

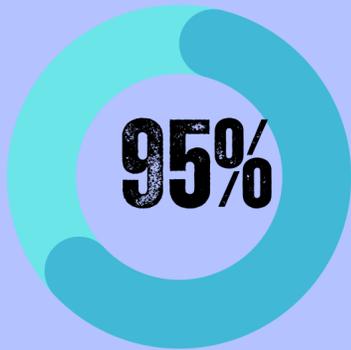
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



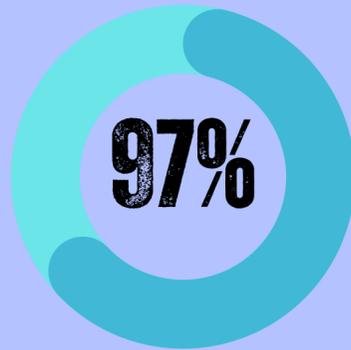
27th February 2026

ATTENDANCE SPOTLIGHT:

This week's attendance



Target attendance



Best attendance this week



YEAR 5
99%

Remember: Every Day Counts!

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this week's Celebration of the Word we heard the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Jesus spent 40 days preparing himself for his ministry. During the 40 days of Lent we are asked to prepare ourselves by praying more, giving more and going without through fasting.

In Key Stage assemblies we talked about how the happiest people are those who see others happy because of them. During this season of Lent we will all make an extra special effort to think of others.

I told the children that in truth the highest form of selfishness is selflessness. Have a lovely weekend everybody

Mr Doherty



DIARY DATES

- Mon 2nd - Skateboarding After School Club - Years 1-6
- Tues 3rd - Art After School Club - **Year 4, Year 5, Year 6**
- Tues 3rd - Abs Football After School Club - **Years 1-6**
- Wed 4th - Coding After School Club - **Years 2-6**
- Thurs 5th - World Book Day - children dress as a character
- Thurs 5th - Parents invited to read with their child - **2.30pm**
- Thurs 5th - Book Swap - during lunchtime and after school
- Thurs 5th - Shooting Stars Festival, The Grange, **Yrs 2,3,4**
- Thurs 5th - Tennis After School Club - **Years 1-4**
- Fri 6th - Gymnastics After School Club - **Years 1-6**
- Fri 6th - Race Night fundraiser, 6pm - tickets available

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



Welcome BABY BOY!

Congratulations to Miss Fox and her partner who welcomed their new baby boy into the world during half term.

Mum and baby had a difficult birth but were allowed to return home today. I am so glad to let you know that they are both doing well.

Please keep baby Ralph, Miss Fox, her partner, Ralph's big sister Daphne and their family in your prayers in the coming days and weeks.

We are all looking forward to meeting baby soon.



THE BIG LENT WALK



CAFOD
Just one world

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 we will be supporting the work of CAFOD with a sponsored 2.5 mile Big Lent Walk in Waterman's park on Wednesday 25th March at 9am. This will be adapted for our younger children. We hope that all of the children will take part but to do so we will need as many parent volunteers as possible. If you can help please reply to the Microsoft form, which was sent out by the office. Through the simple act of walking together, we can demonstrate that we are all connected to others and by joining forces and raising money we can make an enormous difference. Your sponsorship can and will change lives. Every £1 raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

- £10 can provide nutritious warm meals and shelter to refugees who have fled their homes due to conflict.
- £25 can give a child a school uniform, stationery and a school bag - simple, everyday items needed to attend lessons.
- £42 will buy 10 chickens.
- £50 can provide a family with emergency food following a disaster caused by climate change.
- £140 can buy 50 metres of shade netting to protect growing plants.
- £200 can provide a life-changing loan - the first step in helping someone start their own business, or buy farming supplies.
- £750 can help a remote community to establish their own supply of clean, safe water £1298 will pay for a plant Nursery.

All of the children took home a sponsorship form home today.

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



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

A very special visitor in Year 6



Year 6 had a special visit from Marion (one of our Parishioners), who had been an evacuee during WW2. It was fascinating to listen to all of her stories. Marion was evacuated from her home in London just before she was 6 years old. She was sent to live in a house on a farm in Cornwall, which she loved. When there was no fighting in England, she was sent back home on a train by herself at 6 years old! Marion was evacuated three separate times during the war and each time was sent to a different location. Because of this, Marion attended 11 different primary schools. She also spoke about rationing and brought in food to show the children. They were shocked at how little food they had. Thank you Marion for coming in to speak to Year 6 - it was a privilege.

