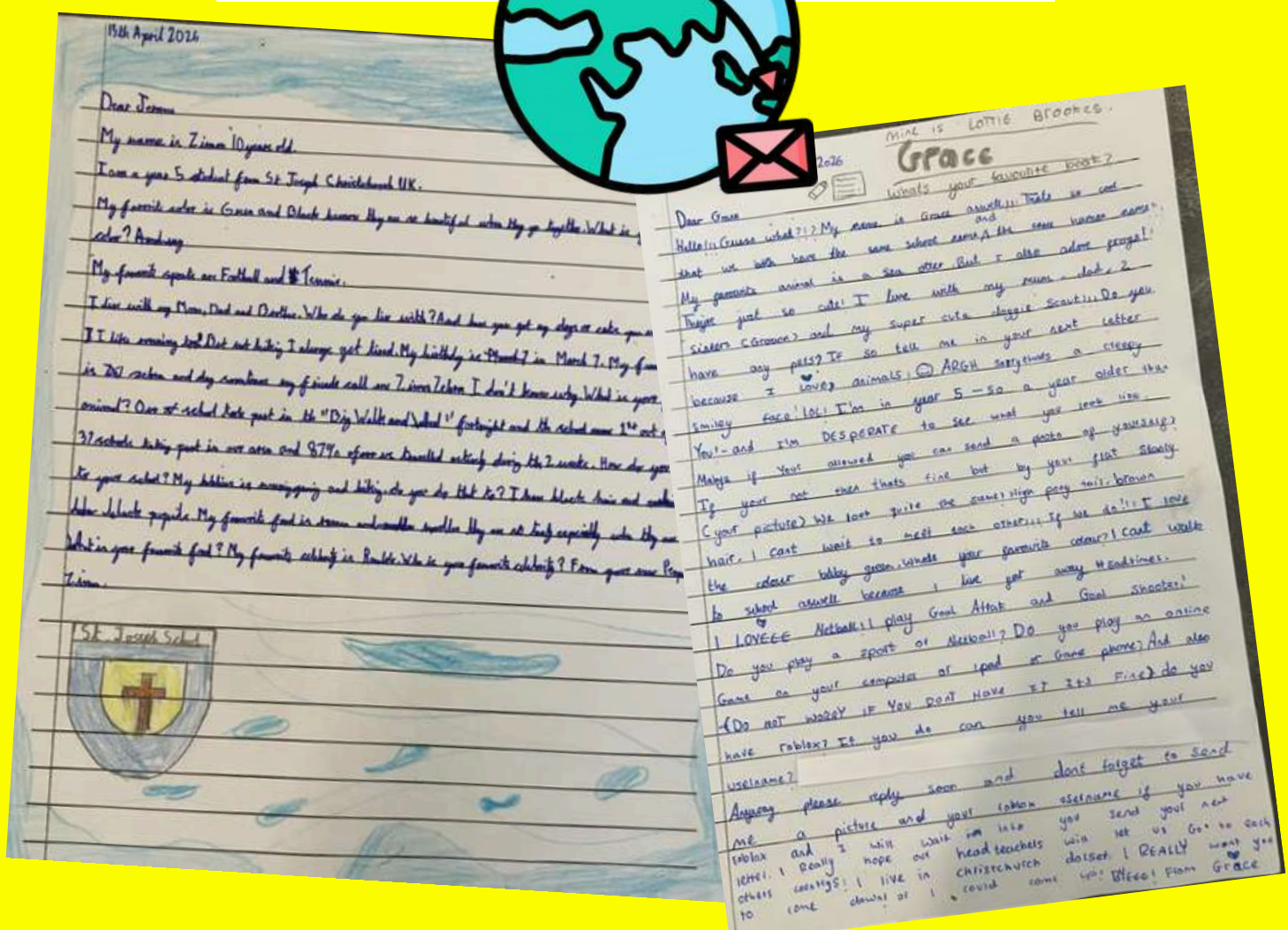


Penpal project

This week Year 4 and 5 sent letters to children in St Joseph's Catholic School in New Zealand after receiving letters from them at the end of last half term.

