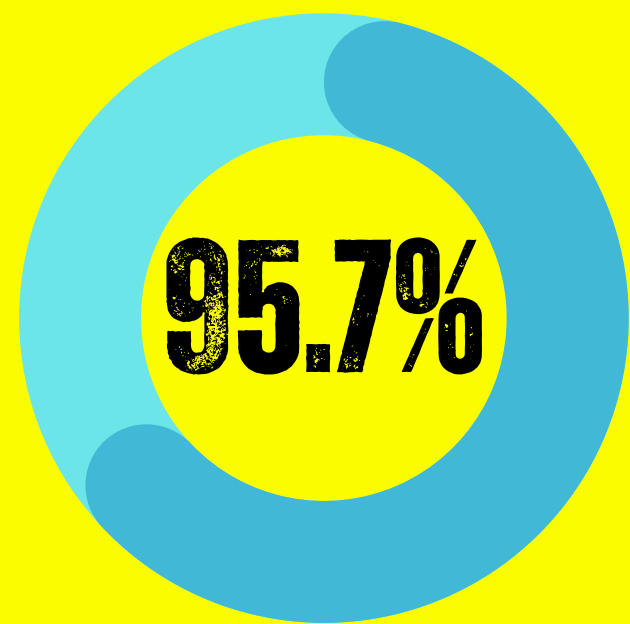


St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



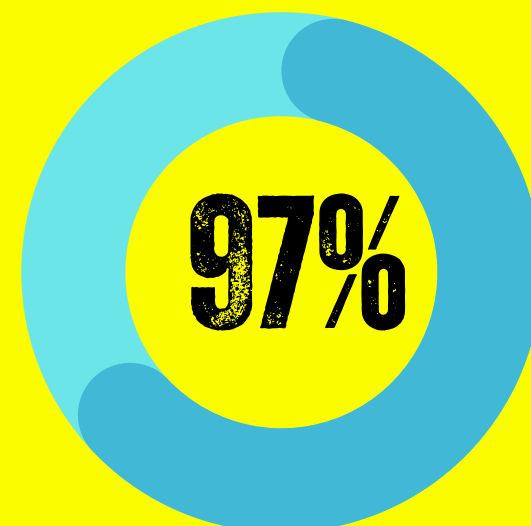
1st May 2026

This week's attendance

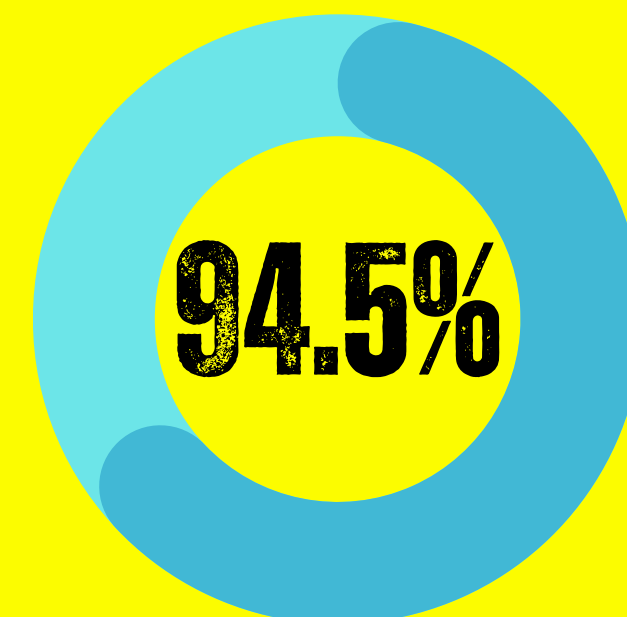


ATTENDANCE SPOTLIGHT:

Target attendance



This year's attendance to date:



Remember: Every Day Counts!

Dear Parents and Carers,

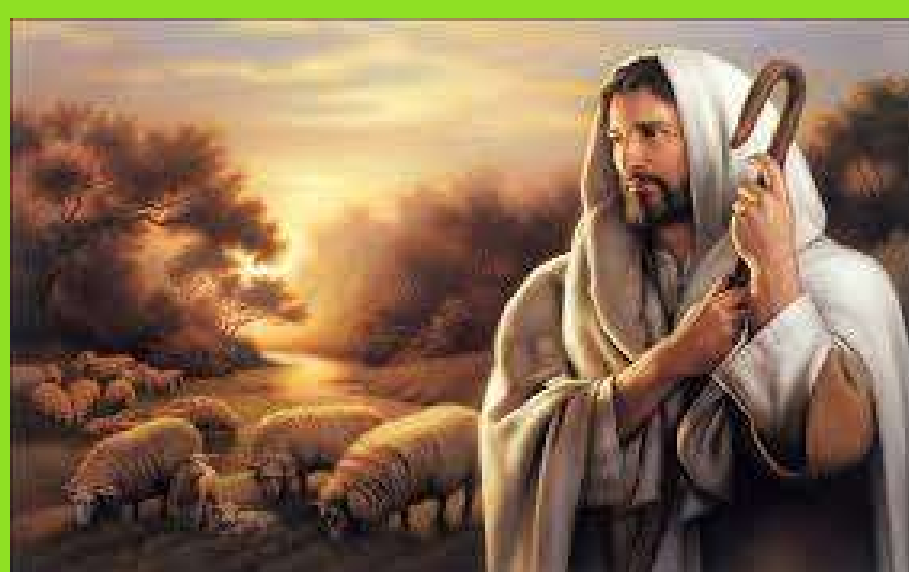
This week I must share with you my most special moment as your Headteacher (and there have been many already). Last week I was on play duty and saw one of our Year 2 boys discretely kneeling down at the side of the playground on his knees in prayer. When he had finished I asked him what he had been praying for and he replied 'I just wanted to say thank you to God'.

Often when we pray it is asking for something. Isn't it amazing that our children are spontaneously praying, in quiet and saying thank you for their many gifts? I'm reminded that the more we say thank you, the more aware of how much we have been given we are.

