

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



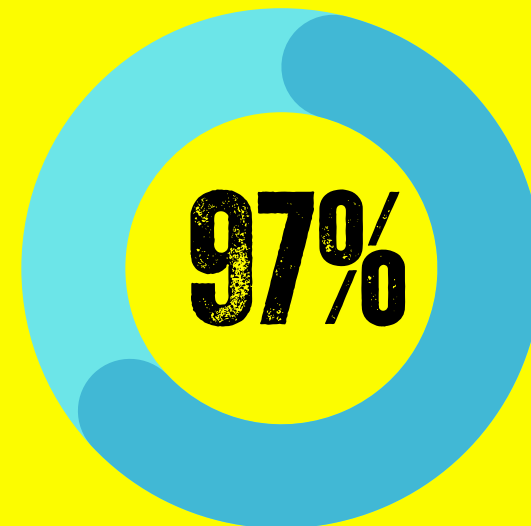
24th April 2026

This week's attendance

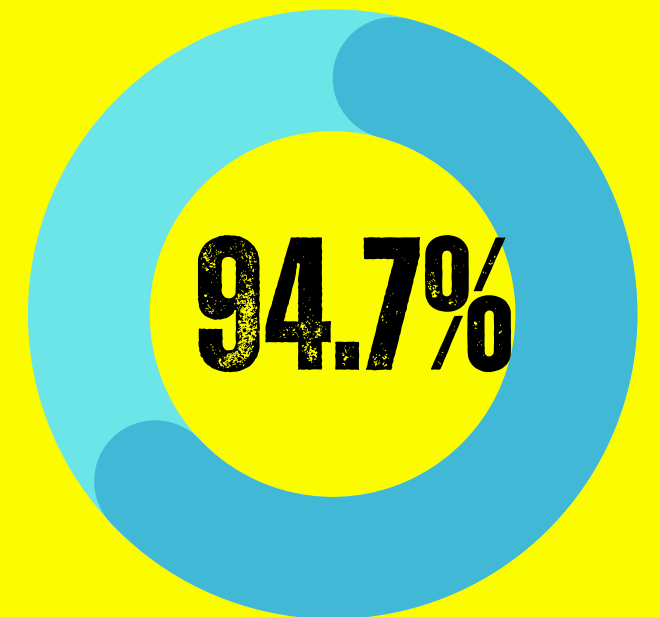


ATTENDANCE SPOTLIGHT:

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 the disciples meeting Jesus after his resurrection on the road to Emmaus.

The disciples are in pain and despair at the death of Jesus despite hearing the rumours about the women finding an empty tomb.

Even though they had met Jesus while he was alive and seen him die they do not recognise him walking beside them.

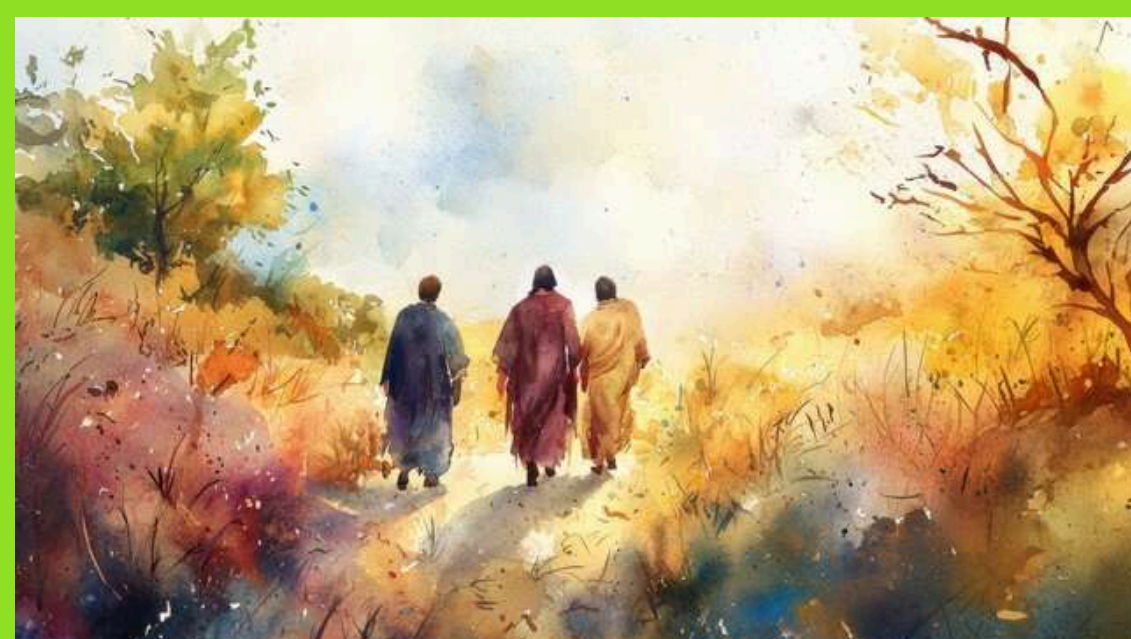
I shared a poem called 'footprints in the sand' by Mary Stevenson with the children. In it the poet is dreaming that she is walking along a beach

