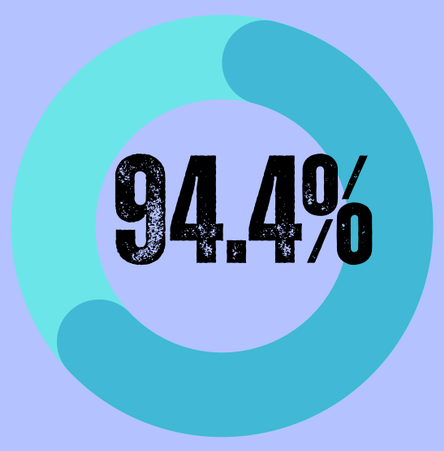
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

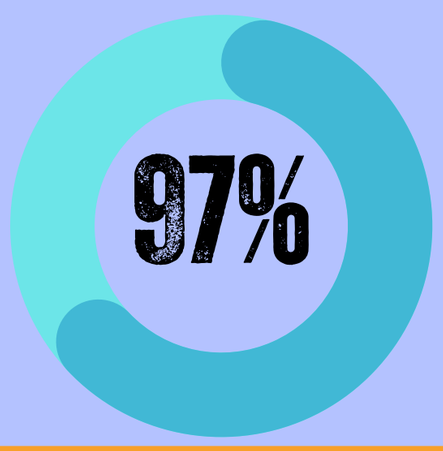
13th March 2026

ATTENDANCE SPOTLIGHT:

This week's attendance



Target attendance



Best attendance this week

YEAR 2

97.9%

Remember: Every Day Counts!

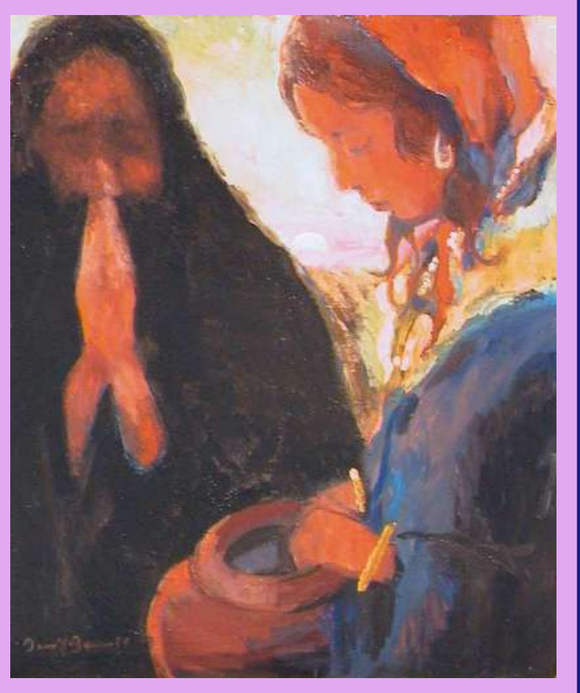
Dear Parents and Carers,

In this week's Celebration of the Word we listened to the story of the Samarian woman at the well.

I explained that she was an outcast, yet Jesus went to her and showed her love, even though he knew of her many failings.

She is so overwhelmed by the Son of God spending time with her and showing her kindness that she runs to tell everybody in her village about Jesus and they ask to see him too.

I explained that during Lent we give to others to remind those less fortunate that they are loved and that they are important. We share God's kindness to us with others as the Samarian woman did. In doing this we show others what God's love is like.



Have a lovely weekend and be extra loving to your mums!!

Mr Doherty

DIARY DATES

- Mon 16th - Skateboarding After School Club - Years 1-6
- Mon 16th - Parents' Evening appointments, 3.30-6pm
- Tues 17th - Art After School Club - **Year 4, Year 5, Year 6**
- Tues 17th - Abs Football After School Club - **Years 1-6**
- Tues 17th - Cross Country at Chapel Gate, **Y2**
- Wed 18th - Coding After School Club - **Years 2-6**
- Thurs 19th - St Joseph's Feast Day service in school, 2pm
- Thurs 19th - Parents' Evening appointments, 3.30-6pm
- Thurs 19th - Tennis After School Club - **Years 1-4**
- Fri 20th - Forensic Science Workshops - whole school
- Fri 20th - **Y4** Mufti Day
- Fri 20th - Gymnastics After School Club - **Years 1-6**
- Fri 20th - PTA meeting, 3.15pm

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

SCHOOL LIFE

Ducklings Mother's Day Liturgy

Thank you to all of our mums who attended the Duckling's Mothers Day Liturgy. Can I also say thank you to the Ducklings staff who are the loveliest school mummies any child could wish for. The children sang and signed beautifully. Thank you to all of our mums and dads and family members who turned up. You made it an extra special afternoon.

St Joseph's 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 next Thursday. Parents and family members are welcome to attend.

