

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



20th March 2026

This week's attendance

93.8%

ATTENDANCE SPOTLIGHT:

Target attendance

97%

This year's attendance to date:

94.3%

Remember: Every Day Counts!

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this week's Celebration of the Word on Monday morning we heard the story of Jesus healing the blind beggar. Just as last week Jesus went to the Samaritan woman - this week Jesus goes to one of society's outcasts - without being asked - to bring healing and metaphorically opening the man's eyes to Jesus' love.

During Lent we pray more to God and when we do so we shouldn't always ask for things but remember to say thank you too. We have so much to be grateful for. Often we can be blind to the many blessings we have been given or take them for granted. I told the children the story of a blind boy unsuccessfully begging in the street who is approached by a stranger who does something very unexpected that changes the way people see him.

Ask you children if they can remember the story.

Have a lovely weekend and remember to say thank you to God for your many blessings in your prayers.

Mr Doherty



DIARY DATES

- Mon 23rd - Skateboarding After School Club - Years 1-6
- Tues 24th - Art After School Club - **Year 4, Year 5, Year 6**
- Tues 24th - Abs Football After School Club - **Years 1-6**
- Tues 24th - Reconciliation for **Years 4, 5 & 6**
- Tues 24th - Handball at The Grange, **Y5/6 3.30pm**
- Wed 25th - Big Lent Walk - **whole school, 9am**
- Wed 25th - Coding After School Club - **Years 2-6**
- Wed 25th - Y6 WW2 Exhibition - 3.15pm - all parents invited
- Thurs 26th - Rocksteady Concert, 9.45am
- Thurs 26th - Easter Egg Hunt, **KS2**
- Thurs 26th - Tennis After School Club - **Years 1-4**
- Fri 27th - Easter Egg Hunt, **KS1**
- Fri 27th - **Y1 Mufti Day**
- Fri 27th - End of term - early finish - 1.30pm

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



St Joseph's Feast Day celebrations

This week saw the school mark the Feast Day of St Joseph's with a service in the hall led by Deacon Richard. Thank you to all of our families who attended and made this extra special. Thank you also to the children. Your singing was **AMAZING!!!!**

At the service each class was presented with a 'sleeping Joseph' statue (from our wonderful PTA) that will rest on the prayer tables in each classroom. If the children have any worries or problems they can entrust them to St Joseph by writing them on a piece of paper and placing them under the statue. In the Bible Joseph was spoken to by God in his dreams. We give our problems to St Joseph so we can sleep peacefully and let Joseph bring them to God on our behalf while he rests.

Can I also thank the PTA for making the day very memorable with the visit of the ice cream van. I cannot tell you how excited the children were. A St Joseph's day to remember!



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St Joseph's Day Good Deed Beads

It was lovely to see our Year 4,5 and 6 children helping the younger ones to make their Good Deed Beads on the Feast of St Joseph. Every child in the school should have their own set. I explained how they work in celebration assembly today. Please ask your children about them.

They are inspired by St Therese of Lisieux who, as a nun, went about quietly doing good deeds for others. Every time she did an act of kindness she would slide one of her beads along until all 10 had reached the end of the string. Then she would begin working them back the other way. We linked this to St Joseph who quietly (he never speaks in the Bible) went about his duties without the expectation of recognition or reward and allowing Mary and Jesus to shine. A quiet hero! It is his humility and faith in God that makes him so special.



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London Marathon for Macmillan

Mrs Blake (mum of Arthur, Stanley and Heidi) will be taking part in the London Marathon this year in support of our local hospice, Macmillan Caring Locally who looked after her dad.

