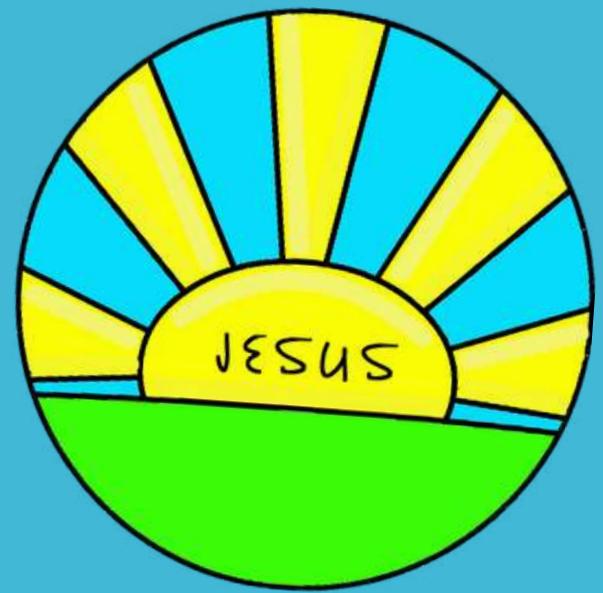


St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



9th January 2026

ATTENDANCE SPOTLIGHT:

This week's attendance

95%

Target attendance

97%

Best attendance this week



YEAR 1
96%

Remember: Every Day Counts!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot tell you how lovely it was to see the children back at school this week. There has been a lovely buzz in all of the classrooms and the children have settled quickly into routines. Well done everybody (staff and pupils).

In this week's whole school celebration of the word assembly we heard the reading from Sunday's Gospel where John describes Jesus as the 'light of the world'.

This Gospel was especially poignant for us as a school where our vision is for 'each child to shine their own unique light'.

I asked the children to think about how they can shine God's light onto others through their actions and words. There were some lovely suggestions such as showing resilience, working hard in class and being extra kind to others.

I told the children that we are all 'the light of the world'. Let us start the New Year by trying to shine even more brightly.

Have a wonderful weekend everybody.

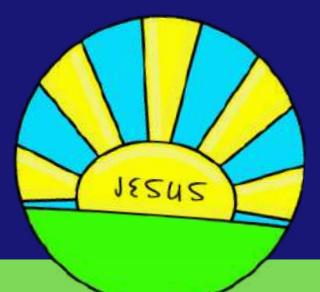
Mr Doherty

I shared this image with the children in our Celebration of the Word. See if your child can explain its significance for us.



DIARY DATES

- Mon 12th - First Aid Sessions
Year 2, Year 4, Year 5
- Mon 12th - Skateboarding
After School Club - **Years 1-6**
- Tues 13th - First Aid Sessions
Year 1, Year 3, Year 6
- Tues 13th - Art After School Club - **Year 4, Year 5, Year 6**
- Tues 13th - Forest School After School Club - **Years R - 6**
- Tues 13th - Abs Football After School Club - **Years 1-6**
- Tues 13th - PTA meeting at 6pm in school - **all welcome**
- Wed 14th - First Aid Sessions
Ducklings
- Wed 14th - Coding After School Club - **Years 2-6**
- Wed 14th - Dare to Believe Festival 3.30pm - **Years 5/6**
- Thurs 15th - Tennis After School Club - **Years 1-4**
- Fri 16th - Gymnastics After School Club - **Years 1-6**



Epiphany Mass

Thank you to Father Paul who celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany with the whole school today.

In Key Stage assembly I explained that the word epiphany means to unveil or uncover. The baby Jesus was revealed to the wise men and the world beyond Bethlehem as the Son of God. Can I say a huge well done to our Ducklings who joined us for Mass for the first time this year. You were a credit to your families and your teacher.

Well done also to our Year 5 and 6 readers. I was so impressed by how you read. Thank you also to Eliza and Amy in Year 6 for altar serving. We are very blessed to have children so active in worship in the school and Parish.

Mr Doherty



This week we welcomed two new families to the school. Izadora and Dominikas (who are brother and sister) joined Year 5 and 2 and Noah joined our Year 1 class.

We hope you will all had a lovely first week at St Joseph's and have made lots of new friends.

First Aid courses

Next week all of the children will receive training in First Aid.