Both schools are engaged with walk to school projects so it was lovely to share our good news about Walk, wheel, bike to school fortnight.

We are very excited about making this special link with a school on the other side of the world. The children and staff are looking forward to an exchange visit to New Zealand in the future!!!! Mr Doherty is working on it!





Children's Liturgy at St Joseph's

Children's Liturgy is a time during Sunday Mass where children are invited to explore the Gospel in a way that is joyful, simple, and tailored just for them and take part in craft activities relating to lessons they have learned from the Gospel.

The sessions are held at Joseph's Parish Church, Purewell during Sunday's 9am mass.

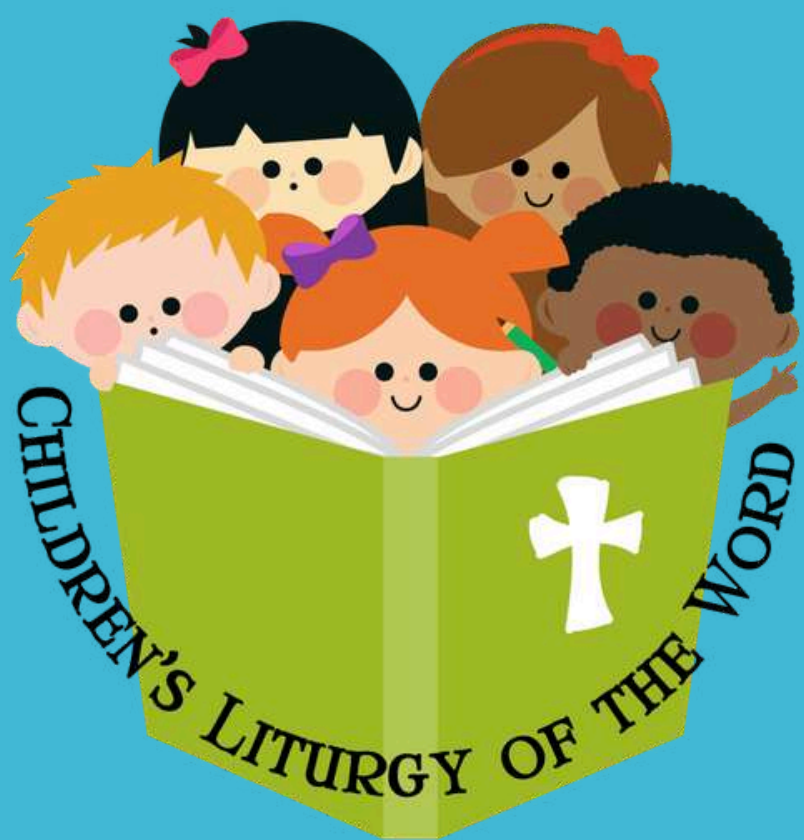
They are held during term time except the 1st Sunday of the month as this is Family Mass.

This half-term:

Children's Liturgy will be held: 19th April, 26th April, 10th May and 17th of May.

Family mass: 3rd May and 7th of June.

We hope you can join us there.



Year 3,4,5,6 Mass at St Joseph's

Year 3,4,5 and 6 will be joining the Parishioners at the 10am Mass on Wednesday 17th June. We will be leaving school at approximately 9.15am. Parents/ carers and families are welcome to join us.



Save the date!

Sunday 3rd May is family Mass at St Joseph's, Purewell. It would be lovely to see as many of our families there as possible. Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday 3rd at 9am.



We're in the Bournemouth Echo!