Please help by donating if you are able to using the following link or scanning the QR code:

<https://2026tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/katy-blake>



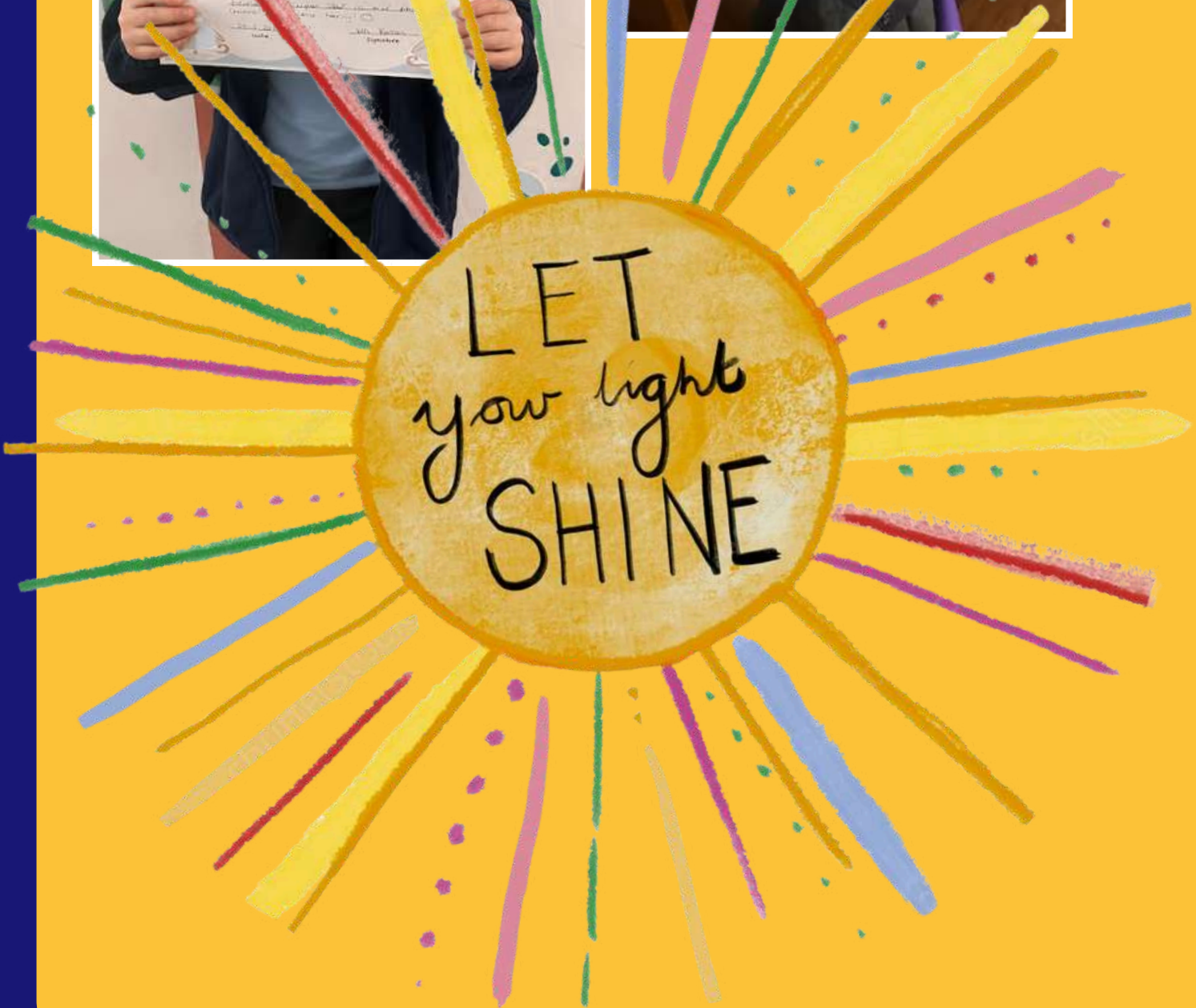
London Marathon





Let your light shine awards

Well done to all of our children who received 'let your light shine' awards over the last two weeks. One of the things I've noticed is how many children are recommended because of their resilience in class. Over the last two weeks we have been walking the Stations of the Cross with our children in Key Stage assemblies. I told the children that Jesus falling and getting back up again three times is a lesson to us in life about not giving up. It seems that the children are following His example!



Attendance

Well done to Year 6 who are this week's attendance winners with 95.93% attendance. Whole school attendance was 93.83%.