with Jesus. In the dream she sees images from her life and notices that in each scene there are two sets of footprints in the sand yet, during the most difficult times in her life there is only one. She asks Jesus why, when he had promised to walk alongside her if she followed him, that he abandoned her when she needed him most.

See if your children can remember what Jesus replies and what this means.

Have a lovely weekend.

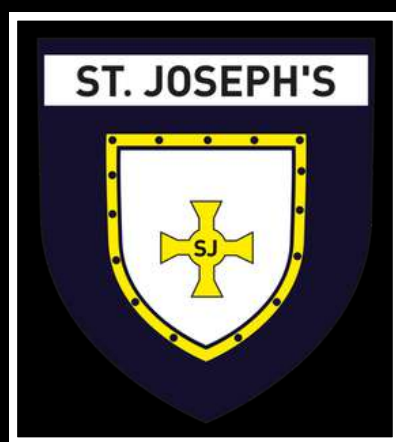
Mr Doherty



DIARY DATES

- Mon 27th - Skateboarding After School Club - Years 1-6
- Tues 28th - Art After School Club - Year 4, Year 5, Year 6
- Tues 28th - Abs Football After School Club - Years 1-6
- Tues 28th - Forest School After School Club - Years R-6
- Wed 29th - Coding After School Club - Years 2-6
- Thurs 30th - Tennis After School Club - Years 1-4
- Thurs 30th - Netball Tournament at Twynham Y5/6
- Fri 1st May - Anxiety Workshop for parents at 9am - Phiz Lab
- Fri 1st May - Gymnastics After School Club - Years 1-6
- Sun 3rd May - Family Mass at St Joseph's Church at 9am
- Mon 4th May - Bank holiday

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

Start of term school Mass

Thank you to all of our parents/carers and family members who came to our start of term Mass this week in school. Once again the children sang beautifully and I was so impressed at our Year 4 readers who spoke clearly and confidently. Thank you Father Paul for leading us in prayer.



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.

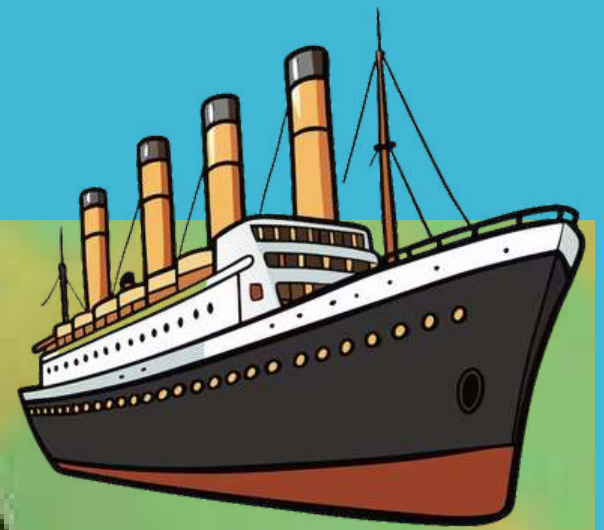
Our current Year 4 children, who made their First Holy Communion last year are welcome to wear their Holy Communion outfits from last year on the day.

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



Writing titan!