In the Gospel reading I shared on Monday we heard Jesus, in a parable, describe himself as the shepherd who protects the sheep. For me, it is so reassuring to know that our children live in the knowledge that they can talk to God - who is always there for them like a good shepherd. I talked to the children about the shepherds crook and what it is used for and how this reminds us of what God is like. See if they can remember.

Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend.

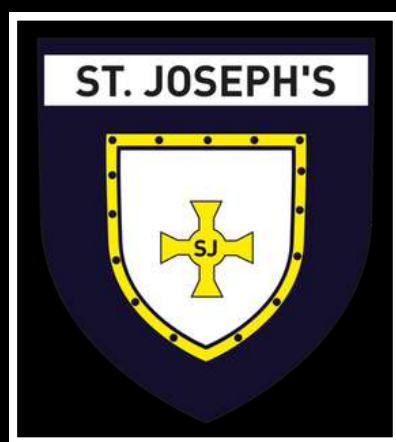
Mr Doherty



DIARY DATES

- Mon 4th - Bank Holiday - school closed
- Tues 5th - **Year 1** Parent Phonics Session, 2.45pm
- Tues 5th - Art After School Club - **Year 4, Year 5, Year 6**
- Tues 5th - Abs Football After School Club - **Years 1-6**
- Tues 5th - Forest School After School Club - **Years R-6**
- Wed 6th - Dr Bike at school - booking necessary
- Wed 6th-8th - **Year 5** Leeson House Residential
- Wed 6th - Coding After School Club - **Years 2-6**
- Thurs 7th - Tennis After School Club - **Years 1-4**
- Fri 8th - Clothes Recycling Collection, 9am
- Fri 8th - Gymnastics After School Club - **Years 1-6**

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

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.



Rosary Club

May is the month dedicated to Mary the mother of Jesus. During May the children will have the opportunity to pray the Rosary in Rosary club. This is open to children in Year 3-6. Mrs Thomas will be leading the children in prayer next Wednesday at lunchtime. Please encourage your children to attend and if there is anyone you would like us to pray for please email the office.



The children at Rosary Club today



Family Mass at St Joseph's

This Sunday 3rd May is the Parish family Mass. It would be lovely to see as many of our families there as possible. The music group have chosen some lovely hymns that the children know well. See you all on Sunday morning at 9am.



Irish Dancing Queens



Well done to Maisy and Molly who competed in an Irish Dancing Feis last week. Maisy received a gold medal, two silvers and a bronze and Molly came 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th in her age group. Well done girls. I was talking to Molly this week about how much training she does and spoke to her class about how, when we make the very most of our talents, we are caring for God's creation which is one of the pillars of Catholic Social Teaching. We are so proud of you and your achievements girls.



Attendance

Well done to Year 6 who are this week's attendance winners with 99.26%! Well done Year 6! Whole school attendance was 95.7%.



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!



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.

Netball news!

This week 7 girls from Years 5 and 6 took part in the Bee Netball development Tournament. The rules for Bee Netball require players to rotate positions, to ensure that children learn and develop both attack and defence skills. The girls played 6 games in total, winning 5 of them. The girls were amazing; displaying positive attitudes and willing to have a go at playing in different positions, learning from the coaches and encouraging each other in every game. Well done girls! Mrs Wilson
Thank you to Mrs Wilson and to our parents for supporting the girls and giving them the opportunity to shine.