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

THE BIG LENT WALK

CAFOD
Just one world



4 DAYS TO GO

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



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

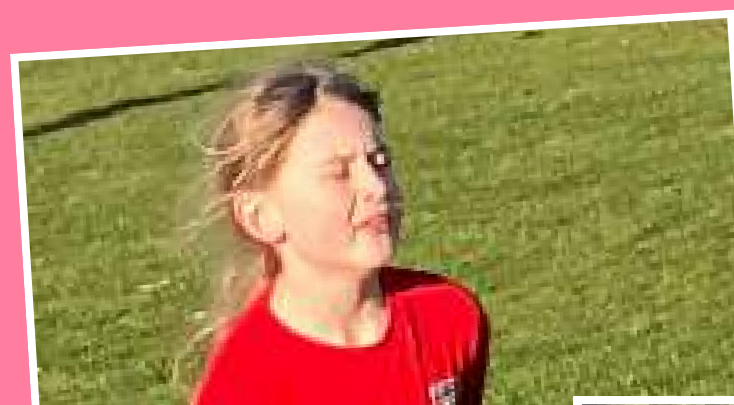


Cross Country.



After weeks of tough training the children finally got to show the result of their hard work on Tuesday afternoon at Chapel Gate. I couldn't have been prouder of our runners. Thank you to Miss Wright and Mrs McCarthy for accompanying and supporting the children and thank you to our amazing parents and families for coming and cheering the team along.

There were soome incredible performnaces with Izadora medalling in the Year 5/6 race. Please see the final results on the next page.





Cross Country.



RESULTS

Girls Year 3/4:

Robyn 5th

Laci 6th

Keeva 4th

Boys Year 3/4:

Jasper 5th

Ted 10th

Lincoln 24th

Jude 17th

Jacob 15th

Dominikas 19th

Girls Year 5/6:

Izadora 2nd

Ella 5th

Unika 7th

Grace 11th

LJ 12th

Sasha

Emilia 19th

Boys Year 5/6:

Rex 5th

Ronnie 16th

Archie 17th

Isaac F

Bertie 25th

Flynn 30th

Liam 28th

Charlie 24th



Overall, our Year 3 / 4 team came 3rd and our Year 5 / 6 team were also 3rd. We are so proud of the children's efforts.





Key Stage 1 science quiz morning

Amelia and Ivor (y1), Roxy and Tommy (y2) had an amazing time with six other schools at Mudeford Infant's science morning. They planted seeds, learnt about newts, made paper helicopters, explored electric circuits and magnets. They finished the morning with a Kahoot computer quiz. They were so enthusiastic and a pleasure to take!

Thank you to Mrs Walls for organising and accompanying the children. Again we are so fortunate to be able to give our children such wonderful opportunities.



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Year 2 football festival



Year 2 had a fantastic time playing at the football festival last week hosted by the Year 12 students at Highcliffe School.

The team put in an incredible performance, dominating two games with brilliant 9-1 and 5-0 wins, drawing one match, and narrowly losing another in a tight 1-0 game.

There were some absolute screamers scored by Matias, Louie and Tommy. Rosalie, Mia and Buzz showed fantastic ball skills and teamwork throughout the festival. Every child gave their all, demonstrating great effort, confidence and sportsmanship in a really well-organised event. Miss Kenny

Thank you to Miss Kenny for accompanying the children, coaching them and cheering them on.