Ava has really impressed Year 6 staff this week with her writing. In class, Year 6 have been focusing on moving on the action through the dialogue that they write. Ava wrote a brilliant piece about a father putting his young daughter on a lifeboat on Titanic. What struck us the most was Ava's empathy that came through in her writing. Well done Ava! Miss Thomas and the Year 6 staff.





Attendance

Well done to Year 1 who are this week's attendance winners two weeks in a row, with 98.15% attendance! Well done Year 1! Whole school attendance was 95.1%.



Super swimmers

Well done to Maggie and Shanice who came back from their recent Level 3 swim meet with lots of medals. Maggie won 2 golds in the 50m breaststroke and the 50 backstroke. She also swam a personal best time. Shanice won silver in the 100m backstroke and bronze in the 200m breaststroke. Well done girls!



Sports for all Day and Sports Day.

Sports Day will be on Tuesday 16th June this year. Friday 19th June will be Sports for all Day when the children will get to try different sports in school. These dates are in the termly calendar at the back of the newsletter.



Well done Maggie and Aoife!



Well done to Maggie and Aoife in Year 5 who will be performing in Coppelia at the Layard Theatre in May. Isn't it wonderful to see where practice and resilience can get you? I reminded the children this week that when we practice hard to make the most of our talents given to us by God, this is another way in which we are caring for a very special part of God's creation - us.



Year 6 meditation

As part of their RE learning, Year 6 have been looking at all the times that Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection. They wrote guided meditations for The Road to Emmaus (which was Sunday's Gospel) and they used these as part of a celebration of the word that they put together themselves. They then delivered these to small groups of children from Year 3. Well done Year 6. Miss Thomas



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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!



E-Safety.

A reminder that our monthly e-safety parent newsletters are on our website, with useful advice on keeping children safe online. Please see the newsletters here: [E-Safety Parent Newsletter](#)



Well done to Keaton who was awarded a Let your Light Shine award last week for writing a sentence independently. Independence is one of our core values. Well done Keaton! This approach to work will take you far in life.



Year 3 reward time

Well done to Year 3, who received their whole class reward (a trip to Waterman's Park) for getting 25 'Stars in a jar'. Mrs Whyte tells me this was a result of your excellent behaviour, attitude to the school community and respect for each other. It is so lovely to hear this children. Keep it up!





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.

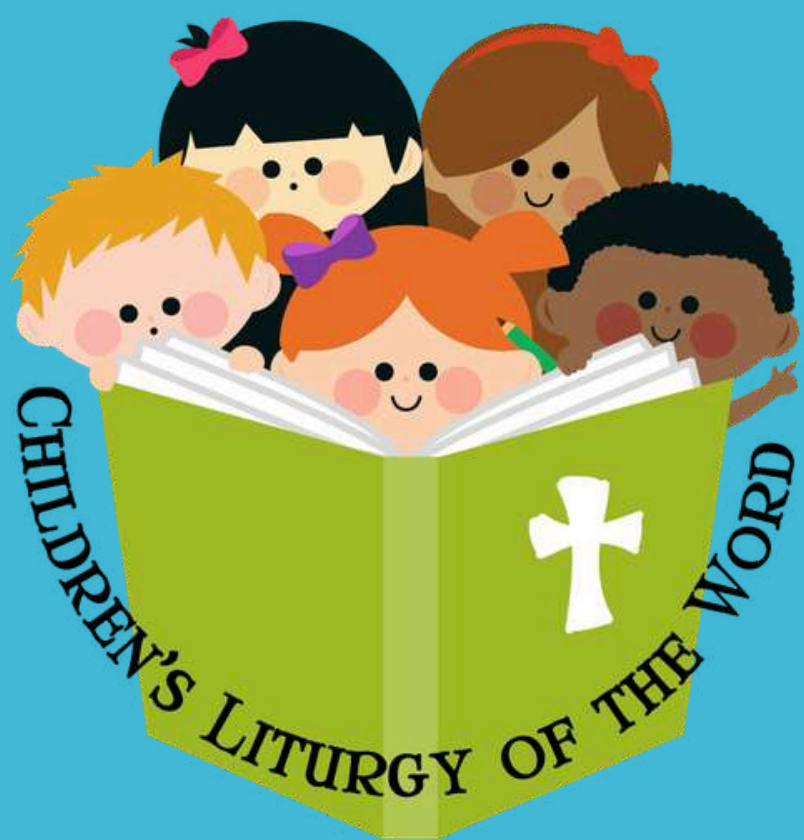
They are held during term time except the 1st Sunday of the month as this is Family Mass.