Reading superstar

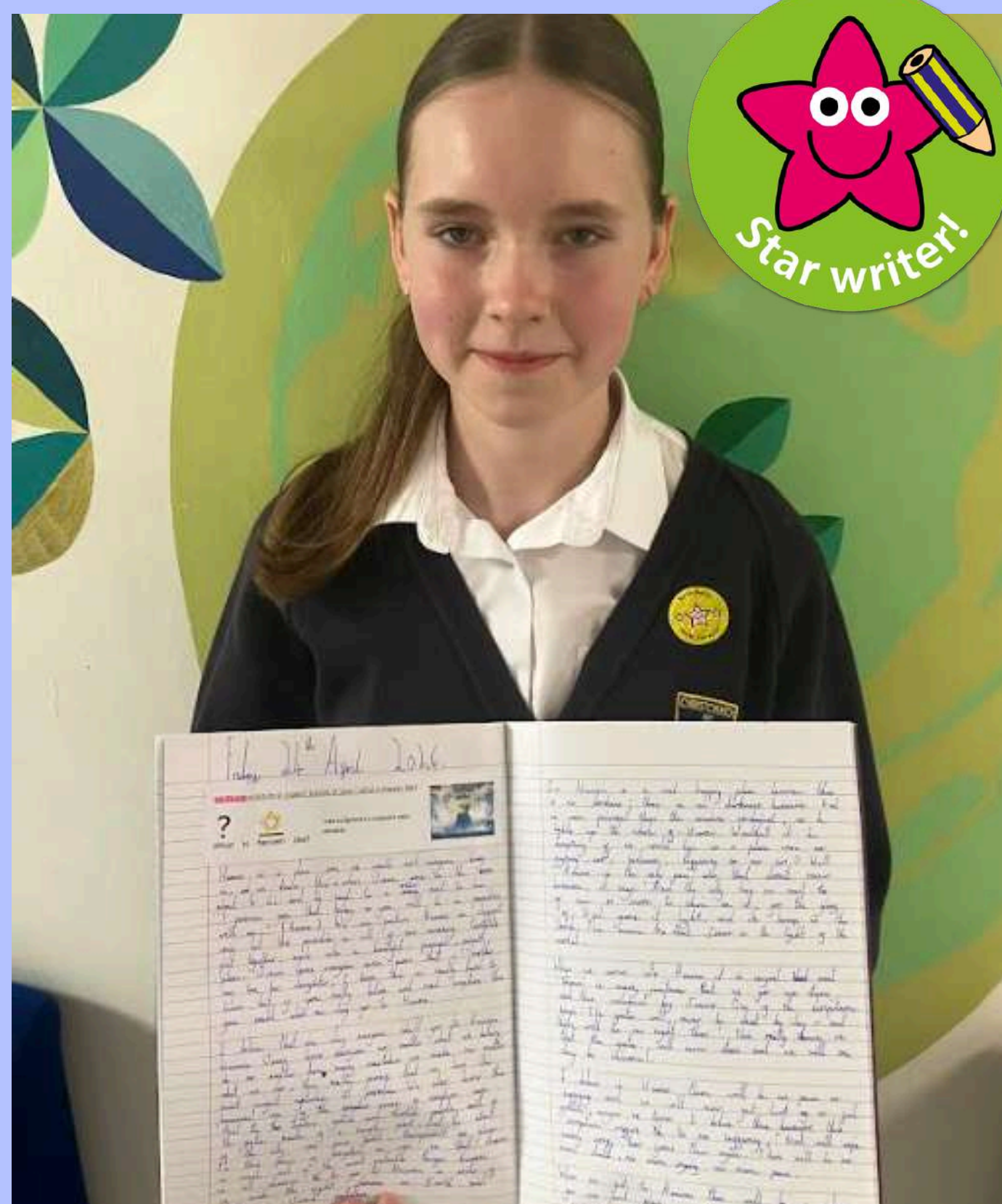


Well done to Dominic who was sent to see me because he is reading his book 'This is me' completely independently. Independence is one of our school's core values. Well done Dominic.



Well done to Elijah in Year 1 for his efforts to improve his independence with his spelling and his handwriting. It is lovely to see how you are improving Elijah. Resilience is one of our core values and you are certainly showing this. Well done!

Heavenly writing



Well done to Klaudia in Year 6 who was sent to see me because of her outstanding writing. Klaudia was writing in RE about what Heaven is like as part of their Eastertide topic. I must tell you all that it sounds perfect!

Butterfly life cycle



The children in OWLS have been fascinated watching the caterpillars eat and grow. We can't wait to see them eventually turn into beautiful butterflies!



Science FAIR