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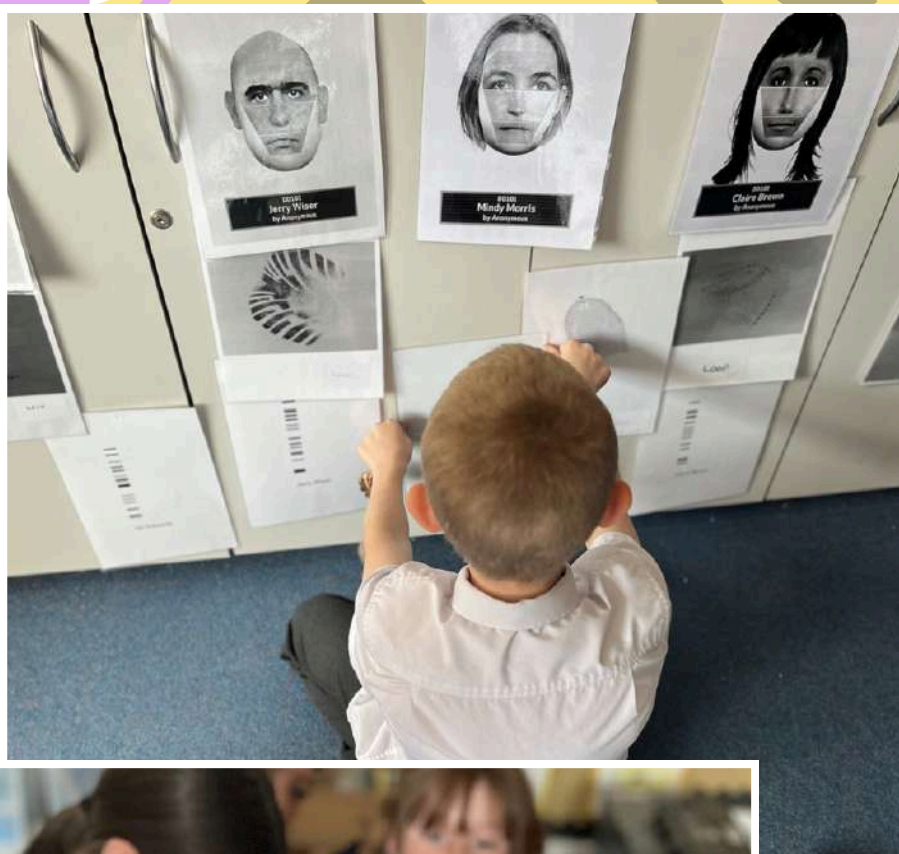


Forensic science workshops

Thank you to our incredible PTA for funding this week's visit by the Education Group to deliver Forensic Science workshops to the whole school. This ties in very well with this year's British Science Week theme of 'Curiosity' - encouraging curiosity and inquiry across science, technology, engineering and maths. Every class had a go at using real-life scientific techniques to solve a 'crime'. Our Phiz Lab was set up with 4 crime scenes which looked very realistic and the children had a fabulous time!



“There were footprints in sand and pictures of people. We had to find out who stole the money. It was great fun - now I want to be a detective!”
Henry, Year 1



“It was amazing! I had a really fun time.” Mia, Year 2

“We had to find out who the suspect was by looking at the footprints, fingerprints and DNA.” Tommy, Year 2





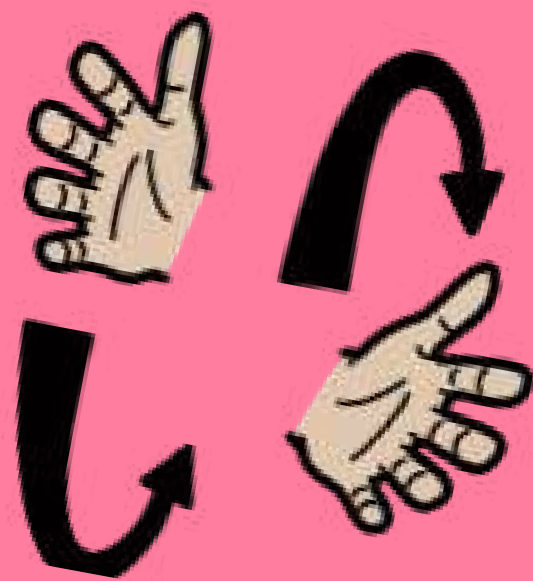
Signalong with Mr Doherty's mummy.

Last week I had a very special visitor to the school - my own mother. As a former Headteacher and Signalong tutor she visited every class teaching them how to sign the school mission statement which is:

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

See if your children can remember any of the signs. It is something we will be continuing to practice every week. I was a very proud Headteacher because Mrs Doherty said the children were a delight to work with!

Scan the QR code below to see Noah in Year 1 signing the mission statement. The mission statement is also at the bottom of every page in the newsletter. See if your child can remember any of the signs. We will continue to practice them in school each week.



Swim Star Sasha

Well done to Sasha who had another fantastic swim weekend where she medalled in all of her 13 races! I'm not sure where she gets the energy! Sasha took home 6 golds, 6 silvers and a bronze. Not only this but she recorded 3 consideration times for regionals. Sasha you are a superstar!