Attendance

Well done to Year 2 who are this week's attendance winners with 97.9% attendance. Whole school attendance was 94.4%. We can and should do better St Joseph's!

First Holy Communion

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

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THE BIG LENT WALK

CAFOD
Just one world

LENT

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 2.5mile 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

turning concern into action
the work of the SVP
MINI VINNIES

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

THE BIG LENT WALK

LENT

CAFOD
Just one world

Below is a copy of the sponsorship form sent home for our Big Lent Walk. Please try to get as many sponsors as possible. If possible bring to your places of work.

My Big Lent (2.5 mile) Walk sponsorship form

CAFOD
Just one world

Name:

Name/address/contact	Sponsorship amount

Additional copies available from the office.

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

CAFOD visit

Ahead of our Big Lent Walk on 25th March, we had a visit from Steve Deadman who told us all about the work of CAFOD in helping those people less fortunate than us around the world. Years 3,4 and 5 had workshops where they had to spend an imaginary £15,000 to help people in need. Year 1 and 2 attended an assembly where they found out how the money we raise will help those in parts of the world where people have less than us. Make sure you are getting as many sponsors as possible before the Big Lent Walk on 25th March.

Thank you to Steve for visiting and telling us all about the amazing work of CAFOD.

Waterwise workshop

Last week Years 4 and 5 had a visit from Katie for a Waterwise workshop. The children in Year 4 were able to take part in water experiments and learnt how water is filtered. They were amazed at the materials used to do this. In Year 5 the children revised the Water Cycle which included the children all showing actions to represent the water's journey. Katie also discussed why water is so important, it's environmental importance to humans and to the planet and what we can do can do to help save water. The children linked this to Catholic Social Teaching and looking after God's Creation. Thank you Kate!

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SCHOOL LIFE

Runners of the week

As we near the school's cross country event next Tuesday, the squad (which has now been selected) continued their training. This week Robyn, Keeva and Ronnie were awarded runners of the week for HUGE improvements in their personal best times. Well done team!

Player of the Match Matias!

Well done to Matias who was very proud to show his classmates his Man Of The Match award for his performance for his local football team. Well done Matias!

Year 3 in Forest School

Year 3 had a great time in Forest School this week making shelters. Our children are so lucky to have the amazing grounds at St Joseph's to be able to do such wonderful activities.

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Year 4 football festival

Well done to the Year 4 team who represented the school at Tuesday's Year 4 football festival. I was so proud of the children's efforts and their progress in the tournament. The team grew stronger each game and despite losing our first three matches, in the last game we were leading thanks to a fabulous Jasper goal until the very last second with the game finishing 1-1. It was a great afternoon and the boys and girls had fun and did us all proud. Well done team.
Mr Doherty

The team: Aoife, Florence, Flossie, Jasper, Oliver, Huxley

Player of the tournament: Jasper

SCHOOL LIFE

Fabulous writers

Well done to the children in Year 6 who were sent to see me with their INCREDIBLE Anne Frank diaries. The children are currently learning about the Second World War in history and how the Jewish people were treated in Germany. I have to say that this was some of the most powerful and emotive writing I have ever seen from Year 6 writers. Well done children and the Year 6 teaching team!

Lent crown of thorns

During Lent the children have been 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.

Amazing prize for St Joseph's

We would like to extend a huge thank you to one of our Year 2 parents, Ms Hiscock, who recently won a fantastic prize for St Joseph's. Through her nomination, our school has received a generous bundle of beautifully designed Puddle Buster clothing worth up to £650 from ethical and sustainable clothing brand Frugi. The prize will provide high-quality waterproof clothing to support our outdoor learning activities, helping pupils stay warm and dry while enjoying lessons outside. Prizes like this make a real difference to our school community, and we are extremely grateful to Ms Hiscock for thinking of St Joseph's and securing such a wonderful contribution for our pupils. Thank you also to Frugi for donating such a wonderful prize!