The aim of these sessions is to build life-saving skills, boost confidence, develop empathy, and promote safety by empowering the children to act calmly and effectively in emergencies, preventing minor incidents from worsening, and fostering responsibility for themselves and others. Please talk with your children during the week about what they have learnt.

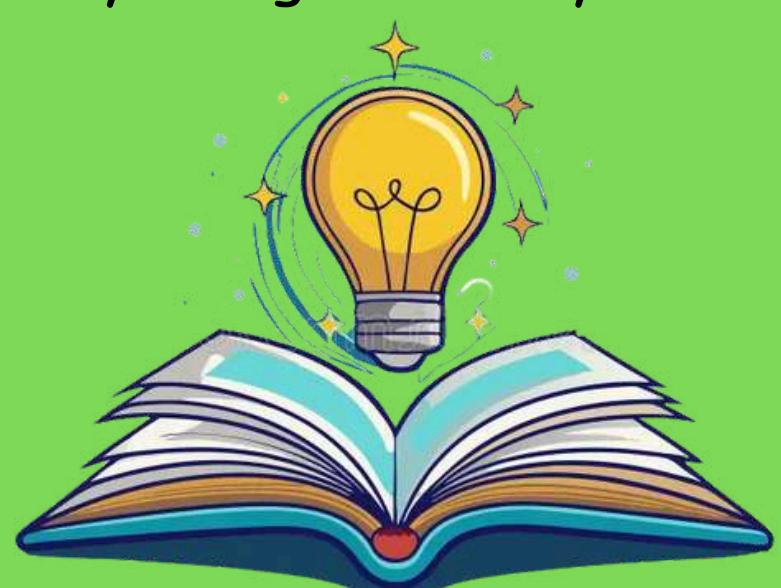


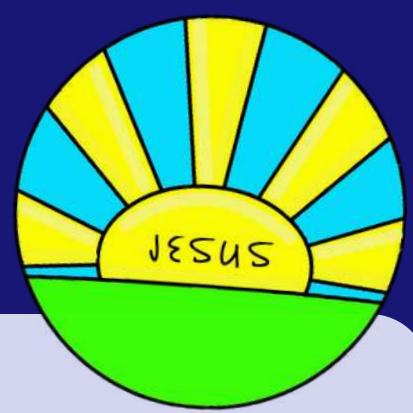
Water

Can I please remind parents that the children should only be drinking water in school. Please do not put juices in water bottles as this constant exposure to sugars and additives is very unhealthy.

Curriculum letters

Over the next week you will be receiving a curriculum letter from your child's class teacher. This includes important information about the upcoming term including topic areas being covered in lessons especially RE, English and Maths. We hope this will help you support your children at home. Children that talk about what they have learnt will remember more. Thank you again for your continued support.





Perfect percentages!

I had a lovely visit from Aoife and Klaudia who were sent to see me by Mrs McCarthy for their amazing maths work on percentages this week.

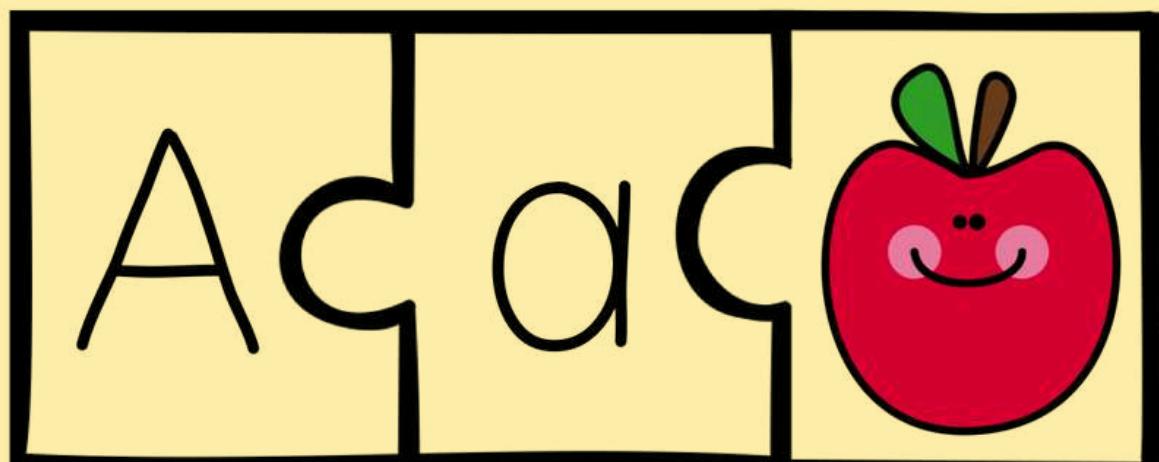
Super impressive girls. Well done!