E-safety parent newsletter

A reminder that every month we upload a new e-safety parent newsletter to our school website to give you the latest information on keeping your children safe online. There is always helpful advice and guidance. Find the newsletters here: [E-Safety Parent Newsletters](#)



Money workshops



Thank you to The Money Charity who came in to deliver money workshops to Years 3,4,5 and 6 this week. In Year 3 and 4 the children had to identify what their needs and wants would be and they were then given a budget to allocate to certain expenses - many identified the need to save some money for the future. In Year 5 and 6 the children learnt about budgeting and the use of credit and debit cards. Thank you to The Money Charity who provided the workshops free of charge. The charity provides financial education for children and young people across the country. What a great life skill for our children to learn.

“I had fun and I learnt why it is important to save our money.” Oliver, Year 4



“It was interesting and I learnt that saving is important so we can pay for important things like bills.” Lillie, Year 4

Reconciliation

Next week the children in Years 4-6 will have the opportunity to receive reconciliation from Father Paul in school next week (Tuesday). Please talk to your children about what they might say sorry for.



Spring Ducklings!

This week, the Ducklings enjoyed a lovely Spring walk around the school grounds, where they went in search of signs of the new season. Along the way, they saw different flowers beginning to bloom, they spotted budding trees and fresh green leaves. The children were excited to explore nature and observe these seasonal changes up close.



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.

This week Ronan and Olivia (who are brother and sister) recommended each other! It is so lovely to hear that our children are kind to each other at home and in school.





SCHOOL LIFE

Important Dates for your diary

EVENT	DATE
Reconciliation for Years 4,5,6	Tuesday 24 th March
Handball Tournament at The Grange Y5,6	Tuesday 24 th March, 3.30pm
The Big Lent Walk	Wednesday 25 th March, 9am
Y6 WW2 Exhibition - all parents invited	Wednesday 25 th March, 3.15pm
Rocksteady Concert	Thursday 26 th March
PTA Easter Egg Hunt - KS1	Thursday 26 th March
PTA Easter Egg Hunt - KS2	Friday 27 th March
Year 1 Mufti	Friday 27 th March
Last day of term - finish at 1.30pm	Friday 27 th March
Back to School for Summer Term	Monday 13 th April
Step Into Sport Festival at The Grange Y3,4,5,6	Wednesday 15 th April, 3.30pm
Benchball at The Grange Y6	Thursday 16 th April, 3.30pm
Imaginative Prayer for Year 6	Thursday 23 rd April
KS2 Science Fair	Friday 24 th April
Gymnastics Development Festival Y1,2	Thursday 30 th April, 3.30pm
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
Ducklings class trip to Nick's Farm	Wednesday 20 th May
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 Week	Monday 15 th - Friday 19 th June
Sports Day	Tuesday 16 th June
PTA Colour Run	Friday 19 th June
Year 1 class trip to Beaulieu	Friday 26 th June
PTA Summer Fayre	Friday 3 rd July
Last day of Summer term	Friday 17 th July

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

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

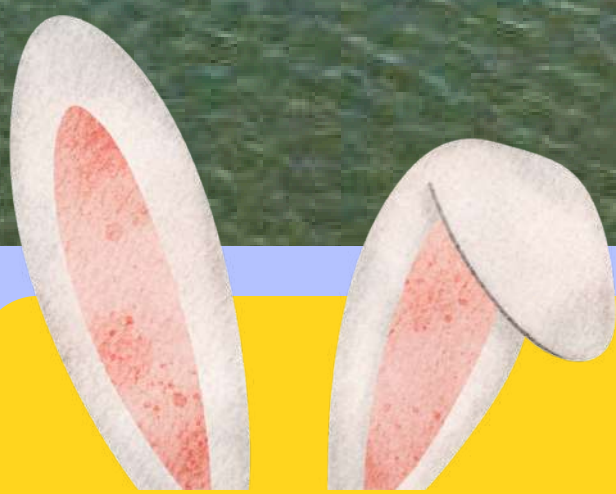


**Saturday
28th March**

POOLE PARK OPEN DAY

All hire is FREE

Open 10am-4pm



Free Easter 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.

