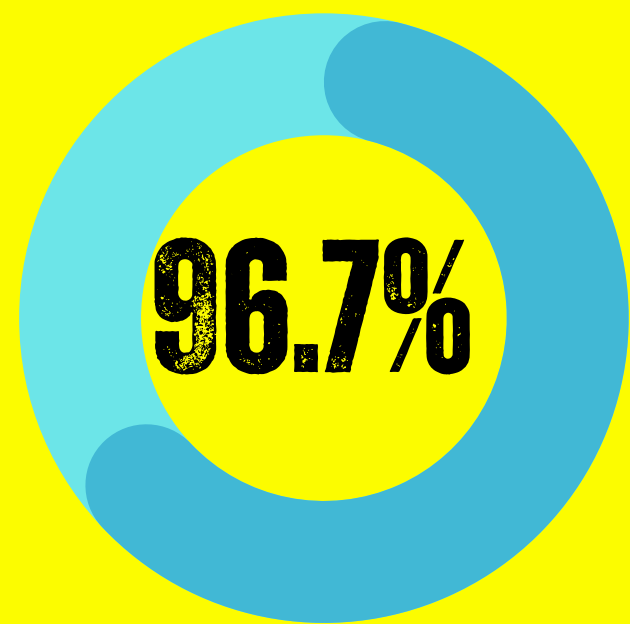


St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



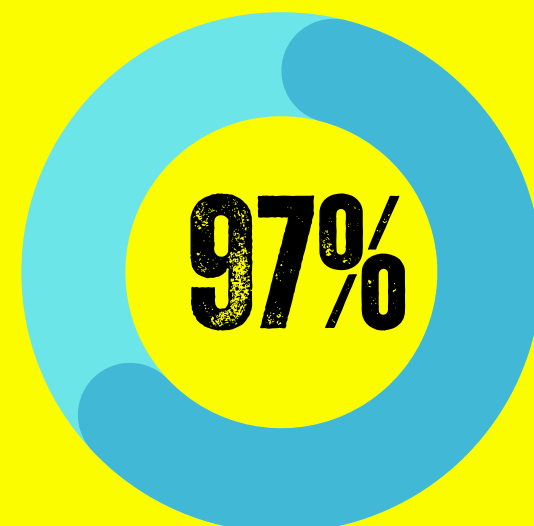
27th March 2026

This week's attendance

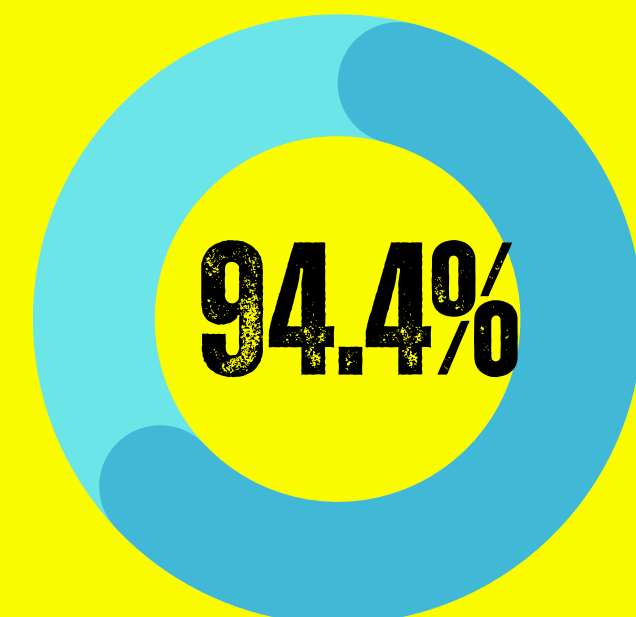


ATTENDANCE SPOTLIGHT:

Target attendance



This year's attendance to date:



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 raising Lazarus from the dead.