Miss Thomas

Ella and Klaudia have written a few words about the special visit:

Marion, a 92 year old evacuee, came to our class yesterday to talk about her experience in WW2. She was nearly six when the war started. She was evacuated three times. She told us how much you could have of food when everything was rationed. She went to eleven different primary schools. Marion travelled with her teacher on the train. When Marion was at her new home her mother, older sister and baby sister visited her. She told us children under the age of five got to wear micky mouse gas masks but because she was nearly six she had to wear a normal one. When she was sent back to Cornwall to go see her mum, she was on a train by herself.



Yesterday a 92 year old named Marion came into our classroom as an evacuee. During her childhood she was evacuated 3 times being the age of 6 years old. First when she came in she Marion talked about how she first got evacuated and how Marion's family were first home to London. Later Marion and her sister were evacuated to Cornwall in a small village called 'Welshome'. Later her mum came back with a new baby sister. Next Marion talked about rationing, she brought all the food we showed us how much good she could eat in a week. This helped us to know about rationing and how it worked. Finally she talked about gas masks, there were two different types of them one was a micky mouse one for the children under the age of 6 and a normal one for people above the age of 6.





Lent crown of thorns

This week I introduced to the children our new 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.

Mr Doherty



Year 5 RE work



Well done to Unika, Eva, Amelia-Rose and Sammy in Year 5 who were sent to see me with their wonderful RE work. The children have been learning about the life of Moses and had created fact files from all they had learnt.





World Book Day 5th March

World Book Day is fast approaching - Thursday 5th March.

This year, we would like children to dress up as a book character and be able to tell the children in their class who they have dressed up as. Last year, our book swap was extremely successful, so we will be doing the same this year. We will also be inviting parents in to read with their children in the afternoon. The attached letter has been forwarded to all families giving extra information about the day.



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Dorset Road, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 3DA
Headteacher: Peter Doherty

Tel: 01202 485976
Email: admin@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk

Dear parents / Carers,

World Book Day 2026

World Book Day takes place on **Thursday 5th March**. This year, we would like the children to dress up as a book character. They will need to be able to say who they have come dressed as. During the day, the children will take part in a number of different reading activities and be exposed to many books.

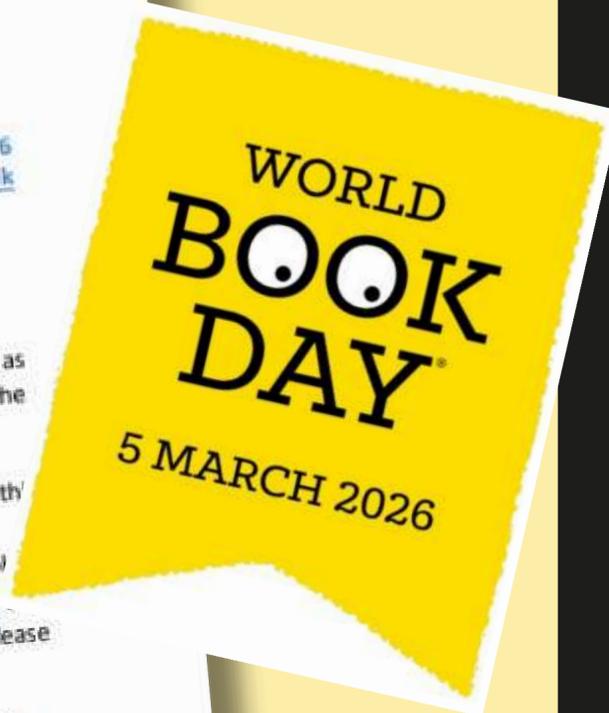
Last year, we held a book swap in school, which was very successful. We would like to do the same this year. After half-term, please can you send your child into school with a book or books that they no longer read and would be happy to swap. Every child will be given the opportunity to choose a book which they will bring home. Parents are the first role models to their children and so we would like to hold a book swap for adults and pre-school children, which will be on the playground from 3pm. Please send in any books for this with your child.