2026

There are many things about St Joseph's that have impressed me since becoming your Headteacher but I must say that when I returned from Charlton House last Friday and found out about how many children had contributed to this year's Science Fair I was beyond proud.

This level of engagement is rare in schools and there is clearly something very special about how Mrs Walls (our science lead) and our staff inspire a love of science. You, our parents and carers are also very special for taking the time to support your children (who it goes without saying are incredible). Remember that to a child, 'love' is spelt 'T-I-M-E'. Thank you for all of your contributions and for making the science fair so very special. Thank you especially to Mrs Walls for organising such an amazing event.



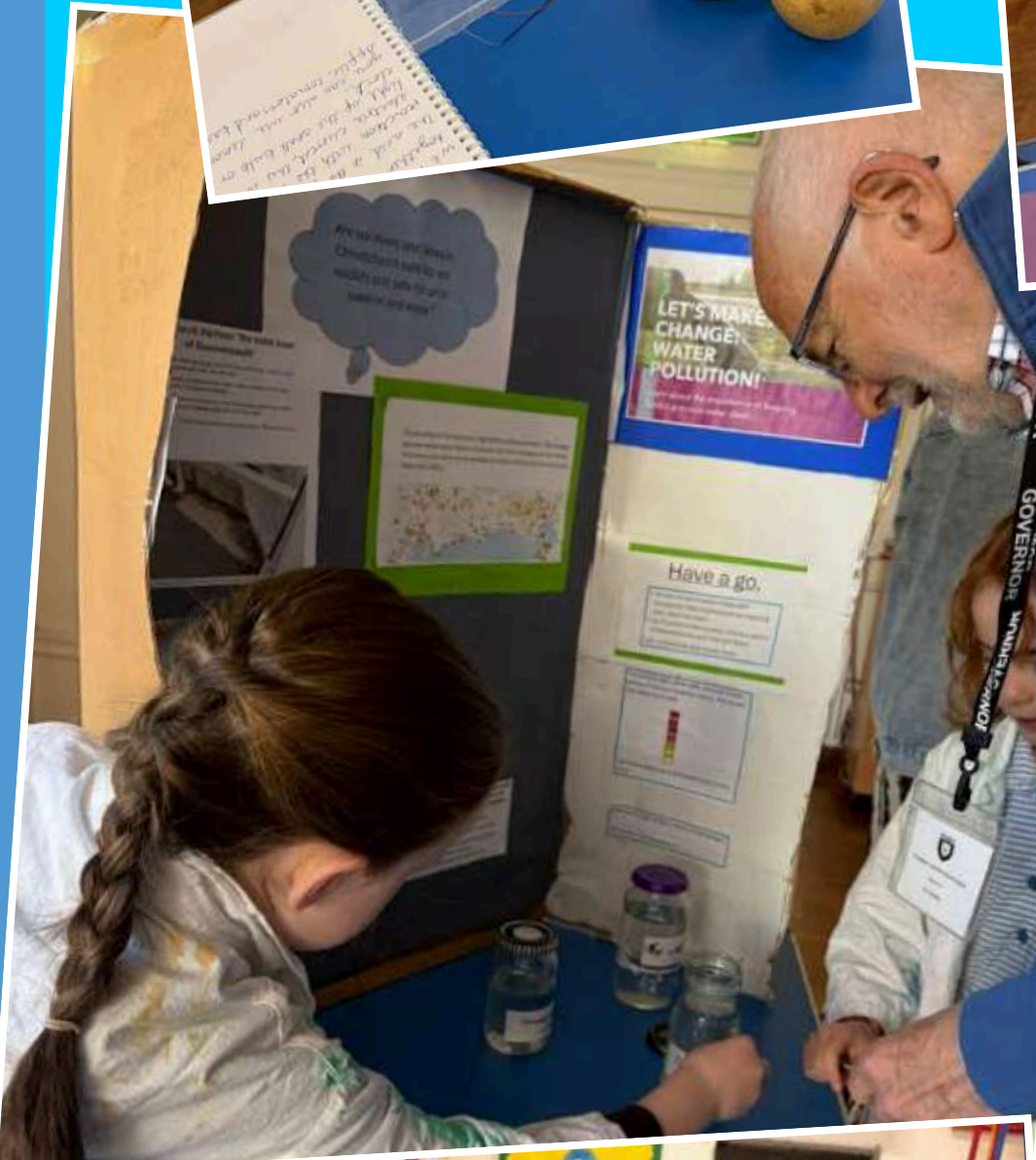
We are all God's children and will live, love, work and serve as Jesus taught us.