The story is one about faith. Jesus has faith in God's plan because he doesn't go straight to Lazarus despite his human instinct to heal his friend. He trusts in God's power to bring Lazarus back from the dead. Martha (Lazarus' sister) shows her total faith in God because she believes that Jesus can bring him back to life.

I talked to the children about the power of faith/ trust in God. They heard a story about a little boy offered for sacrifice who demonstrates a faith so strong that his life is spared. It involves four piles of sand. See if your child can remember the story.

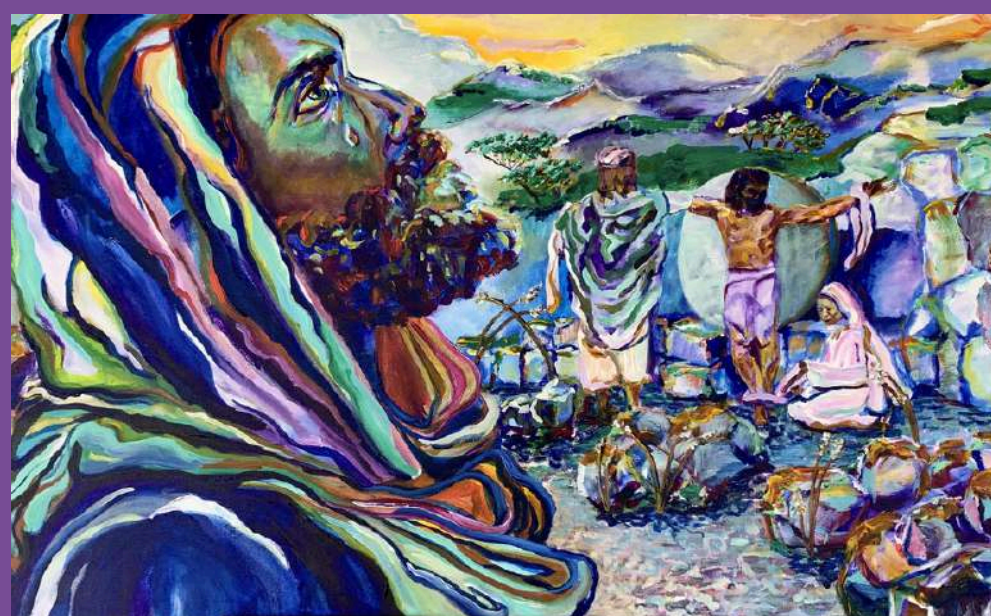
God will always answer our prayers but not always in the way we expect. Like Jesus and Martha we must continue to be strong in our faith.

Thank you everybody for supporting me and the school staff during my first term at St Josephs.

This is a very special school and community.

Have a lovely Easter everybody.

Mr Doherty



DIARY DATES


- Mon 13th - Skateboarding After School Club - Years 1-6
- Tues 14th - Art After School Club - **Year 4, Year 5, Year 6**
- Tues 14th - Abs Football After School Club - **Years 1-6**
- Tues 14th - School Nurse, 9am - appointment only - **parents**
- Wed 15th - Netball at Twynham Primary, **Y3/4 3.30pm**
- Wed 15th - Coding After School Club - **Years 2-6**
- Thurs 16th - Benchball at The Grange, **Y6, 3.30pm**
- Thurs 16th - Tennis After School Club - **Years 1-4**
- Fri 17th - Gymnastics After School Club - **Years 1-6**

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

THE BIG LENT WALK

CAFOD

Just one world



Well done to all of the children and staff who took part in Wednesday's Big Lent Walk. It was a wonderful morning and we were all so impressed at the children's stamina especially our Ducklings and Year 1 pupils who walked the full 2.5m miles! Thank you especially to all of the school staff and volunteers for making the Big Lent Walk possible.