We are also inviting parents to come into school and read with their children from **2.30 – 3.00pm**. If you have more than one child in school, you can either read with them individually or take them together to read with them.

At the end of the day, the children will all come home with a £1 book voucher. We encourage you to use this voucher in a book shop by either swapping it for one of the £1 books that are pictured or getting £1 off a book of their choice.

Thank you for your support in creating excitement towards reading for the children.

Miss Thomas
English Lead



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



Let your Light Shine Awards

Well done to this weeks 'Let your light shine' award winners.



Attendance

Well done to Year 5 who are this week's attendance winners with 99% attendance.

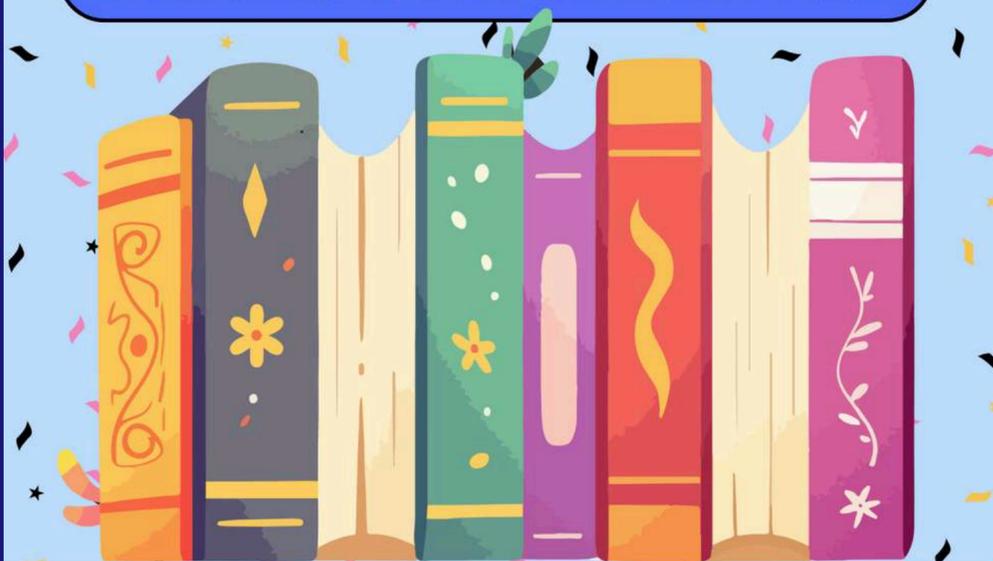


St Joseph Feast Day service

To mark the Feast of St Joseph on 19th March, Deacon Richard will be leading a service in school. This will start at 2pm. Parents and family members are welcome to attend.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



WE RAISED £254.10!