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.



Care of creation in Ducklings



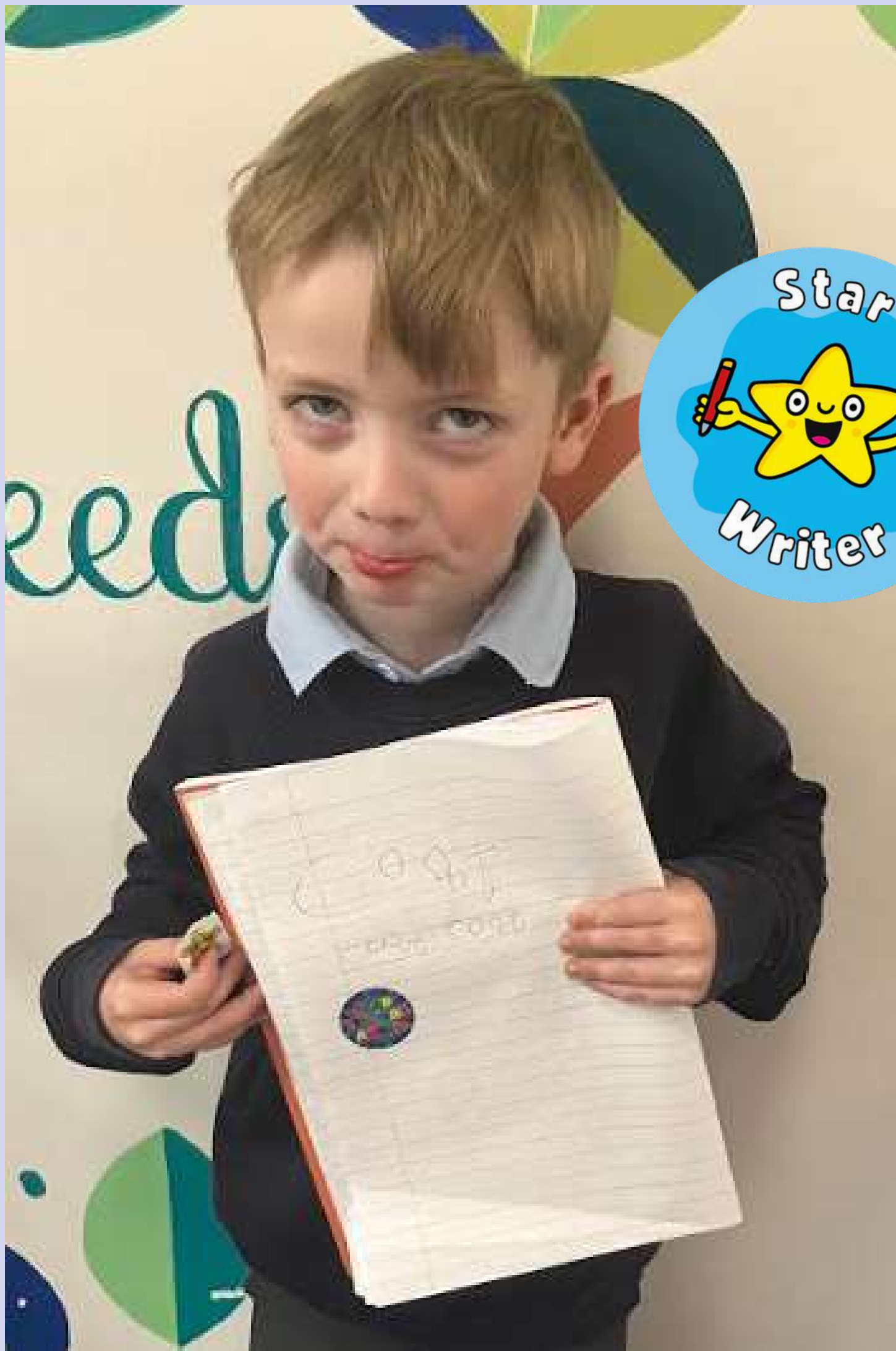
Ducklings class were very excited this week as they have been observing their caterpillars growing. We are hoping that in 6 weeks' time we will have some beautiful butterflies. Learning about butterflies and observing their incredible life cycle is a wonderful way to teach our children to appreciate the wonder of God's creation and the importance of looking after it. I really loved the paper chain caterpillars Ducklings!