You can still donate using the QR code:



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THE BIG LENT WALK



CAFOD
Just one world



So far we have raised a staggering £1,700 and we are second on the leaderboard (for the whole country!) This is an **INCREDIBLE** achievement for a one form primary school and shows just how special our community is. If you haven't collected your sponsorship money yet there is still time to return to school after the Easter holidays. Well done everybody.

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

BIG WALK AND WHEEL

16 – 27 March 2026



In the England South regional rankings for medium primary schools, we are currently **8th** - an absolutely incredible achievement for our school community!!

Thanks to the fantastic effort and enthusiasm of our pupils and families, St. Joseph's also earned a **Gold Badge** for our participation and commitment to active, sustainable travel.



We are incredibly proud to share that St Joseph's achieved an amazing **35th** place nationally out of 1,072 medium-sized primary schools that took part in Walk, Wheel, Cycle Trust's **Big Walk and Wheel 2026**, which took place over the past fortnight from 16th - 27th March.

A huge thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support in helping children travel to school in a more active and sustainable way. Your encouragement has made this fantastic success possible and we are so grateful for everything you do to help us continue making healthier, greener travel choices.

Well done, St Joseph's!

Mr Curran



Our Big Walk and Wheel 2026 results:

- 35th nationally out of 1,072 medium-sized primary schools
- 8th in England South (medium primary schools)
- Gold Badge achieved
- 1,375 total journeys made
- 86.19% daily average score

These results are a wonderful reflection of our school's commitment to walking, wheeling and cycling and the positive difference we can make together.

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



Let your light shine awards

Well done to all of our children who received 'let your light shine' awards this week. There were lots of lovely comments this week about the children chosen and how their behaviour in school and their approach to learning is an example to others. Well done children. You are wonderful role models.



Reconciliation



Thank you to Fr Paul and Deacon Richard who were in school this week so that the children could receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It was lovely to hear from Fr Paul how well prepared the children were.



Attendance

Well done to Year 1 who are this week's attendance winners with an INCREDIBLE 99.54% attendance! Well done Year 1!

Whole school attendance was 96.97%. Much more like it St Josephs.



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

Handball tournament



Well done to the children from Years 5 and 6 who represented the school at this week's handball tournament. We won 2 of our 8 matches and drew 2 games. Ronnie was our top goalscorer with an incredible 8 goals. Rex, Grace, Flynn and Ted all scored 1 goal each. I was very proud of their efforts against some really tough opponents. Well done children!

Team: Ronnie, Grace, Ted, Bertie, Flynn, Lillie, Klaudia, Rex



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Year 6 World War 2 exhibition



Year 6 have been learning all about WW2 this term and have been so enthusiastic about their learning. They are now experts on the topic! As part of their homework, they found out all about their families during WW2. They had some incredible stories they shared with the rest of the class. Many family members had been involved in the D-Day landings. Many had roles as Home Guards.

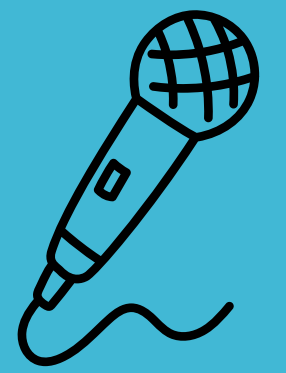
One of Eliza's family members still had the mark on their shin where they had been kicked in the leg by a Nazi when they were a Prisoner of War. Many family members recall what it was like when they were evacuated as children, and one remembers having evacuees staying with her.

So many medals were shared with the class that great grandfathers had received.

We had several RAF pilots in families. Isaac discovered that his great grandad had been based in Singapore and was on the last plane to leave when Japan attacked them. Unbelievably, he grabbed hold of his comrade and pulled him onto the aircraft as the plane was taking off. What a hero! Year 6 shared their WW2 projects, along with their WW2 writing, topic work and art with parents in an exhibition. Thank you to all the parents who were able to come in and see the amazing work they have been doing and for supporting them with their projects.