SCIENCE FAIR

SCHOOL LIFE



Dignity of the worker is one of the 6 pillars of Catholic Social Teaching. The work of scientists is crucial to human development and I hope that St Joseph's is the platform for many of our children to pursue a career in science.

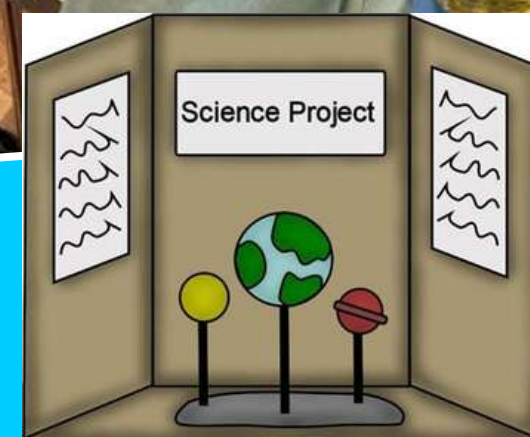
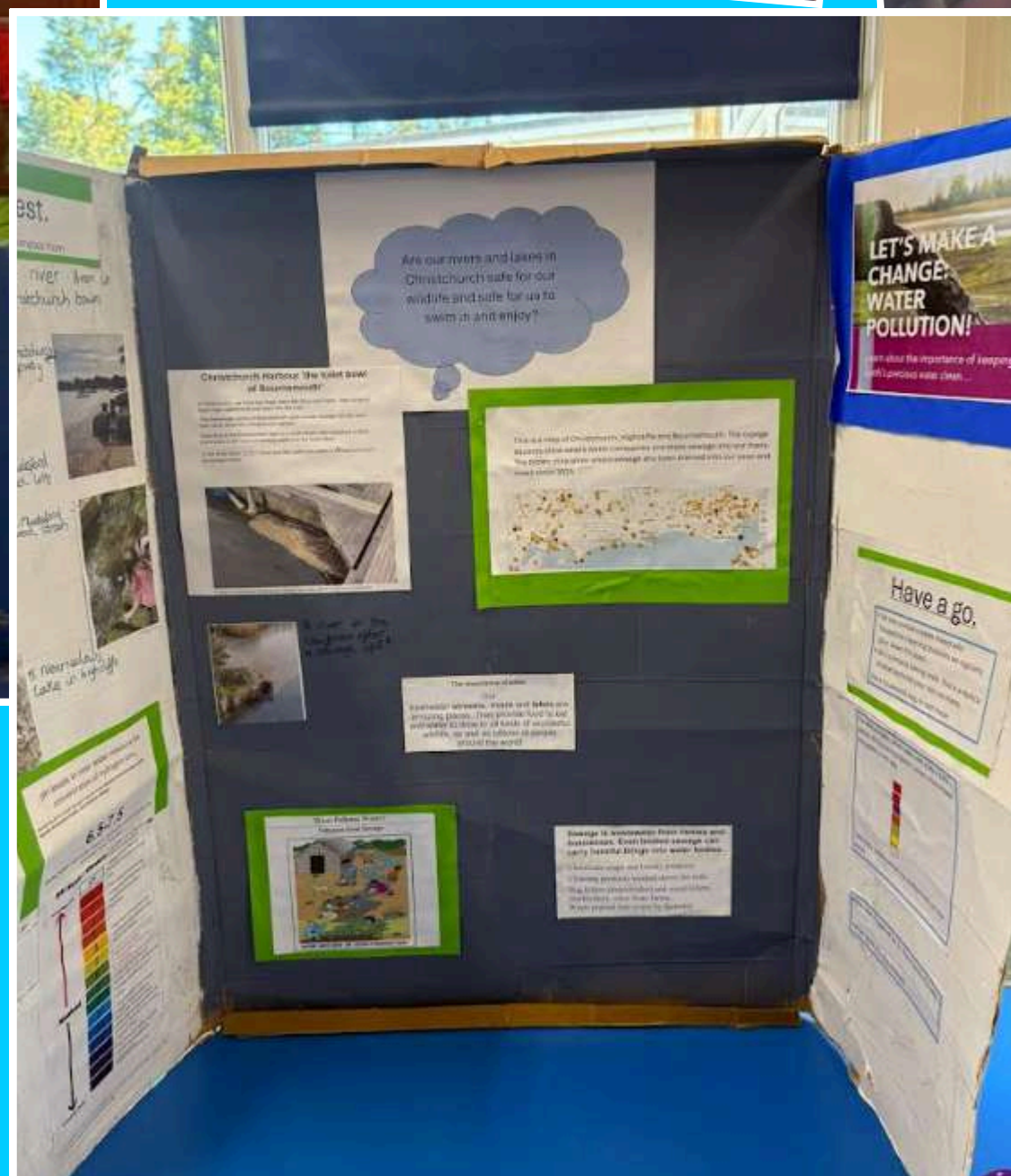
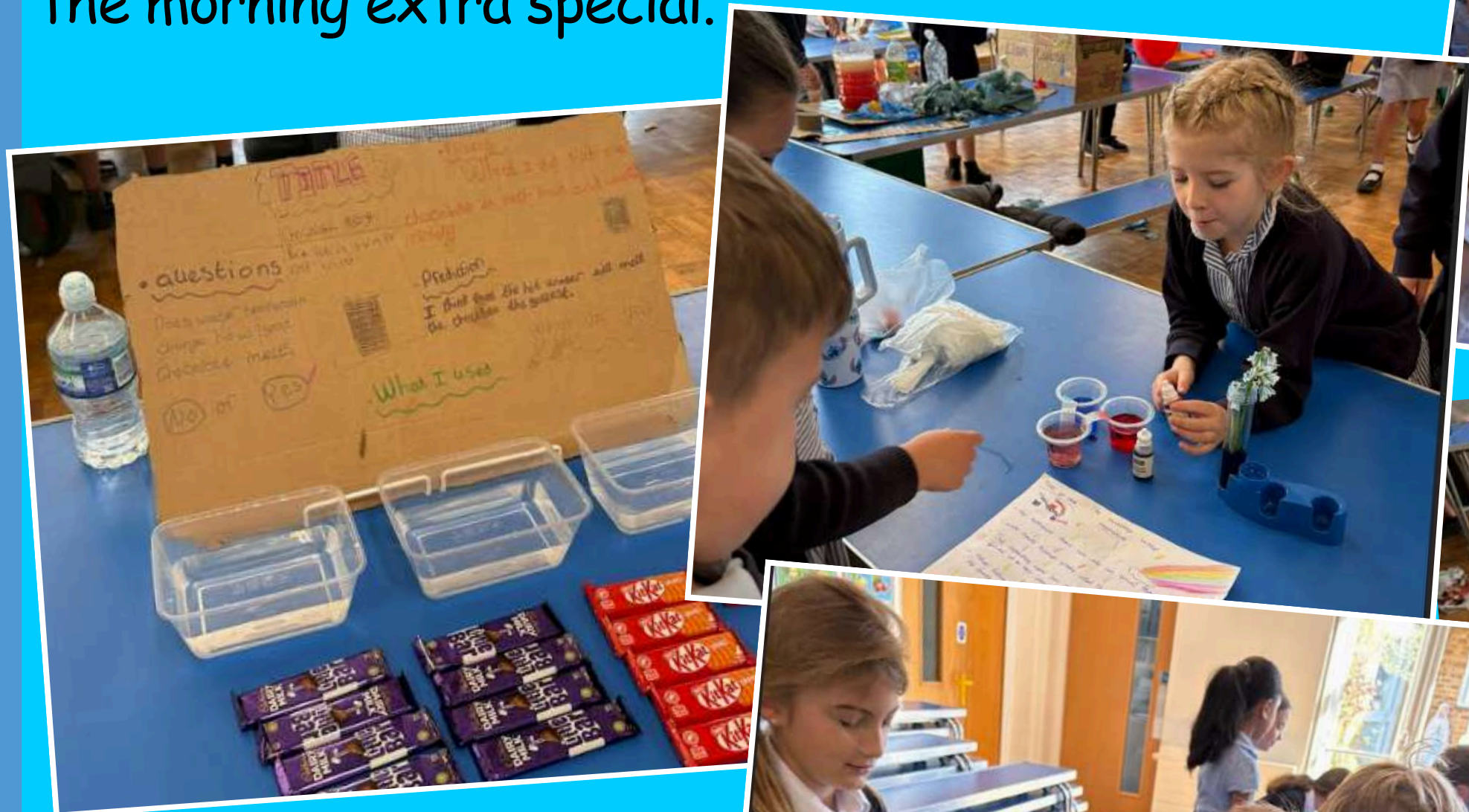