Phonics workshops

Next week parents and carers of children in Ducklings, Year 1 and Year 2 will receive invites to phonics lessons where they will be able to observe the teaching of phonics in class.

We hope as many of you as possible can make it in. Being able to support your child with phonics is so important as it is the foundation for reading and writing.



Attendance award!

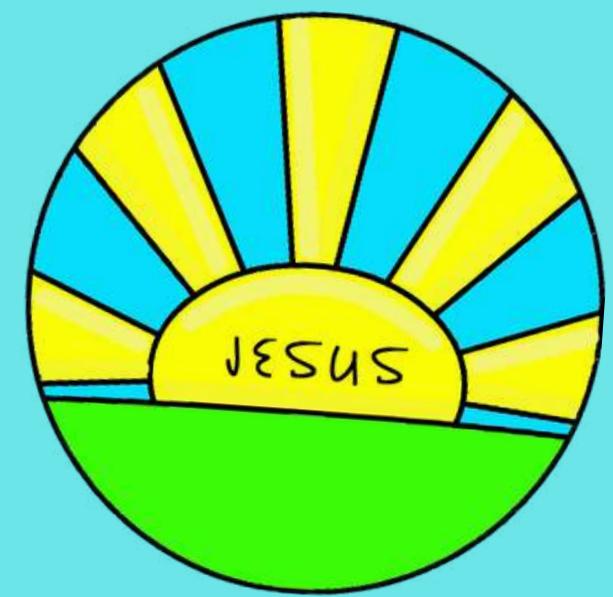


Well done to Year 1 who were awarded this week's School Attendance Matters award with 96% attendance. Great job Year 1! Year 5 were a close second.

Year 6 historians

It was lovely to see some of the fabulous work from Year 6 in history this week. Alicia, Logan, Iris and Charlie came to see me with their exceptional pieces on why World War 2 started. I was so impressed at their knowledge of the subject and it was only lesson 1 of their new topic.





WELL DONE!

The following children deserve a very special mention because they were chosen by our new starters for helping them settle in at St Joseph's in their first week. The way in which we welcome people to our school says so much about us as a community. Thank you children. You should be very proud of yourselves. I explained to the children in assembly this week that the happiest people are those that see others happy because of them.



Elliot and Thomas in Year 1 for making Noah feel welcome.



Maggie and Charlotte in Year 5 for helping Izadora to have a great first week at her new school.



Louie and Marley in Year 2 for helping Dominikas settle into Year 2.

Each month we will publish a newsletter explaining what the children will be experiencing in our Celebration of the Word assemblies (on Mondays) and class worship during the month (daily). Please find information below about January. We hope it is a useful resource for your family prayer time.

Worship Newsletter (January)



January often feels like a fresh page: a New year, a new term and a chance for new beginnings. Many families use this time to think about hopes for the year ahead - perhaps grow in kindness, gratitude or faith.

Jesus Is The Light

Throughout January, the daily classroom prayers will allow children to reflect on Jesus, the Light of the World. In the first week, they will pray with words from the Gospel of John (John 1:1-18) and from St John Henry Newman, asking Jesus to be the true light of life, who lights their path.

Children will be encouraged to shine Jesus' light by helping others to see His love, kindness and goodness through what they say and do. You might like to use this prayer as a family at home:

Jesus,
You are the true light,
The light of life,
The light on my path,
The light of glory!
May your light shine brightly
through my words and actions each day.
Amen

Bold Statement

In the week beginning 12th January, the assembly points to the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Matthew 3:13-17). The children will hear of Jesus' Baptism in the River Jordan, where God the Father declared from Heaven that Jesus is His beloved Son.

Through this, children will understand that Jesus' Baptism was a bold statement about who He is – God's Son – and that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit were all present at this significant event. Children are given the opportunity to reflect on how the sacrament of Baptism welcomes people into God's family and invites them to make a bold statement for God in their own lives, knowing that they too are God's beloved child.