Important Dates for your diary

EVENT	DATE
Parents' Evening	Monday 16th March
Cross Country at The Grange Y3,4,5,6	Tuesday 17th March
Parents' Evening	Thursday 19th March
St Joseph's Feast Day	Thursday 19th March
St Joseph Feast Day Service at school	Thursday 19th March, 2pm
Forensic Science Workshops - whole school	Friday 20th March
PTA Meeting to discuss Summer Fayre - all welcome	Friday 20th March, 3.15pm
Handball Tournament at The Grange Y5,6	Tuesday 24th March, 3.30pm
The Big Lent Walk	Wednesday 25th March, 9am
Rocksteady Concert	Thursday 26th March
Last day of term - finish at 1.30pm	Friday 27th March
Back to School for Summer Term	Monday 13th April
Step Into Sport Festival at The Grange Y3,4,5,6	Wednesday 15th April, 3.30pm
Benchball at The Grange Y6	Thursday 16th April, 3.30pm
Imaginative Prayer for Year 6	Thursday 23rd April
KS2 Science Fair	Friday 24th April
Gymnastics Development Festival Y1,2	Thursday 30th April, 3.30pm
Dr Bike - bring your bike along for a health check	Wednesday 6th May
Y5 Residential to Leeson House	Wednesday 6th - Friday 8th May
Year 6 SATs week	Monday 11th - Thursday 14th May
Ducklings class trip to Nick's Farm	Wednesday 20th May
Year 6 Avon Tyrrell Residential trip	Monday 8th - Friday 12th June
Multiplication Tables Check	Starting from Monday 1st June
Sports Week	Monday 15th - Friday 19th June
PTA Colour Run	Friday 19th June
Year 1 class trip to Beaulieu	Friday 26th June
PTA Summer Fayre	Friday 3rd July

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.

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

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

Community

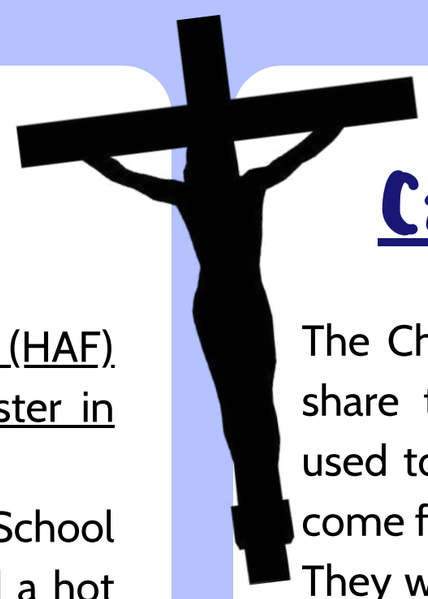
Free holiday activities

Dorset Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme has opened bookings for their Easter in Dorset activities.

Children who receive benefit-related Free School Meals (FSM) can access free activity places and a hot meal during the Easter holidays using a unique HAF passcode. These sessions book up quickly, so families are encouraged to book early.

To receive a HAF code, parents/carers can email holidayactivities@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk with their child's name, date of birth and school, or call 01305 221157. Families who registered previously do not need to register again. Activities are also open to fee-paying families, and most sessions are accessible to children of all abilities. Please do reach out if you need any help with the registration process.

Please email: holidayactivities@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.



Catholic Schools survey

The Chief Inspector of schools is asking people to share their views about the National Framework used to inspect Catholic schools. Any changes that come from this review will start in September 2027. They want to hear from people involved in Catholic education, such as school leaders, staff, governors, clergy, and parents.

The consultation is asking for opinions about how inspections are done, what they look at, and what results they give. Please access the survey here:

The Chief Inspector to schools inviting contributions to the review of the National Framework for the Inspection of Catholic Schools.

The deadline for responses is 1 May 2026. Thank you for your cooperation.

THE PARKS FOUNDATION

Watermans Park
March & school holidays
Meeting point: at the park entrance

IN PARTNERSHIP
SNG Sovereign Network Group

GreenFingers - Christchurch Group
Fri 13 & 27 March | 10.30am - 12.30pm
Fri 10 April | 10.30am - 12.30pm

Join our friendly volunteer group to get involved in practical conservation in your local park.

Mixed tasks to improve and enhance the space for people and wildlife.

Volunteering

Sow Seeds for Spring
Sat 21 March | 11am - 1pm

Make a set of 3 paper pots and plant them with vegetable seeds to take home and watch them grow. We'll also sow wildflower seeds in the park, and you'll receive seeds to sow your own mini meadow at home.

£5 per child

Bulbs & Butterflies Walk
Tues 7 April | 1pm - 2pm

Join us for a gentle walk around the park looking out for flowers and butterflies.

We'll map the bulbs we find, and learn about butterflies and how we record them.

Free event

Scan for park information, including accessibility

To book: parksfoundation.org.uk/events

The Parks Foundation is committed to celebrating diversity – we welcome people from all backgrounds, genders, ethnicities, people with learning differences and varying physical abilities. If you would like more information or have questions about an activity, please contact us.

Get in touch with our team member, Will, on: **will@parksfoundation.org.uk** or: **07723 289747**

parksfoundation.org.uk | Facebook.com/The Parks Foundation | 01202 143724 | Registered Charity Number: 1159939

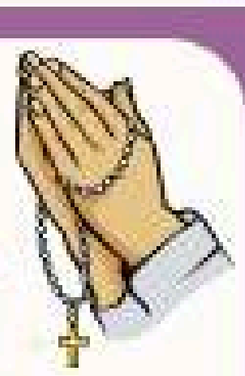
We are all God's children and will live, love, work and serve as Jesus taught us.

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

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.

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.

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.