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SCIENCE FAIR

SCHOOL LIFE

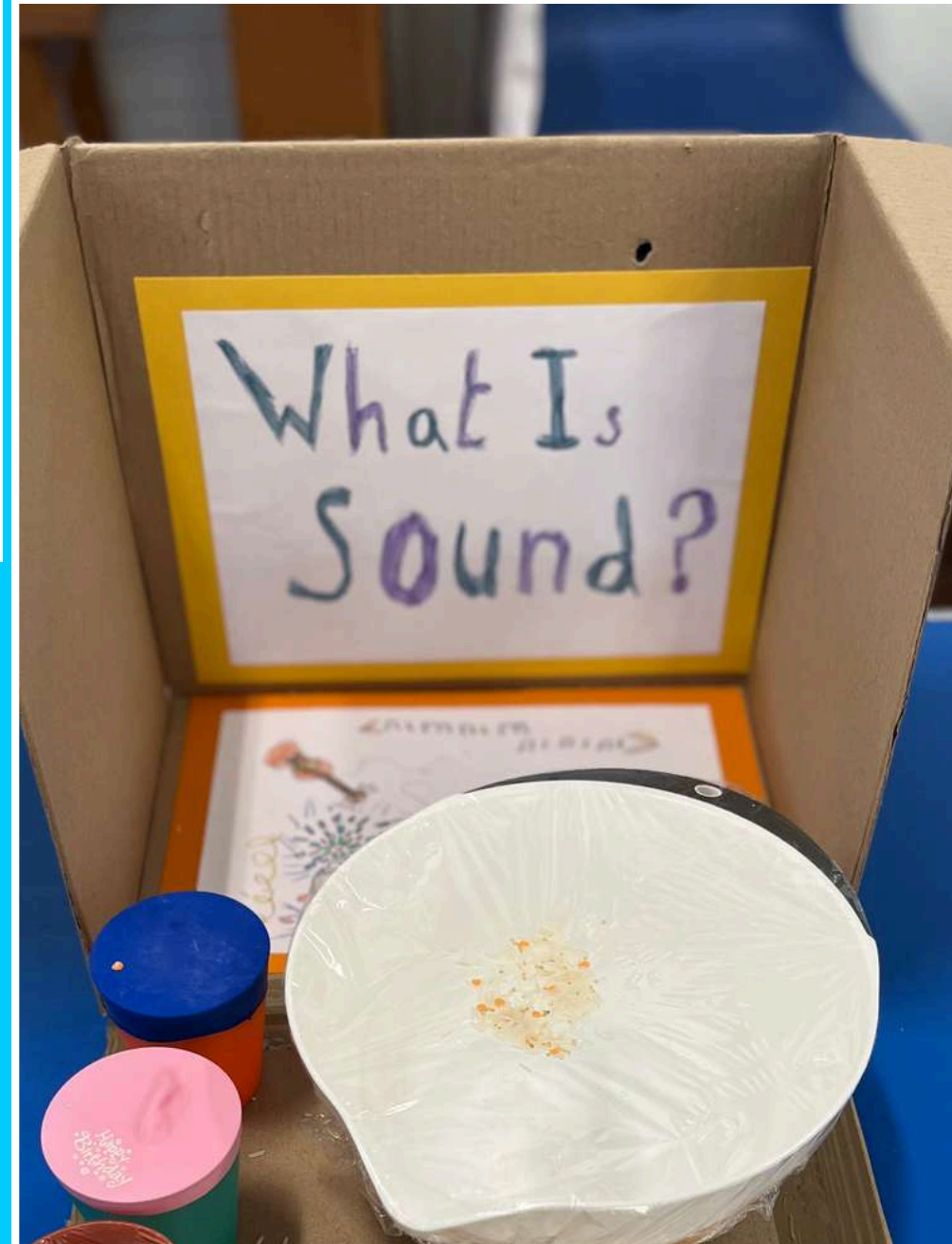
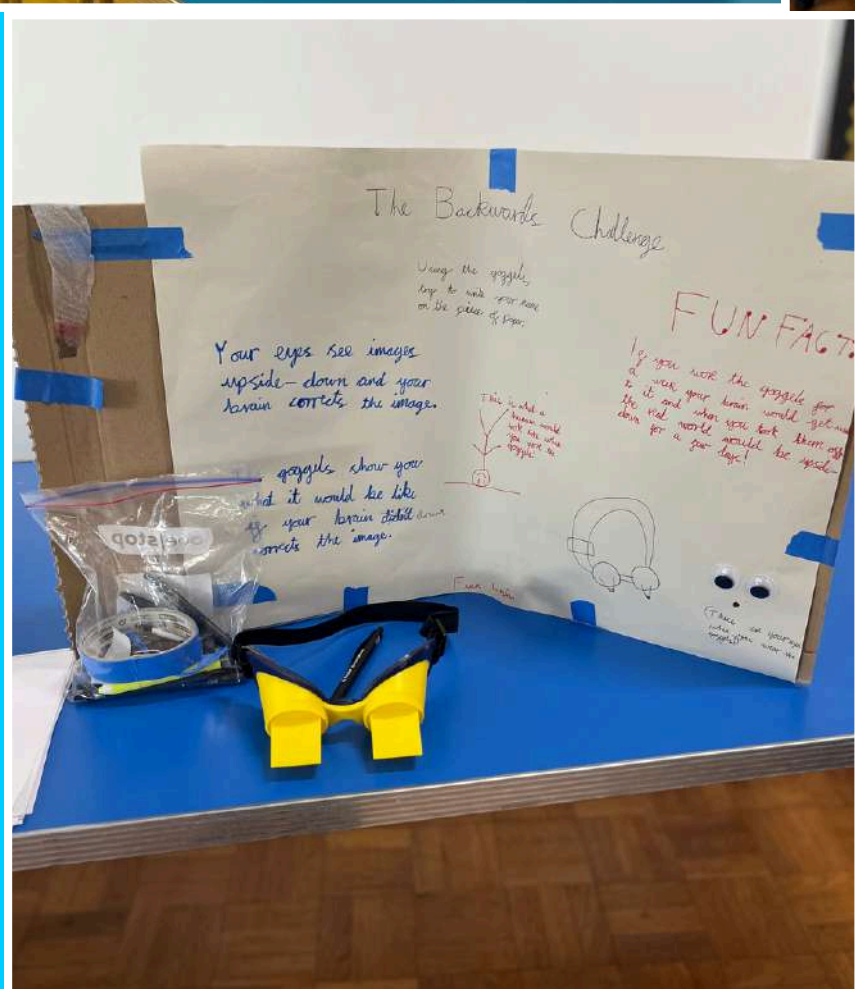
Can I also say thank you to our Governors for coming in to see the children's hard work. You made the morning extra special.