Community



HIGHCLIFFE CASTLE

Easter

OUTDOOR TRAIL
Friday 3 - Monday 6 April 10am-3pm
• Participating children £3.50
• Adults Free

EASTER ADMISSION
Friday 3 - Monday 6 April 10am-3pm
• Adult standard admission
• Children Free

INDOOR CRAFTS
Woodland animal themed crafts available 10am-3pm on:
• Tuesday 31 March, 7 April
• Thursday 2, 9 April
Included in Castle admission, free for members

Become a Highcliffe Castle Member

- Entry to the Castle for a year*
- 10% discount in the Castle Shop
- 10% discount in the Castle Pantry
- School Holiday activities
- Discount on selected events
- Castle e-newsletter updates

Family Membership £50
Up to two adults & three under 15s

For more information, please visit: highcliffecastle.co.uk



SportBU
TeamBU Juniors

EASTER CAMP

Discount for BU Staff & Students
Exciting Activities for All Ages.

MULTI SPORT ACTIVITIES

📅 Week 1 | 30th March - 2nd April
Week 2 | 7th April - 10th April

🕒 Times
5-7yrs | 09.00-12.30
8-14yrs | 09.00-16.00



8-14YRS £30 (FULL DAY)
5-7YRS £15 (HALF DAY)



Watermans Park

March & school holidays
Meeting point: at the park entrance

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](https://www.facebook.com/TheParksFoundation) | 01202 143724 | Registered Charity Number: 1159939

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

Community

TICKETS ON SALE NOW



28TH MAR

BOURNEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

MORE LEGO THAN YOU CAN DREAM OF

**BOURNEMOUTH
BRICK
FESTIVAL**

Update from UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)

We understand that recent news reports about the meningitis outbreak in Kent may be concerning for parents of young people. We would like to reassure you that there is no baseline increased risk outside of the specific outbreak in Kent at this time. Please note, it is important for parents to keep routine vaccinations up to date, including the MenACWY vaccine where applicable. The full UK routine schedule is available here: [Complete routine immunisation schedule from 1 January 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

You can find out about the signs and symptoms of meningitis here: [Meningitis and sepsis symptoms - Meningitis Research Foundation](#)

[What is meningitis? Symptoms, risks and how to protect yourself – UK Health Security Agency.](#)

Further information: UKHSA statement, including signs and symptoms of meningitis: [Cases of invasive meningococcal disease confirmed in Kent - GOV.UK](#)

[UKHSA Blog](#)

[The NHS](#)

[The Meningitis Research Foundation](#) 0808 800 3344 (24 hours)

[Meningitis Now](#) 0808 80 10 388 (9am – 8pm)

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Parenting together in a digital world

Join us for an online information event designed to help parents and carers feel confident supporting their child in today's digital world.

This online event offers practical insights and open, non-judgemental conversations about how smartphones and digital technology can influence children's wellbeing. Professionals will share insights on supporting safe and balanced tech use, and there will be the chance to ask your own questions.