SCHOOL LIFE



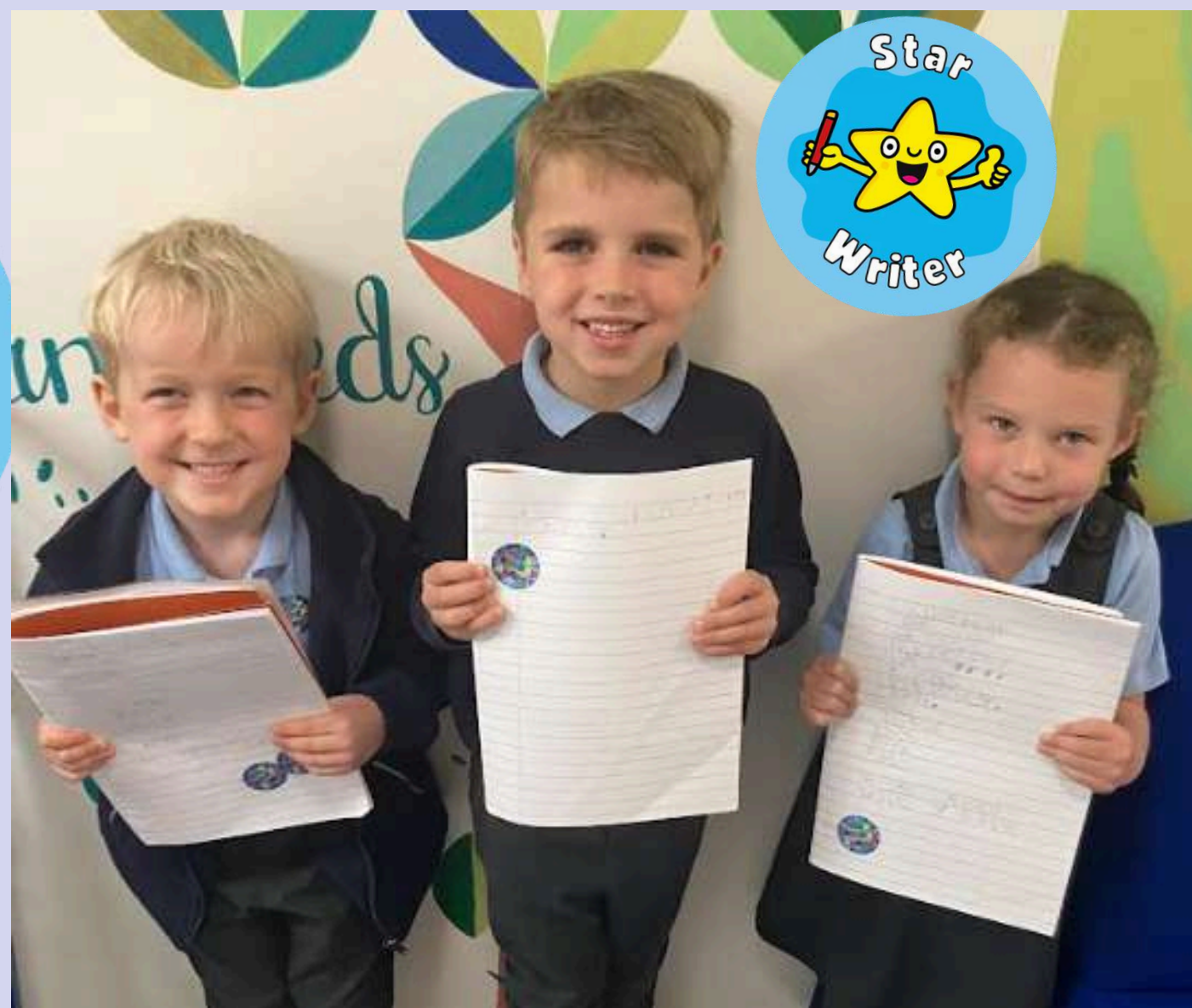
Star writers

Well done to Robert who was sent to see me with his independent writing. I was so impressed at the improvement in your handwriting too Robert. Well done!