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

SCIENCE FAIR

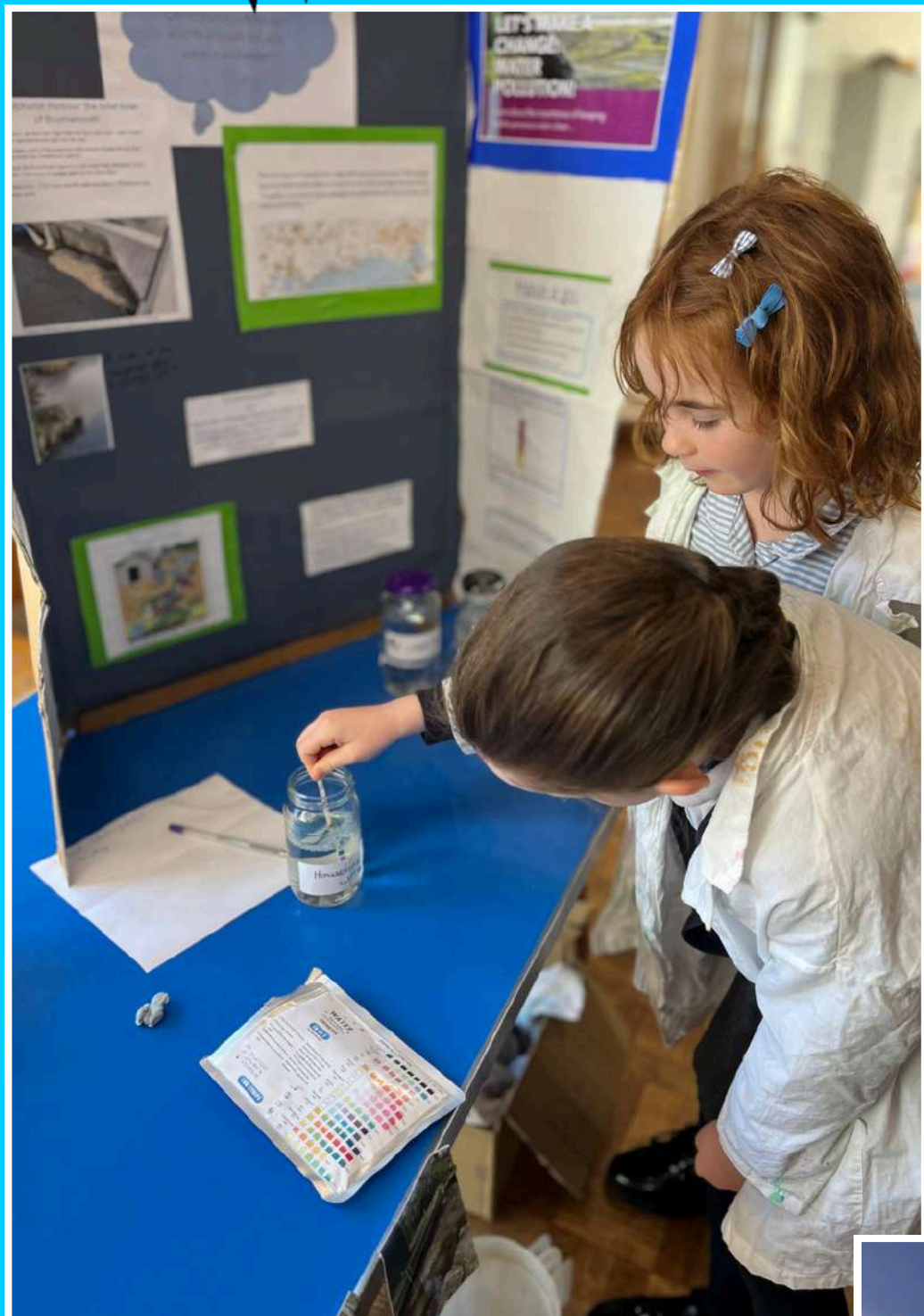
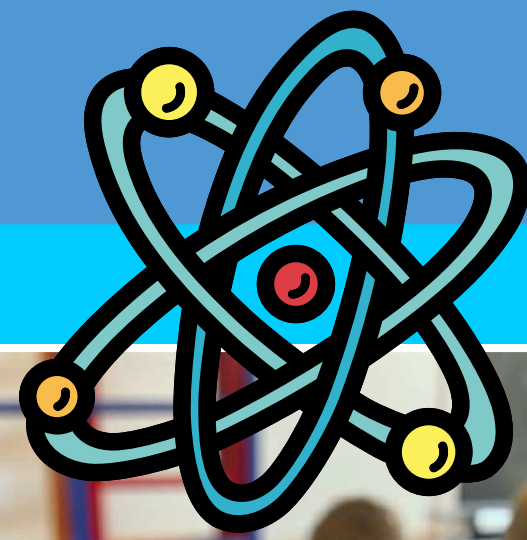
SCHOOL LIFE



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

SCIENCE FAIR

SCHOOL LIFE



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

KS2 Science Fair quotes



“Every year I do the Science Fair it is better and better! I want to work in science and seeing all the other projects has given me ideas of all the different areas I could work in.” Lucas, Y5

“My first Science Fair and it felt like a laboratory from a cartoon; it was such good fun and I loved seeing how everyone came together.” Matei, Y5

“I love science and maths and want to work in maths which is a Stem subject so I loved that I saw maths being used at the Science Fair.” Charlotte, Y5

“It has inspired me to work in science. I would really like to work in Space so loved the space projects.” Heidi, Y3

“I loved the project about water pollution. I loved using the colour chart and I learnt that pollution is bad for us and for sea life.” Faith, Y1

“I loved the fingerprints. I learnt that my fingerprint is a 'tented arch' and it reminded me of our forensics day.” Alba, Y2

“The upside down goggles surprised me as I didn't know that could happen!” Archie, Y2



Our core values

Below are our 8 core values. This term the children will be learning these and linked bible stories during phase assemblies. I have asked the children to try and learn them by heart. If your child shows these values outside school please let us know by sending an email to the office. I would love to share these examples in the weekly newsletter.





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.

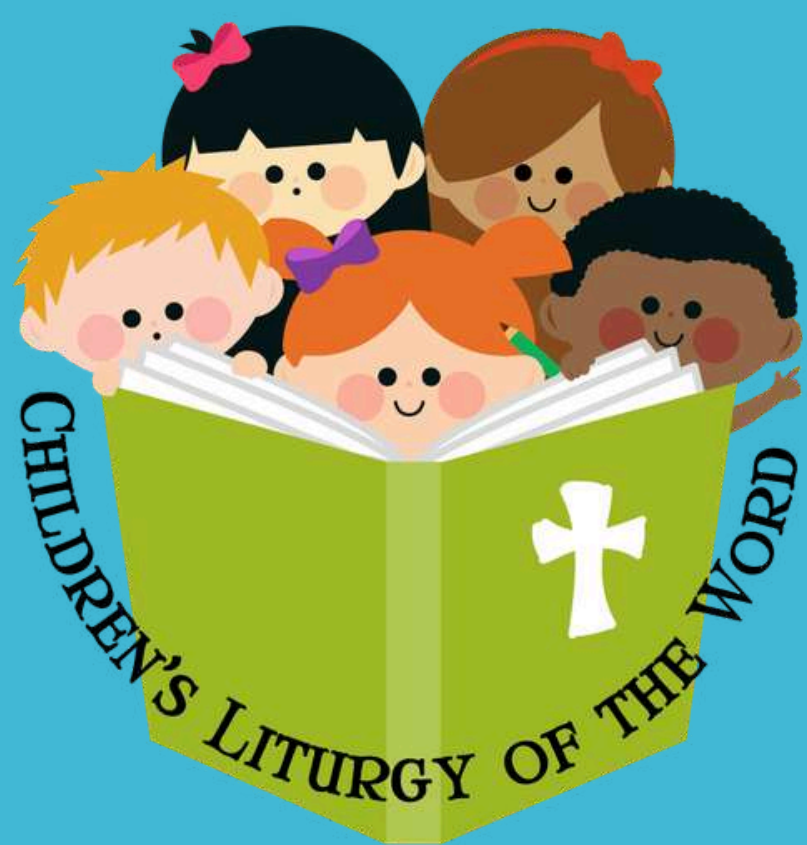
They are held during term time except the 1st Sunday of the month as this is Family Mass.