With your child/ren you may also like to...

- Look at photos or keepsakes from your child's Baptism, and talk about what it means to be "God's beloved child".
- Encourage your child to make a simple "bold statement for God", e.g. "Today I will include someone who is left out."
- Trace a small cross on your child's forehead at bedtime and quietly say, "You are God's beloved child".

Born to Fish, called to Follow

In the week beginning 26th January, the assembly focuses on the calling of the first disciples (Matthew 4:12-23), who left their boats immediately when Jesus said, "Follow me". A quickfire quiz highlights why the disciples were able to say such a confident "yes" to Jesus. Children will be invited to think about their own gifts and talents, and how Jesus calls them to use these for good. Through simple prayer actions, children will be given time to reflect on listening to Jesus' voice and trusting Him with their "yes".



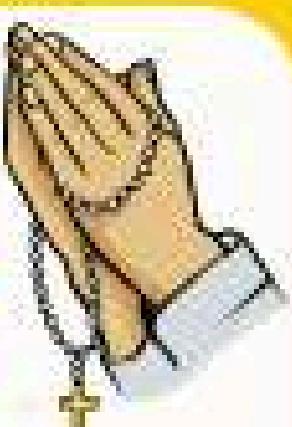
With your child/ren you may also like to...

- Talk about your family's gifts and how each person can use them to help others at home, school or in the parish.
- Choose on simple "yes to Jesus" action your family can take this week, for example, visiting someone who is lonely or making extra time to pray together.

Families of Faith

January

Prayer Corner



Dear Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, thank you for loving each other. Help us to love like you do, to be kind, and to help each other. Make our home a place of peace and joy. Amen

January can feel a cold and grey month with the excitement of Christmas behind us. Imagine how Mary and Joseph felt as they got to know the baby Jesus. In your prayer area this month collect things that remind you of being a family.

Family Faith in Action



Spread a smile to others when you go for walks together. Say hello to another family at Church or on the playground - thinking about the Holy Family being in a strange land not knowing people.

Saints to Inspire



31 January - St John Bosco

St John Bosco is the patron saint of children. His father died when he was two years old and his mother brought him and his brothers up in poverty but with a strong faith. He became a priest and devoted his life to helping the poor and young people. He taught them, cared for them, and gave him opportunities. He had a fun side. As a boy he learned magic tricks and used this to help him teach children about the faith.

How can you be like John Bosco? Learn a magic trick this month and perform it to others - telling them about St John Bosco. Save pennies to give to a youth charity. At your family meals celebrate the children's strengths, talents and potential with them.

Good News from the Gospel



We have come from the East to worship the King (Mt 2:1-12)

January is the month of change for the Holy family. They welcome visitors from afar who have followed a star for many months to see the new baby. They then had to travel to a strange land themselves. Their faith in God meant that they knew they had to live with strangers until such a time that Jesus could be safe. During this time they were giving their best offering to God. What can you do this month to show your best offering to God? Think about people who are living away from home in your prayers.



National Hot Chocolate Day 31st January

Go for a walk and share hot chocolate with someone who would appreciate your friendship



PTA NEWS

We need a 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.

The infographic is titled '10 REASONS TO JOIN THE PTA' in large white text. At the top, it says 'PTA+' and 'The home of school fundraising'. The reasons are numbered 1 to 10 and each has a title and a brief description:

- 1 SUPPORT THE SCHOOL**: The PTA is vital to the success of the school. Funds raised enrich your child's learning and make every student's experience better. Be part of the group that pays for the playground your child loves or funds the library that's their favourite place to be.
- 2 IT'S TOTALLY FLEXIBLE**: Whether you're a full-time parent or working the nine to five, anyone can get involved. It's less commitment than you think, and you don't always have to attend meetings. Small jobs such as designing a poster, distributing letters or running a stall keep everything running smoothly.
- 3 MAKE LASTING FRIENDSHIPS**: Meet and chat to a wider circle of families from different classes and year groups. Get to know other parents, and bond over exciting events, socials and get-togethers. Find a place to belong and spend time with others who share your values.
- 4 BE BETTER CONNECTED**: Create closer links with the head, teachers and staff. If you're new to the school, the PTA is an excellent way to find out how things work and become part of the community. If not, you'll still gain greater insight by seeing how things work from both sides.
- 5 BECAUSE IT'S FUN!**: Be part of the team which organises the best events and get-togethers. Debrief over a glass of wine (or two). Suggest your most hare-brained idea and watch as it catches on and everyone wants a piece of the action. Laugh. Cry. Be there for each other.
- 6 CHANGE SCHOOL FOR THE BETTER**: Have your say on important decisions. Work with the school and other parents to see where improvements can be made, and implement them. Directly influence the experience of your child and hundreds of others.
- 7 LEARN NEW SKILLS**: Everyone has something they can bring to the PTA, but you can also learn new skills by trading with others. Always wanted to perfect that cookie recipe? Not sure how to design a poster? Want to hone your public speaking skills? You can do it with the support of the committee.
- 8 IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING**: Studies show that children whose parents are involved in their education do better in school. Engaging with the PTA shows your children's education is important to you. Play your part in improving the school and watch them.
- 9 IT'S NOT JUST FOR MUMS**: Everyone is welcome, and it's especially important to have dads and male carers represented, as male role models are crucial in children's upbringing. Dads can bring different skills; they can bring a different perspective, and they can bring along other dads.
- 10 CREATE LASTING MEMORIES**: Our children are only at school for a few years, but they will remember the difference we make for a lifetime. They will cherish the activities and games we fund, learn using resources we buy, and remember the events we hold. Help keep the PTA going so future pupils can benefit too.

JOIN
OUR
TEAM

Next PTA meeting - everyone welcome!

Please note, our next PTA meeting is on Tuesday 13th January at 6pm at school to discuss fundraising opportunities for the year ahead. Everyone is welcome to attend! We look forward to seeing you there.