Star writers

Well done to Elijah, George and Isla E. in Ducklings for their incredible writing last week. All 3 children wrote their first independent sentence with a capital letter, fullstop, finger spaces and super handwriting. Well done children! An amazing achievement.



Star writers

This week Year 3 have been learning how to punctuate sentences that start with a fronted adverbial. This is helping them prepare for writing a recount after their Egyptian workshop in May. I must say that I was very impressed with your work Year 3. I am looking forward to reading your Egyptian Day recounts!



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				

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SCHOOL LIFE



Dorset
Mental
Health
Support
Team in
Schools



Dorset HealthCare
University
NHS Foundation Trust

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH WORRY

School : St Joseph's
Date: Friday 1st May
Time: 9am - 10am

Worry and anxiety are normal emotions, but when it starts to impact a child's daily life, they might need support to overcome fears and worries. This one-hour workshop will provide more detail in the support we offer to help parents and carers of anxious children, and introduces our Parent-led Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (PLCBT) group.

The session introduces

- What anxiety looks like in children
- What keeps anxiety going
- How parents can support their child to overcome anxiety
- Signposting for parents/carers



To book please contact the office
admin@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk



FREE
RESOURCES



SCHOOL LIFE

UK Government

NHS

BEST
START
IN LIFE

A GUIDE TO SCREEN TIME



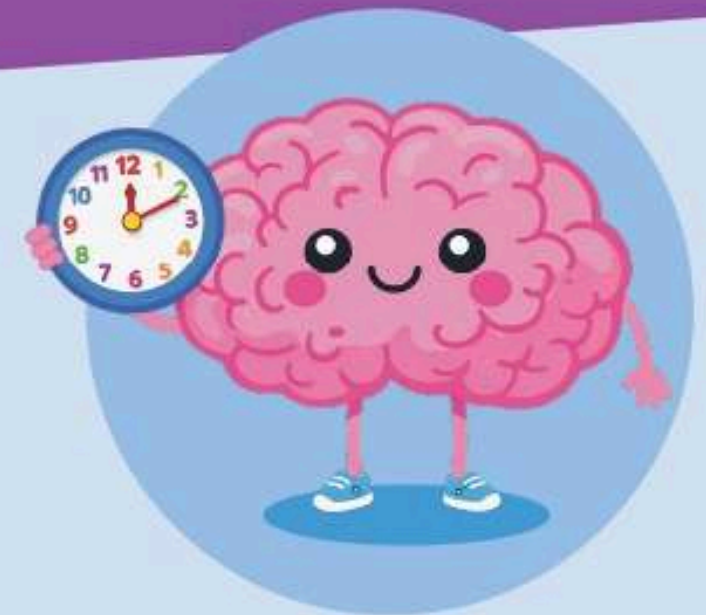
How to help
little brains develop
healthy screen habits

How much screen time should my child have?

Limit total screen time, wherever possible.

Under 2 yrs: Avoid screen time except shared activities with family that encourage bonding and interaction.

2-5 yrs: Try to keep to 1 hour a day. Less if possible.



Young children's brains are over-stimulated more easily than adults', so they need specifically tailored content.

Slow paced content:
Choose content with simple stories and clear, slow speech, so emotions are easy to follow.



What content is
**better
content?**



Safe content: Use parental controls to block inappropriate, harmful material.