This half-term:

Children's Liturgy will be held on: 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!

This 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 at 9am.



Charlton House Retreat Day.

Thank you to Charlton House Independent School in Southampton for hosting the Catholic School's cluster Eastertide Mass and retreat last week. I had the pleasure of taking five of our Year 5 children who were a wonderful reflection of our school values on the day. We attended Mass in the morning and then took part in a retreat involving creative activities, meditation and a picnic! Thank you to Mrs Thomas for volunteering her time on the day to accompany us and make our visit to Charlton House possible.



PRAYER LIFE








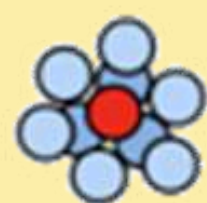

Please find below the prayer of the month for May. The Hail Mary is a prayer that the children should all know. Please say this prayer with your children and encourage them to learn it by heart if they don't know it already.











 
Hail Mary




  
Hail Mary full of grace





  
The Lord is with thee

   
Blessed art thou amongst women

   
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus

   
Holy Mary, mother of God

  
Pray for us sinners

   
Now and at the hour of our death


Amen

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

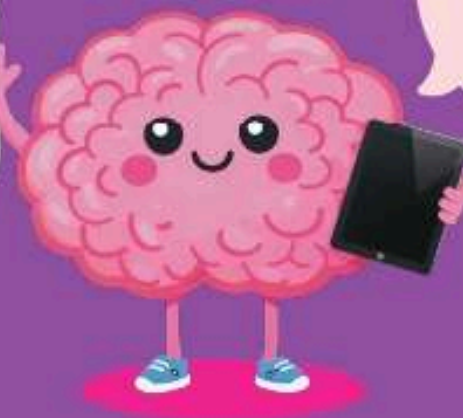
Important Dates for your diary

EVENT	DATE
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
Coffee Morning with the Mental Health Team	Tuesday 19 th May 9am-10am
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 16th June
Years 3,4,5,6 at 10am Parish Mass at St Joseph's Church	Wednesday 17 th June
Sports for all Day	Friday 19th 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 celebration Mass in school at 9.15am	Wednesday 15 th July
Rocksteady Concert	Thursday 16 th July, 9.45am
Year 6 celebration assembly	Thursday 2pm in school hall
Last day of Summer term	Friday 17 th July - 1.30pm finish

A GUIDE TO SCREEN TIME



UNDER 5s



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.

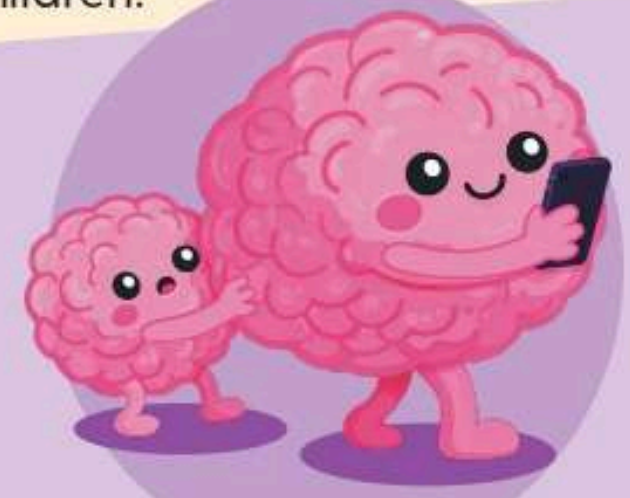
Social media: This isn't made for young brains, so it should be avoided.

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.



SAVE THE DATE

PTA SUMMER FAYRE

FRIDAY 3RD JULY 2026

3.15-6.15PM



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 school is raising money by collecting reusable clothes.

Please help us by donating your unwanted reusable clothes and accessories. Donated items become affordable clothing and accessories.

WE ACCEPT CLEAN, GOOD QUALITY, DRY, REUSABLE CLOTHING

- Adults, Childrens & Babies Clothing
- Jewellery and Accessories
- Paired Shoes and Footwear
- Belts and Handbags

A full list of reusable items is listed on our website www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk

WE DO NOT ACCEPT

POOR QUALITY ITEMS SUCH AS DIRTY, WET, RIPPED OR SOILED CLOTHES. PILLOWS, DUVETS, CURTAINS, BOOKS CDs OR ANY UNIFORM

Please use the clothing bag provided. You can also use any additional bag if required.

Collection Date:

FRIDAY 8TH MAY 2026

Please remember - NO UNIFORM



Community

Do you know someone who deserves a 'Shining Star' award?



Christchurch Carnival are looking for children to be nominated for this year's 'Shining Star' award and we need your help! Do you know a child between the ages of 5 & 11 who has shown courage, creativity, sportsmanship or community spirit? Then nominate them for a Shining Star award! To nominate a child go to the free entry form here: <https://christchurchcarnival.co.uk/carnival-star/>.



Calling local roofers!

We are seeking a local builder or roofer to visit our school and assess the condition of our canopies. Over time, they have become worn and are in need of professional advice on repair or improvement. Any support - whether through time, expertise, or materials - would help us create a safer, more weather-resistant outdoor space for our pupils. Please phone the school office on 01202 485976 to arrange a visit.

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

JOIN US FOR A COFFEE MORNING WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM (MHST).

TUESDAY 19TH MAY | 9:00–10:00 AM
AT ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



DO YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT:

- How we support children's emotional wellbeing in school
- What mental health support is available for children and families
- How school and families can work together to support wellbeing

WHY COME ALONG?

- Meet the MHST in a friendly, informal setting
- Ask questions over tea and coffee
- Share your views as part of the school's wellbeing audit
(there are no right or wrong answers)

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

- Your feedback helps the school understand what's working well and how support can be improved for all families.

Tea, coffee & biscuits provided.

No need to book – just drop in

**WE LOOK FORWARD
TO MEETING YOU**