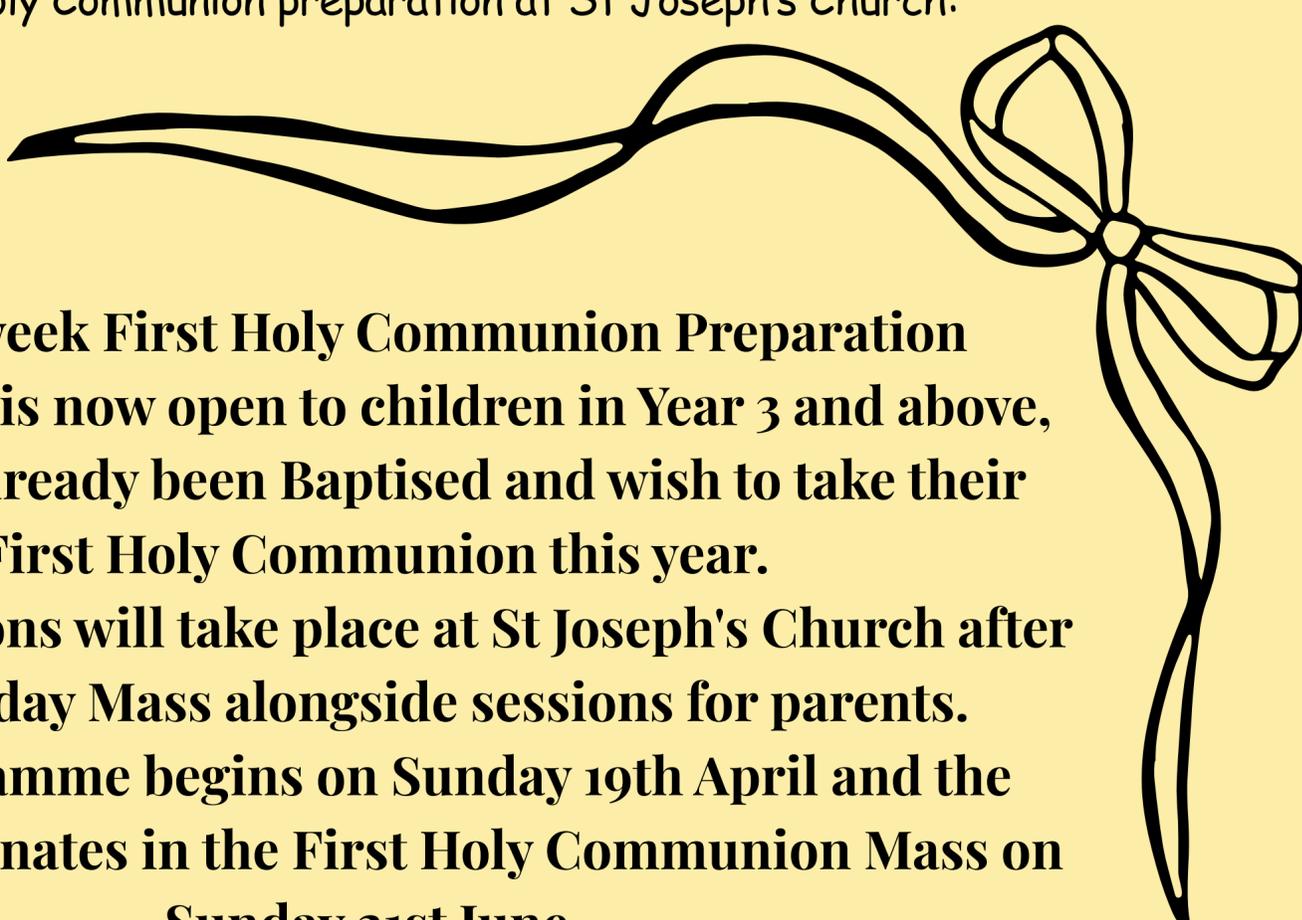
Thank you to everyone who purchased books from the Scholastic Book Fair. Because of your generosity we have received £254.10 to spend on books for the children. It is very much appreciated and will enhance our provision for your children even more.

Thank you



First Holy Communion preparation

Please see the following information which was shared in the Parish newsletter last week regarding Holy Communion preparation at St Joseph's Church:



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





Parents' Evening Reminder

A reminder that Parents' Evening will be held on **Monday 16th** and **Thursday 19th March** from 3.30pm. Letters have been sent home with the children. If you haven't already done so, please return your reply slip by **Monday 2nd March**. If you need to request another copy, please let the school office know.

Email: admin@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk

Phone: 01202 485976



Family Mass Sunday.

This Sunday's Mass at 9am in St Joseph's is a Family Mass. It would be lovely to see as many of our children there as possible to celebrate with the Parish. Following the Mass there will be coffee and tea in the Parish hall and doughnuts for the children. See you on Sunday!



Faith in action

Tommy, from Year 2, has cut his hair to raise money for a fantastic cause. His family heard about the plight of Taraysa, a 3-year-old girl, who was just diagnosed with Batten disease. Her family needs help to cover her treatment costs.

Tommy decided to raise money for Taraysa by doing a sponsored hair cut. Well done Tommy!

Every donation makes a difference in providing Taraysa the best quality of life and supporting her family during this tough time. If you can, please click the link below to donate or share it with others who might want to help.

<https://gofund.me/295e0a5ef>

You can also donate through the school office where we have a collection tin. Thank you in advance for supporting such a special cause.