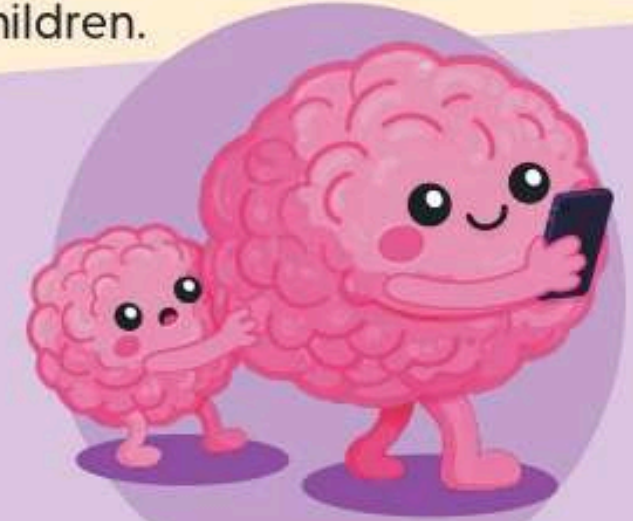
Social media: This isn't made for young brains, so it should be avoided.

AI: Don't let them use AI toys, tools, or chat-bots until we know more about their effects on children.

Safe screen swaps:
Switch fast-paced style videos for slower-paced content with simple stories.

How does my screen use affect my child?

Lead by example: Children's brains are like sponges – they'll copy your screen use habits. Be mindful of how often you use screens around your child.



Set clear boundaries for screen use. This gives children time for activities and play that help them develop.

Avoid young children using screens alone. Try to keep bedrooms and mealtimes free from screens.

Why not try... watching and discussing content with your child? Conversation helps their development.



Safe screen swaps:

Mealtimes: Swap screens for music, games or conversation – make it social.

Bedtimes: Swap screens for bedtime stories 1 hour before sleep.

**When and where
is it okay for my
child to use screens?**

Children with disabilities or special educational needs may benefit from tailored screen use. And for some, assistive technology can be an important tool for communication and everyday participation.

**My child
has SEND.
Is the advice the
same for us?**

They also need ample time for interaction, play, and sleep. Try to avoid screen time for these activities.



How does
screen time affect
**my child's
development?**

Large amounts of screen time are linked with negative effects on children's health and development. It can affect social, emotional, language & brain development, sleep, eyesight and weight.

Young children learn best through warm interaction with parents and carers – reading, play and conversation. These early moments build the foundations for life.





Important Dates for your diary

EVENT	DATE
Netball Development Tournament Y5&6	Thursday 30 th April, 3.30pm
Supporting Your Child with Worries Workshop	Friday 1 st May, 9am
Family Mass at St Joseph's Church	Sunday 3 rd May, 9am
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
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 for all 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
Rocksteady Concert	Thursday 16 th July, 9.45am
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



Community

Writing workshops



Happening this weekend, families are invited to enjoy free children's activities and workshops led by experienced writing professionals on Saturday 25th April at Patch, located on the first floor of Bobby's Department Store.

Featuring Artful Scribe and The Story Works, there will be free drop-in sessions throughout the day, all designed to get children's creative brains whirring and inspire them to write.

In addition, there are four ticketed workshops available. These cost £10 per child, with no charge for accompanying adults.

There will also be a Poetry Marquee on Horseshoe Common, offering free, child friendly drop in sessions and poetry performances running all weekend.

Further details can be found [here](#).

Wednesday Club

High Cross Church
5:30—6:45pm
Ages 7-11
Term time only
Games And Craft Activities
Snacks and refreshments
£1.00 Per child



Not sure if it's an urgent dental problem?




If you have any of the following problems, you **can still get an urgent dental appointment by calling NHS 111**—even if you don't have a regular dentist:

- ✓ Broken or lost filling or crown
- ✓ Toothache that's not getting better
- ✓ Broken tooth that's causing discomfort
- ✓ Sensitivity or swelling in the mouth
- ✓ Gum problems causing pain or bleeding

You'll be assessed and directed to a local dentist for the right treatment.

Urgent appointments are there to help manage these problems quickly—before they get worse.

 Call NHS 111 or visit 111.nhs.uk for urgent or unscheduled dental care.

South West
Regional Office

PHOENIX YOUTH FC

U12 GIRLS

FOOTBALL TEAM!

PLAYING ON SATURDAYS!

GIRLS GOING INTO YEARS 6 & 7 IN SEPTEMBER?

LOOKING FOR A NEW TEAM?

CONTACT:
 Hardy 07377 330532 
 phoenixyouthfc@hotmail.com