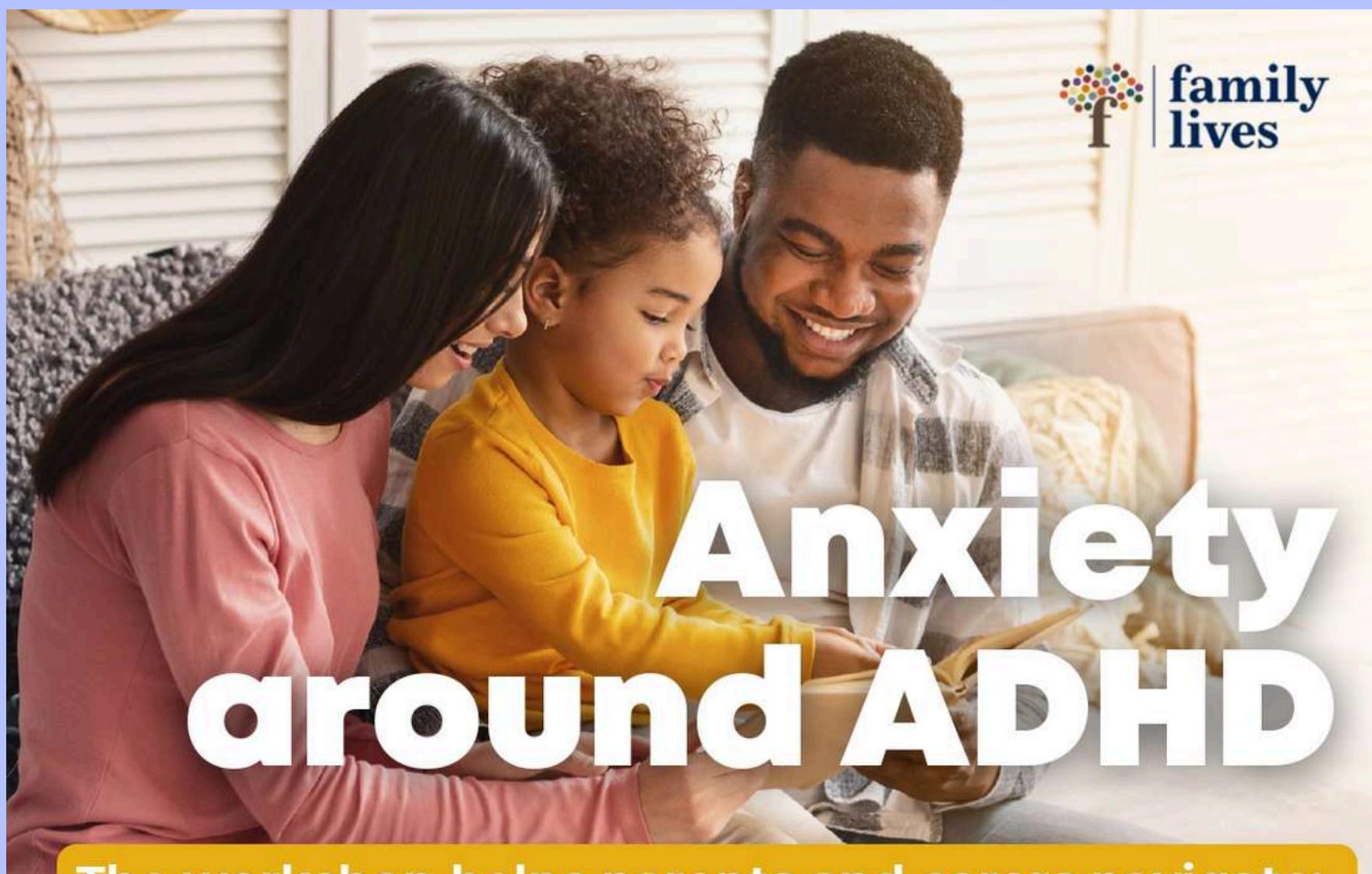


SCHOOL LIFE

Important Dates for your diary

EVENT	DATE
First Aid sessions for all classes	Monday 12 th January - Wednesday 14 th Jan
Dare to Believe Festival at The Grange Y5/6	Wednesday 14 th January
Multi Skills Competition at The Grange Y1/2	Wednesday 21 st January
Imaginative Prayer for Year 6	Thursday 22 nd January
Gymnastics Festival at Highcliffe School Y1/2	Tuesday 27 th January
Eco Coding Adventure for Years 1-4	Tuesday 3 rd February
Step Into Sport Festival at The Grange Y3,4,5,6	Wednesday 4 th February
NCPCC National Number Day	Friday 6 th February
Scholastic Book Fair	Tuesday 10 th February - Friday 13 th February
Gymnastics Festival at The Grange Y3/4	Tuesday 10 th February
Netball Tournament at The Grange Y3/4	Wednesday 11 th February
Imaginative Prayer for Year 6	Thursday 12 th February
Year 2 Space Camp	Thursday 12 th February - overnight
February Half Term	Monday 16 th February - Friday 20 th February
Football Development Tournament Y4	Wednesday 25 th February
Live and Inspired Music Performance	Wednesday 4 th March
Shooting Stars Festival at The Grange 2,3,4	Thursday 5 th March
PTA Race Night Fundraiser	Friday 6 th March
Imaginative Prayer for Y6	Thursday 12 th March
Netball Tournament at Twynham Primary Y5/6	Thursday 12 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
Mass to celebrate St Joseph's Feast Day	Friday 20 th March
Netball Tournament at Twynham Primary Y5/6	Thursday 19 th March
Last day of term - finish at 1.30pm	Friday 27 th March

Community



Anxiety around ADHD

The workshop helps parents and carers navigate:

- What is ADHD
- Understanding why a child with ADHD may also have anxiety
- Explore strategies to help support you and your child
- Signposting to other support that is available



Tuesday 27 January 2026, 9.30am - 11.30am

Thursday 29 January 2026, 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Online via MS Teams

To book your place, call **Lesley** on **020 4522 8701**,
email **services@familylives.org.uk** or scan our
QR code to use our online referral form

We build better family lives together

www.familylives.org.uk

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Scan Me!

Confidential texting service

ParentLine 5-19

A confidential text messaging service in Dorset for parents and carers of children aged 5-19.

07312 263131

Available school term time only

 ChatHealth

NHS
Dorset HealthCare University
NHS Foundation Trust

ParentLine is a confidential text messaging service providing parents and carers of 5-19 year olds in Dorset a way to seek advice from our school nursing team about their child's health and development via text message.

WhatsApp Support Service

We believe everyone should have someone to turn to for support.

If you are worried about your children or your family life, message us on WhatsApp

07441 444125

www.familylives.org.uk