Year 3 volcanoes

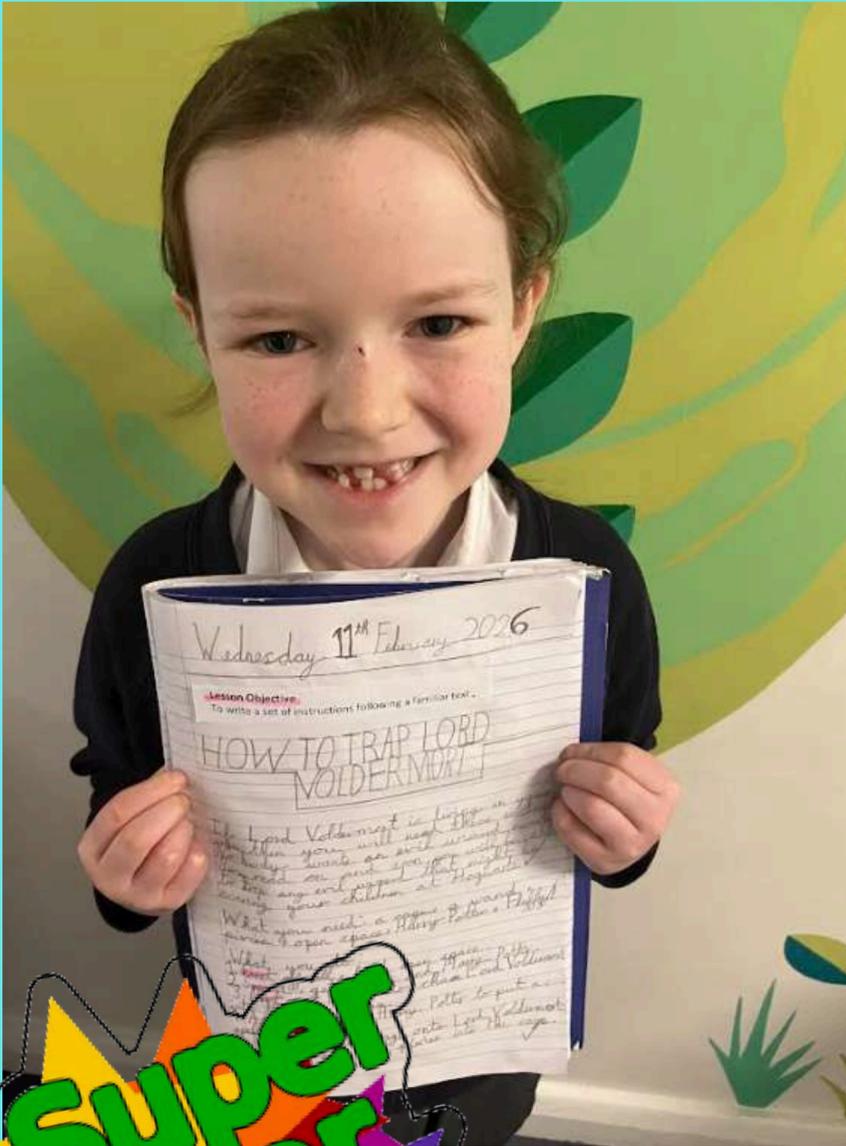


Year 3 had a wonderful time making their volcanoes (which they created in Design lessons) explode using bicarbonate of soda and fizzy pop. This is linked to their current geography topic on Extreme Nature.

Isn't it lovely to see the awe and wonder on the children's faces? Thank you once again to our Year 3 team and Mrs Walls for organising such engaging activities.