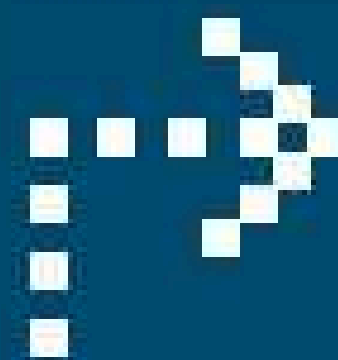
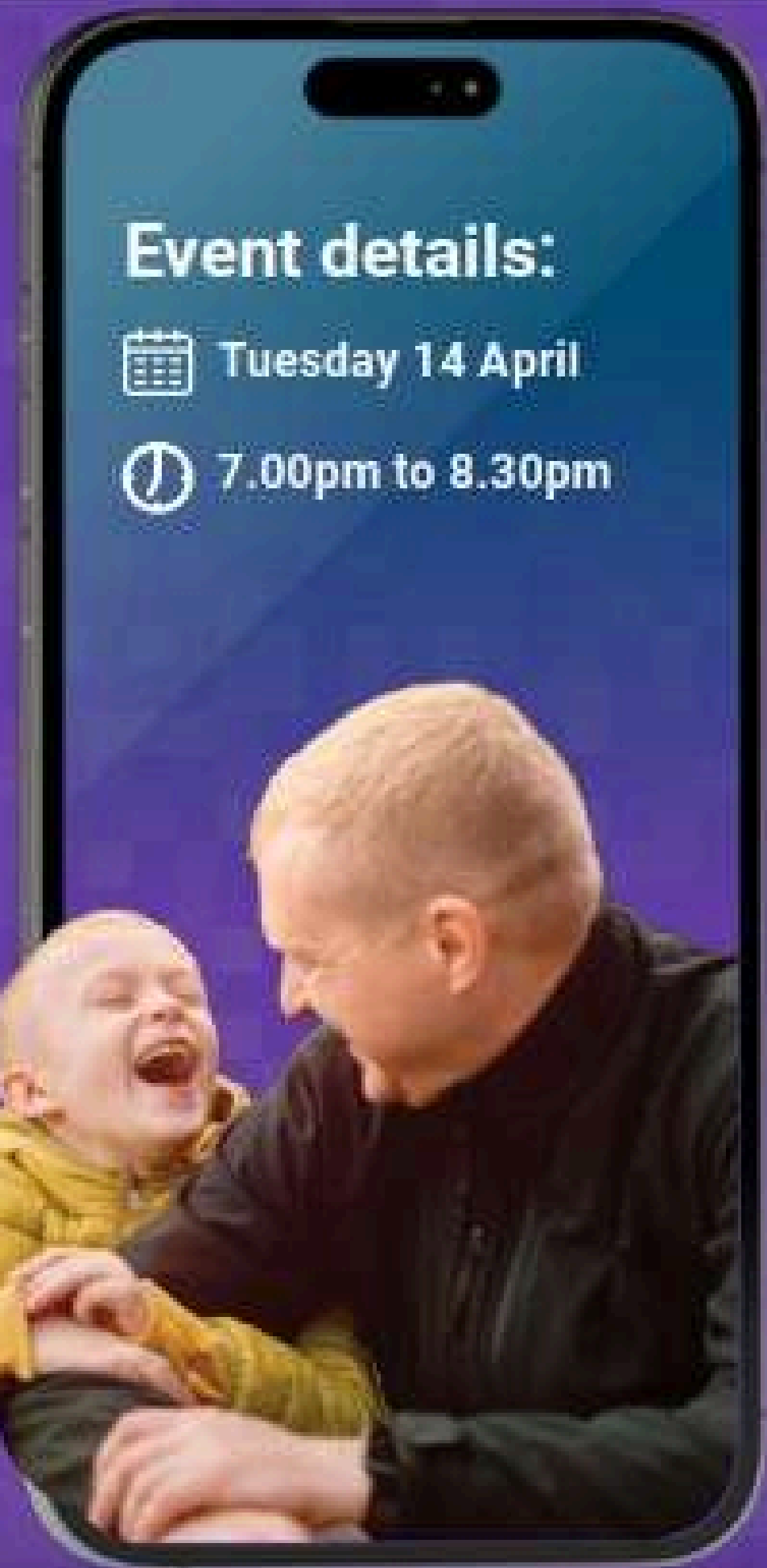
Our speakers include:

Dr Helen Thomas, Hampshire GP

James Law, Primary Headteacher

Leanne Symmonds, Secondary Headteacher

David Sidwick, Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner



Sign up by scanning the QR code or by visiting:
www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parent-together-event



Dorset
Council



**SMARTPHONE
FREE CHILDHOOD**

This event is delivered in partnership with:

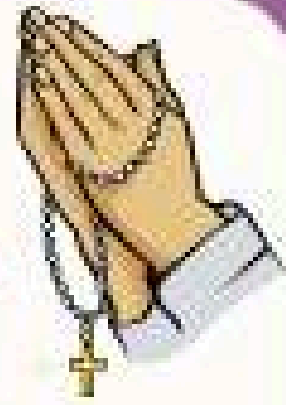
Please find the family prayer sheet for March below. This is a lovely resource to share with your families and friends.

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



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.

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.



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.