St Joseph's was featured in the Bournemouth Echo this week for our fantastic fundraising efforts in our Big Lent Walk. We are third in the national leader board raising more than £1,700 for CAFOD thanks to our sponsored 2.5 mile walk around Waterman's Park. Funds raised from the event will go towards CAFOD's work to fight extreme poverty globally and provide clean water to communities in need around the world. Thank you again to everyone who made this fundraising event so successful. You can view the online article here: [Bournemouth Echo](#)

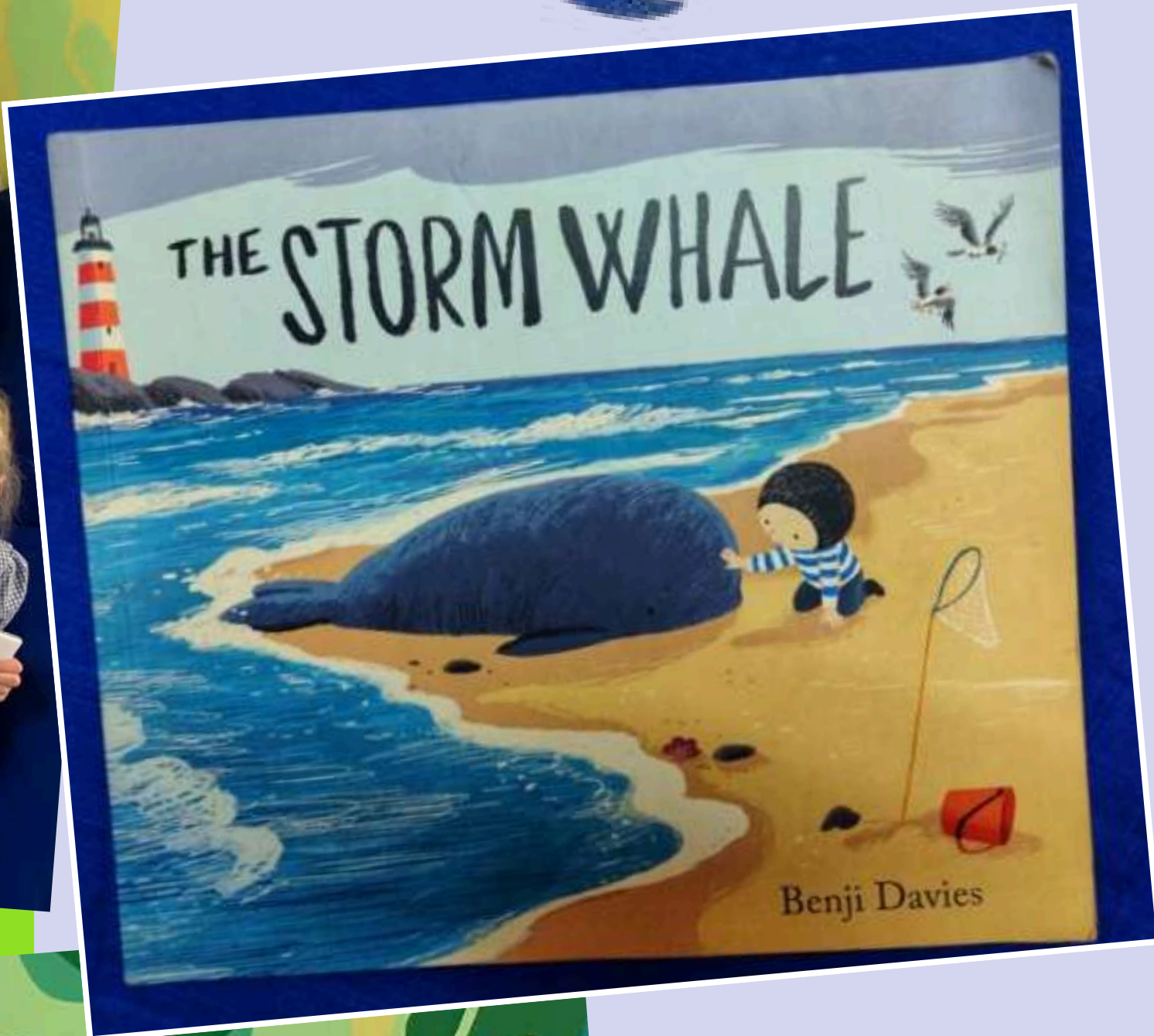
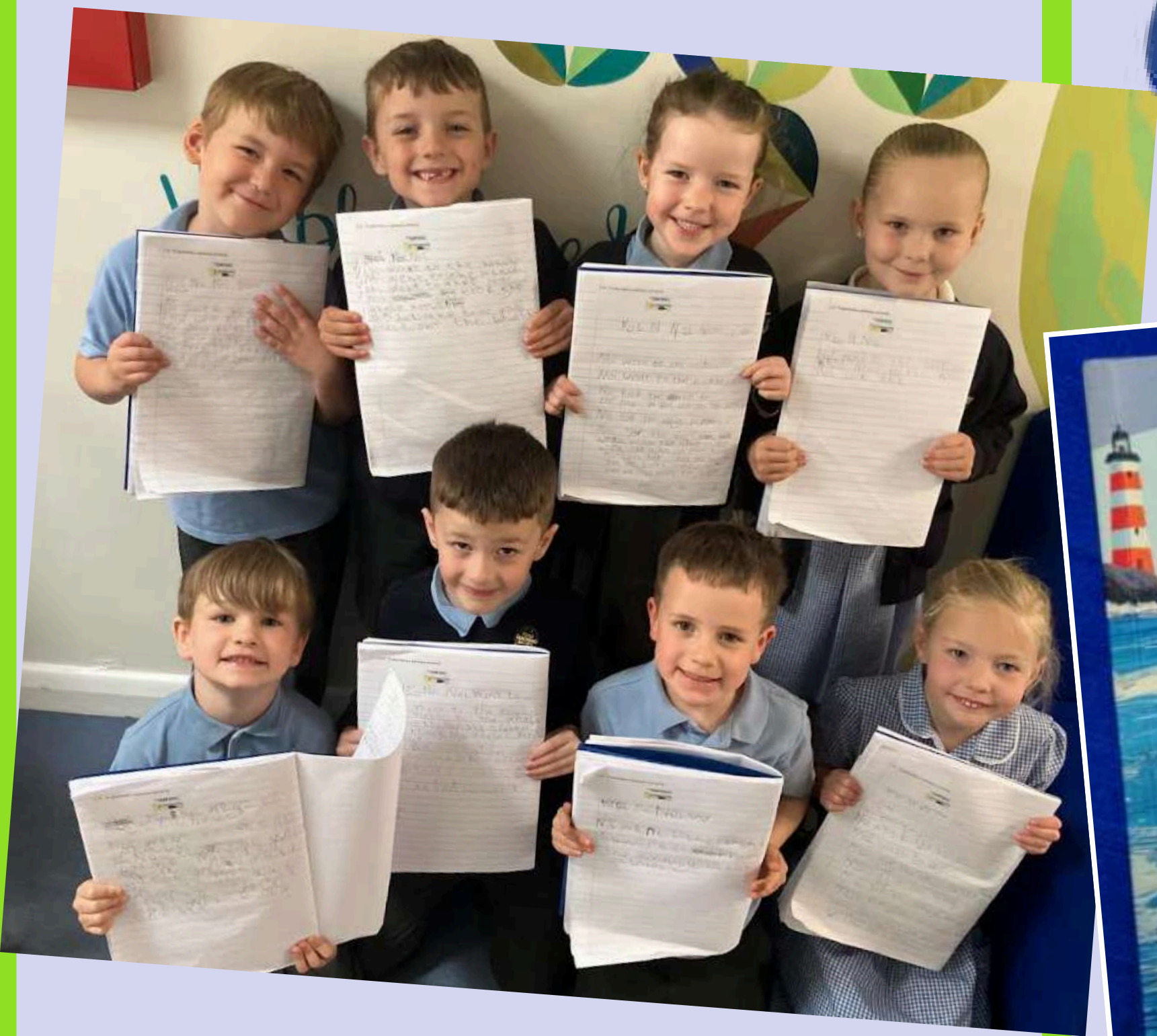
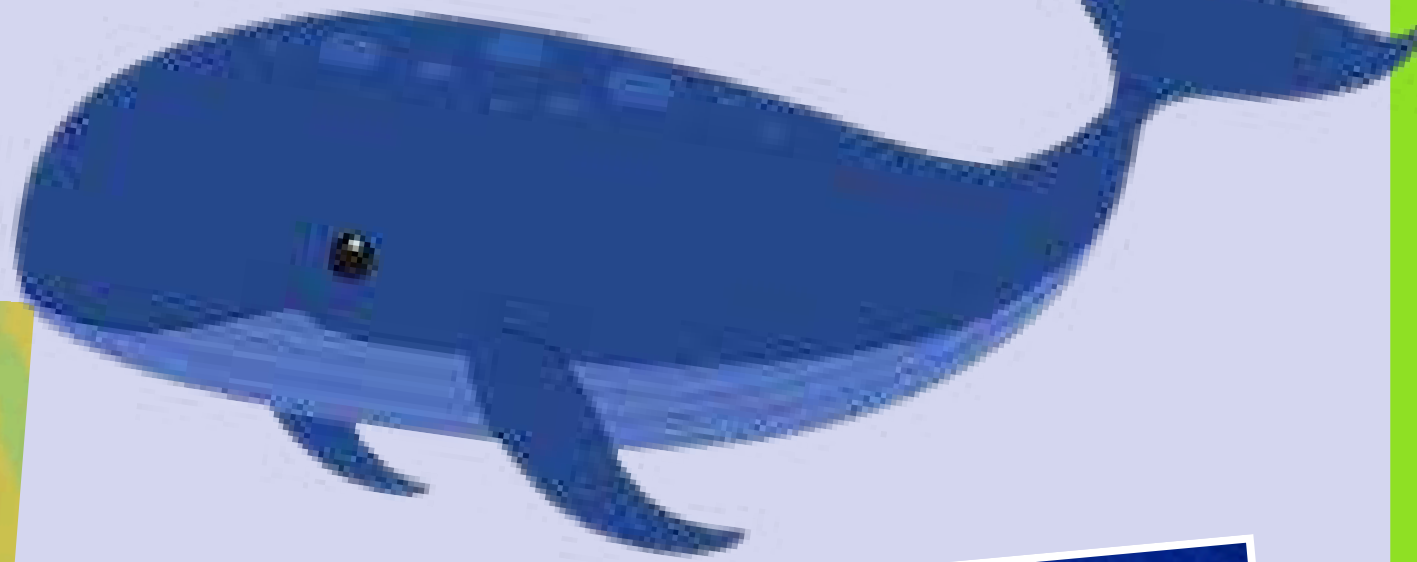
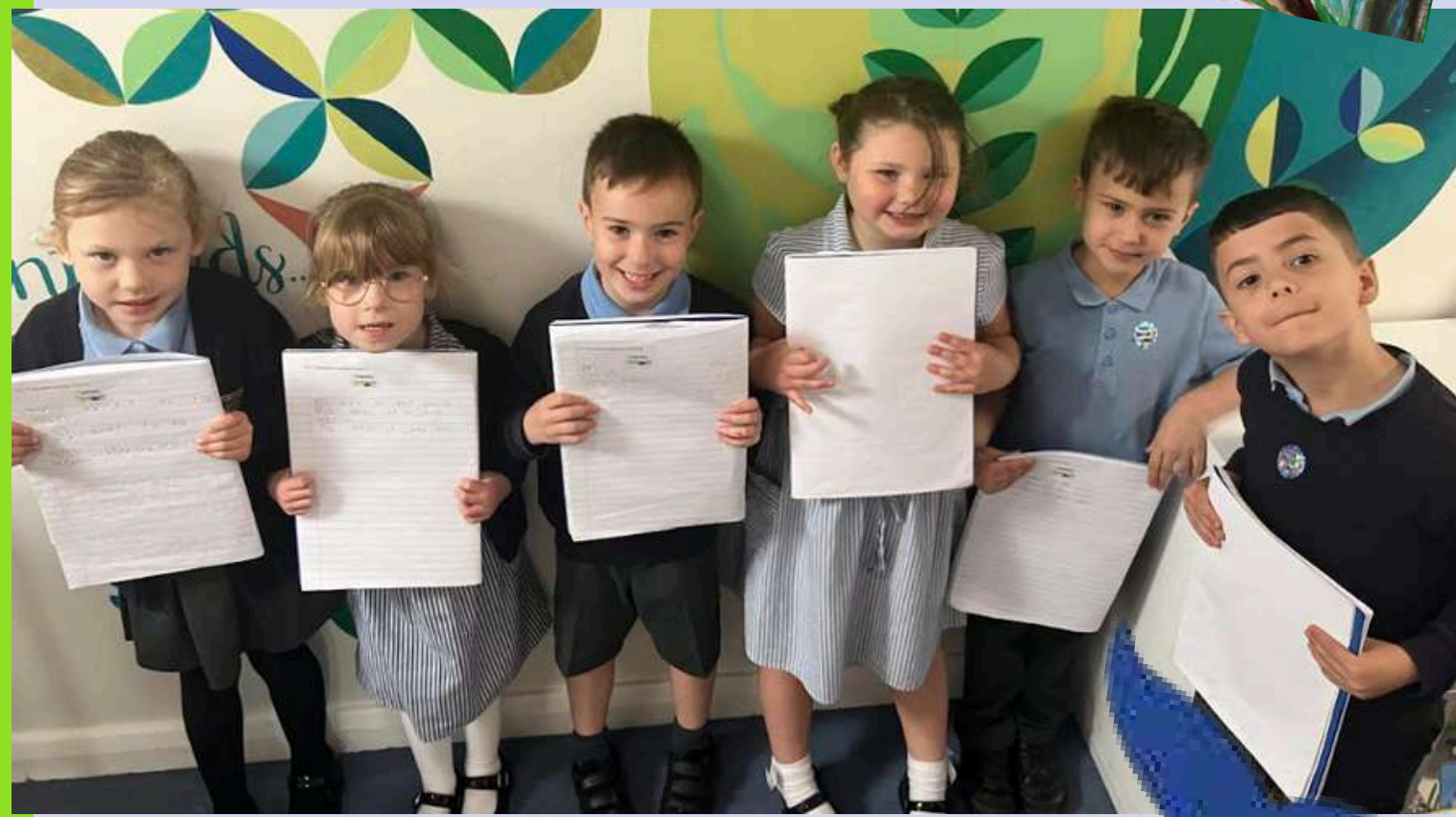
DAILY ECHO