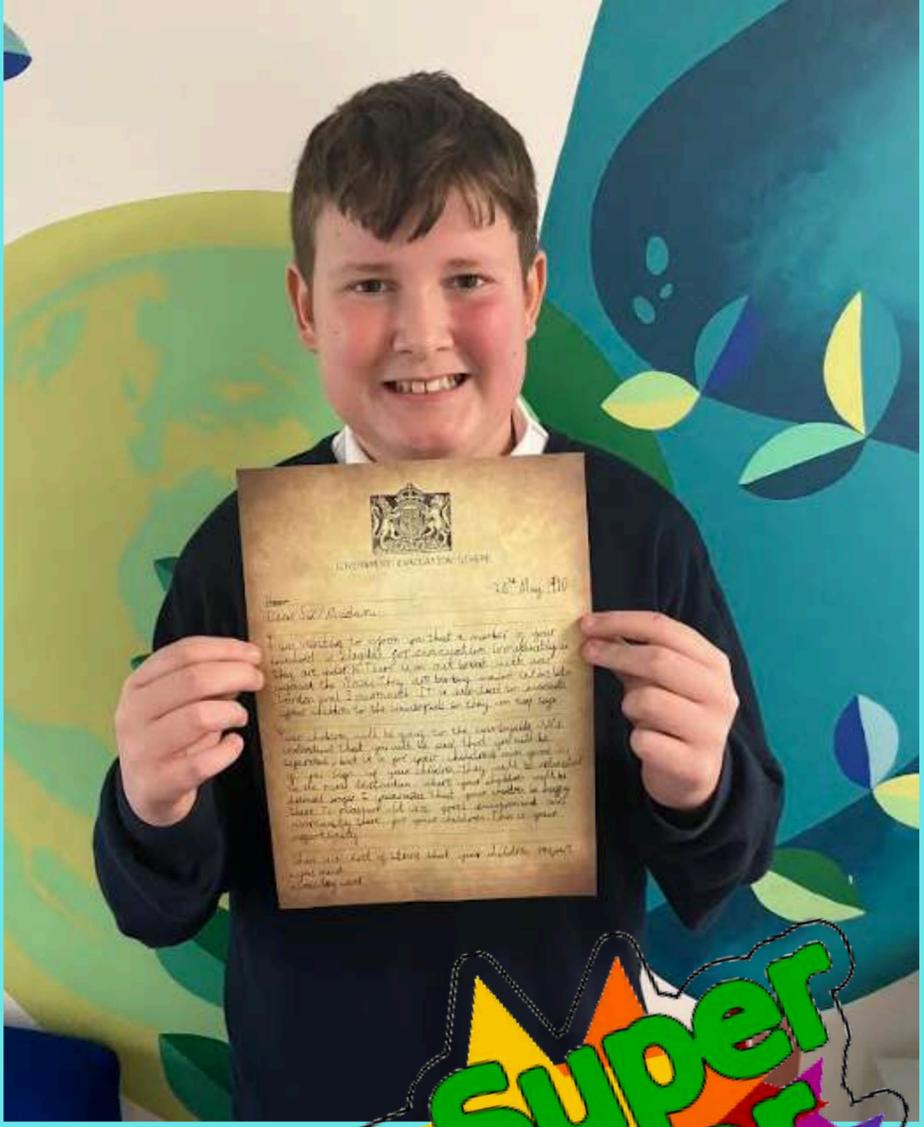


WRITERS OF THE WEEK



Super Star
Writer of the week

Well done to Molly, who was sent to see me with her wonderful writing. Year 3 have been writing instructions in class and Molly wrote a fabulous piece about trapping Lord Voldemort. It was an outstanding piece Molly. Well done!



Super Star
Writer of the week

Well done to Freddie who was sent to see me with his outstanding work. Year 6 have been writing formal letters that would have been sent to parents telling them that they needed to evacuate their children during WW2. The children then wrote their letters on special paper to make them look authentic. Well done Freddie!



Primary Forest School and Outdoor Education are back offering an after school club on Tuesdays after school. Please see the attached flyer for more information:



School: St Joseph's Catholic Christchurch

During this club, children will develop their forest skills; shelter building, crafts, using tools, bug hunting, campfire cooking and have free exploring time. Each club is tailored to the children attending! This half term we will incorporate First Aid Skills too

Day: Tuesday

Dates: 24/02/2026 - 24/03/2026

Time: 15.15 - 16.15

Club: Forest School with Nature Crafts

Year Group: All

Cost Per Block: £25.00

All equipment will be provided, please note if less than 6 children book this club may be cancelled.

10% Sibling Discount use **SIBLINGS in the voucher code box at the checkout**

BOOK ➡ <https://www.primary-forest-school.co.uk/bookings?tag=after-school-clubs&month=>

Please book via our website and not on your school's app (such as Arbor, ParentPay etc), places are only secured when booked and purchased through our website, please do not send your child to our club without receiving an order confirmation via email from orders@primary-forest-school.co.uk

Any issues with booking on our website or if you have further questions about the after-school club, please contact Rachel: admin@primary-forest-school.co.uk



EXPLORE LEARN GROW

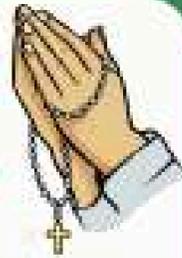


Please find the family prayer sheet for February below. This is a lovely resource to share with your families and friends.

Families of Faith

† February †

Prayer Corner



Dear Jesus,
Thank you for this new day,
For our family, our friends, and all
the love around us.
Thank you for the saints we
remember this month,
Who teach us to pray, be brave,
and care for others.
Help us to be kind, share our gifts,
And shine your light wherever we
go.
Amen

Saints to Inspire



14 February - St Cyril

St. Cyril and his brother St. Methodius helped teach the Slavic people about God and made the first Slavic alphabet called Glagolitic. They also translated the Bible so people could read it in their own language. Today, St. Cyril is remembered for helping people learn to read and for creating the Cyrillic alphabet.



10 February - St Scholastica

St. Scholastica, twin sister of St. Benedict, devoted her life to God and led a community of women. She is remembered for her deep faith and prayer, including a famous story where God sent a storm so she could spend more time with her brother.

Good News from the Gospel



Week 1 - Matthew 5:1-12

We listen to the Beatitudes. How can you be a peacemaker?
How can you promote peace at home or at school?

Week 2 - Matthew 5:13-16

We think about how salt brings out the best things. What good deeds can you do today? How can you bring light to the world?

Week 3 - Matthew 5: 17-37

Teaches us about following laws and commandments. What would you like to say sorry for? How can you show you are sorry?

Week 4 - Matthew 4: 1-11

We have begun Lent and hear about Jesus being tempted in the desert. What are you giving up for Lent?

National Inventors' Day 11th February

Research an inventor. Find out more about what they created



National Random Acts of Kindness Day 17th February

Offer words of encouragement or make a donation to a local cause

National Love Your Pet Day 20th February

Our relationship with our pets are part of our call to Stewardship. Genesis 1:25



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

SCHOOL LIFE

Important Dates for your diary

EVENT	DATE
Live and Inspired Music Performance	Wednesday 4 th March
Shooting Stars Festival at The Grange 2,3,4	Thursday 5 th March
World Book Day - Dress as a book character	Thursday 5 th March
PTA Race Night Fundraiser	Friday 6 th March
Football Development Tournament (Y4) at Chapel Gate	Tuesday 10 th March
Ducklings Mother's Day Liturgy	Wednesday 11 th March
Imaginative Prayer for Y6	Thursday 12 th March
Netball Tournament at Twynham Primary Y5/6	Thursday 12 th March
Football Festival at Highcliffe School (Y2)	Friday 13 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
St Joseph Feast Day Service at school	Thursday 19 th March, 2pm
Netball Tournament at Twynham Primary Y5/6	Thursday 19 th March
The Big Lent Walk	Wednesday 25 th March, 9am
Rocksteady Concert	Thursday 26 th March
Last day of term - finish at 1.30pm	Friday 27 th March
Back to School for Summer Term	Monday 13 th April
Imaginative Prayer for Year 6	Thursday 23 rd April
KS2 Science Fair	Friday 24 th April
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
Year 6 Avon Tyrrell Residential trip	Monday 8 th - Friday 12 th June
Multiplication Tables Check	Starting from Monday 1 st June
Sports Week	Monday 15 th - Friday 19 th June
PTA Colour Run	Friday 19 th June
Year 1 class trip to Beaulieu	Friday 26 th June

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

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.

ST. JOSEPH'S HORSE RACE NIGHT



Tickets on sale all next week

6 MARCH 7PM

Grab your tickets for £8 and join the action!

Pizza included in ticket price. Bring your own drinks.

Doors open at 6:30pm with the first race starting at 7pm

Tickets available before & after school.

Feel the Rush – The Race is On!

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



PTA NEWS

Easyfundraising

Did you know that you can raise funds for our school everytime you shop online? It's easy to join and 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](#)



Golden TICKET

WILL YOU BE A WINNER?
FIND A GOLDEN TICKET FOR YOUR CHANCE TO
WIN A PRIZE!