SCHOOL LIFE

Star writers

Well done to the Year 1 children who were sent to see me with their fabulous writing inspired by their class reading book 'The Storm Whale' by Benji Davies. The children were so excited to tell me about the little boy who rescues a whale and puts him in his bathtub only to realise that he needs to return him to the sea. The children in Year 1 even got to make their own whales out of clay.



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

PRAYER LIFE



Please find below the prayer of the month for April. This is a prayer that the children will be learning in school. The prayer for the month is the prayer to St George whose feast day is 23rd April. Please say this prayer with your children and encourage them to learn it by heart if they can.

Prayer to St George

Dear St George

extend me your shield
and your powerful arms
defend me with your strength
so like you, with God's help
I will triumph over evil

Amen

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

Please see the attached from Dorset police. A simple way to report any concerns you may have about the local community.

Your information matters

We rely on our partners and those working with the community to help us understand local and wider issues.

Even small pieces of information can help connect the dots, support investigations and safeguard individuals.

If you come across any information such as

- anti-social behaviour
- child abuse, sexual or criminal exploitation
- community tension
- drugs and county lines
- gang activity
- modern slavery, exploited or trafficked
- sexual offending

You can safely share non-urgent information to help protect your community.

If there is immediate danger / crime in action you should still call 999.



**DORSET
POLICE**

Scan the QR code
to pass us information.





SCHOOL LIFE

Important Dates for your diary

EVENT	DATE
Start of term school Mass	Thursday 23rd April
KS2 Science Fair - Years 3,4,5	Friday 24 th April
Gymnastics Development Festival Y1,2	Thursday 30 th April, 3.30pm
Dr Bike - bring your bike along for a health check	Wednesday 6th May
Y5 Residential to Leeson House	Wednesday 6 th - Friday 8 th May
Year 6 SATs week	Monday 11 th - Thursday 14 th May
Egypt Workshop for Year 3	Wednesday 13 th May
PTA Crazy hair day	Friday 15 th May
Year 2 Creature teachers Workshop	Monday 18 th May
May Procession Service in school	Tuesday 19 th May at 2pm
Ducklings class trip to Nick's Farm	Wednesday 20 th May
Look Who's Talking week	Monday 1 st June - Friday 5 th June
PTA Film Night	Thursday 4 th June
Year 2 Trip to Stanpit Marsh	Friday 5 th June
School led Mass at St Joseph's Church	Sunday 7 th June at 9am
Year 6 Avon Tyrrell Residential trip	Monday 8 th - Friday 12 th June
Welcome Liturgy for September starters	Wednesday 10 th June, 6pm
Stay and Play sessions for September starters	Friday 12 th June
Multiplication Tables Check	Starting from Monday 1 st June
Sports Day	Tuesday 16 th June
Years 3,4,5,6 at 10am Parish Mass at St Joseph's Church	Wednesday 17 th June
Sports Day	Friday 19 th June
PTA Colour Run	Friday 19 th June
1 st Holy Communion Mass at St Joseph's	Sunday 21 st June
Year 1 class trip to Beaulieu	Friday 26 th June
Feast of St Peter and Paul	Monday 29 th June
PTA Summer Fayre - Own clothes day	Friday 3 rd July
Year 4 trip to Winchester Science Museum	Wednesday 8 th July
Year 6 Leavers play	Thursday 9 th July at 2pm and 6pm
End of year reports sent home	Friday 10 th July
Year 6 Leavers Mass in school at 9.15am	Wednesday 15 th July
Year 6 Leavers assembly	Thursday 2pm in school hall
Last day of Summer term	Friday 17 th July - 1.30pm finish

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



NEW course alert



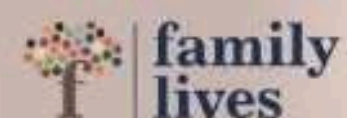
Challenging behaviour in teens
FREE online parenting course

Modules on this course:

- Defiant behaviour
- Aggression and violent behaviour
- Communication and setting boundaries
- Looking after yourself and strengthening the bonds

Sign up today and work at your own pace

WWW.FAMILYLIVES.ORG.UK



Family Lives [Parenting and Family Support](#) | [Family Lives](#) has a website giving lots of advice and support to families about parenting for children and young people of all ages. They have a free confidential helpline offering emotional support, information and advice on all aspects of parenting **0808 800 2222**

a live online chat [Live online chat family support](#) | [Family Lives](#)

a WhatsApp chat **07441 444125** and

an email askus@familylives.org.uk

Family Lives have a range of online parenting courses which are also free to access

[Free online parenting classes](#) | [Family Lives](#)

Details about one of their newest courses – challenging behaviour in teens – is above

[Challenging behaviour in teens free online parenting course](#) | [Family Lives](#)