OVER 150 PRIZES TO BE WON!

PURCHASE A CHOCOLATE BAR OR SWEETS TO BE IN WITH A
CHANCE OF WINNING:

- EXTRA BREAK TIME
- ICE CREAM AND SPRINKLES FOR 4 FRIENDS WITH MR DOHERTY
- OWN CLOTHES DAY FOR THE CLASS
- SIT IN THE TEACHERS CHAIR FOR A LESSON
- A SELECTION OF TOYS
- A PACK OF SEEDS
- LUNCH AT THE GOLDEN TABLE

ON SALE £1

27TH FEB AND 2ND MAR.

CELEBRATING WORLD BOOK DAY

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PTA FUNDRAISER

SAVE THE DATE

PTA SUMMER FAYRE
FRIDAY 3RD JULY 2026
3.15-6.15PM



**PTA
COLOUR RUN**
19th JUNE
2pm



SEAGULLS

SWIMMING CLUB



Come join the fun
swimming
sessions for everyone

Junior and Development



Competitive



Seagulls competitive swimming club run classes for all ages. We are a friendly club which has a long history of national, regional and county level swimmers.



Masters



Artistic

**Build Skills,
Confidence &
Character**

**Make friends
Win medals**

Timings

Morning, Evening and Weekend sessions available.

Full timetable on website.

 www.seagullsswimming.club

 membership@seagullsswimming.club

secretary@seagullsswimming.club



SEAGULLS
SWIMMING CLUB

Community

TICKETS ON SALE NOW



28TH MAR

BOURNEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

MORE LEGO THAN YOU CAN DREAM OF

BOURNEMOUTH BRICK FESTIVAL

Last chance to apply for Junior Bake Off.

Could your child be the next Junior Bake Off champion? If you have a young baker at home aged between 9 and 15 years old who enjoys baking, then Love Productions (the production team behind The Great British Bake Off and The Great British Sewing Bee) want to hear from you!

Applications are now open for the 12th series of Junior Bake Off - the Channel 4 competition series celebrating Britain's young baking talent.

If your child is interested in applying, please apply online via the link below:

www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk

Filming will take place from July 2026, but applications close on Sunday 15th March 2026. Good luck!

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK

AGED BETWEEN 9-15 AND WANT TO GIVE YOUR BAKING SKILLS A GO?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

LAST CHANCE TO APPLY 15TH MARCH 2026

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

Community



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



March 2026 Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Improving Family Communication	2 Mar 10am
Autism - Improving Communication	2 Mar 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	3 Mar 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	3 Mar 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	9 Mar 10am
Understanding Anger	9 Mar 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	10 Mar 10am
Facing Defiance	10 Mar 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	16 Mar 10am
Anxiety Explained	16 Mar 7pm
Introduction to OCD	17 Mar 10am
What is ACT	17 Mar 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	23 Mar 10am
Decreasing Depression	23 Mar 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	24 Mar 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	24 Mar 7pm
FREE Anxiety Based School Avoidance	26 Mar 7-8pm



GET INTO TEACHING IN DORSET

We are holding two School Experience events:

Primary event:
Tuesday 14th April at Highcliffe St Mark Primary School

Secondary event:
Thursday 16th April at Highcliffe School

Both events run from 9:15am-2:30pm

Please sign up below:



If you are unable to attend, then please contact us at: teachertraining@hispmat.org

Thinking about a Career in Teaching?

Curious about teaching? Join us for one of these free events!

Whether you've been thinking about teaching for a while or are just starting to explore the idea, Inspiring Future Teachers HISP invites you to a relaxed, in-person event designed to help you take the next step.

This event is ideal for:

- Parents, Learning Support Assistants (LSAs), and anyone passionate about working with children
- Anyone interested in Primary or Secondary teaching routes

What's happening on the day:

- An opportunity to see a Primary or Secondary school in action (depending on which day you attend)
- A friendly presentation followed by a Q&A with experienced teachers and programme leads — ask anything!
- Information about qualifications such as QTS and PGCE, and how to get started
- Support with writing your application

The aim is to attend for the full day, however please contact us if this is not possible, as we have keen to accommodate you.

Whether you're ready to apply or just want to find out more, we'd love to see you.

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