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

Rock Steady Concert



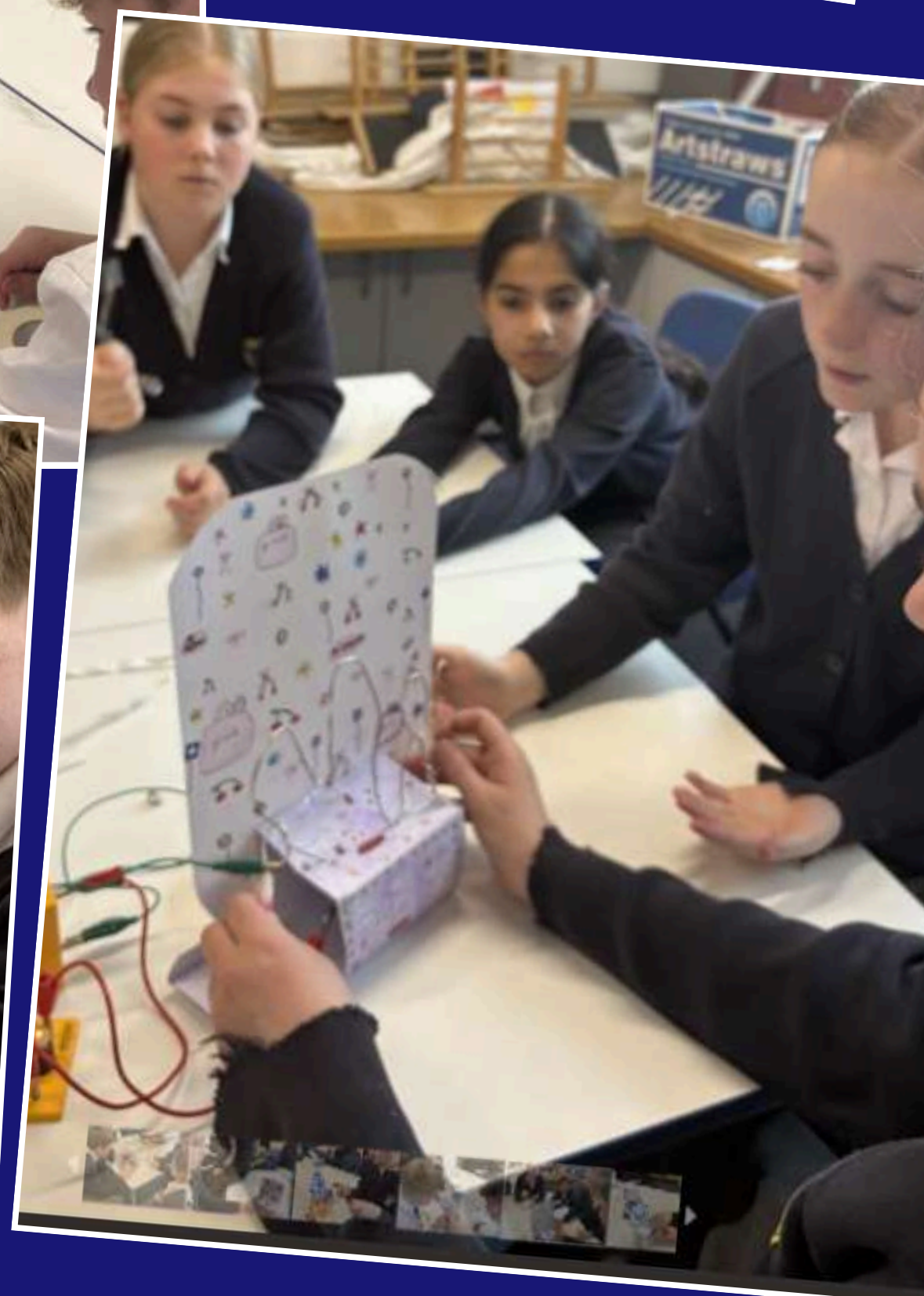
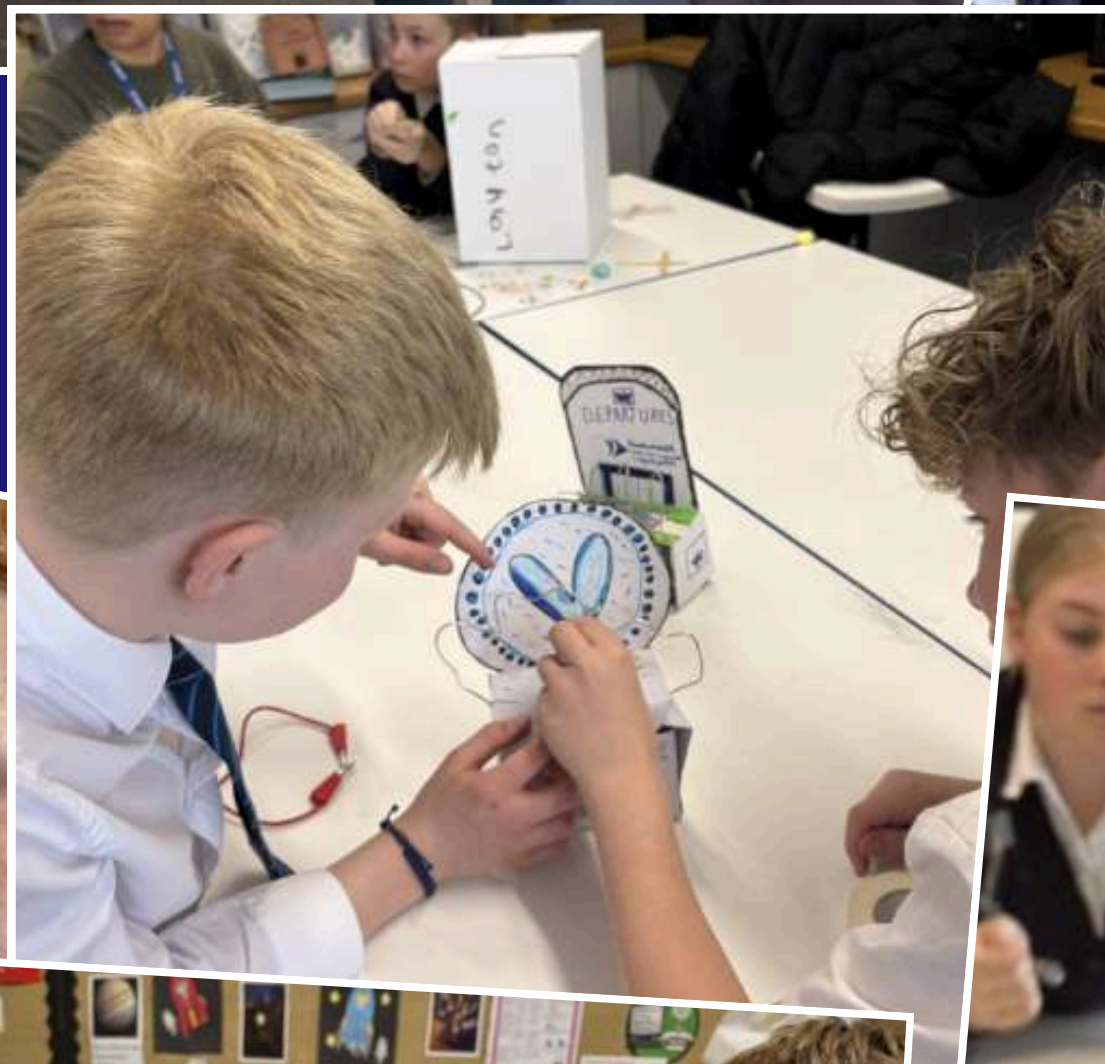
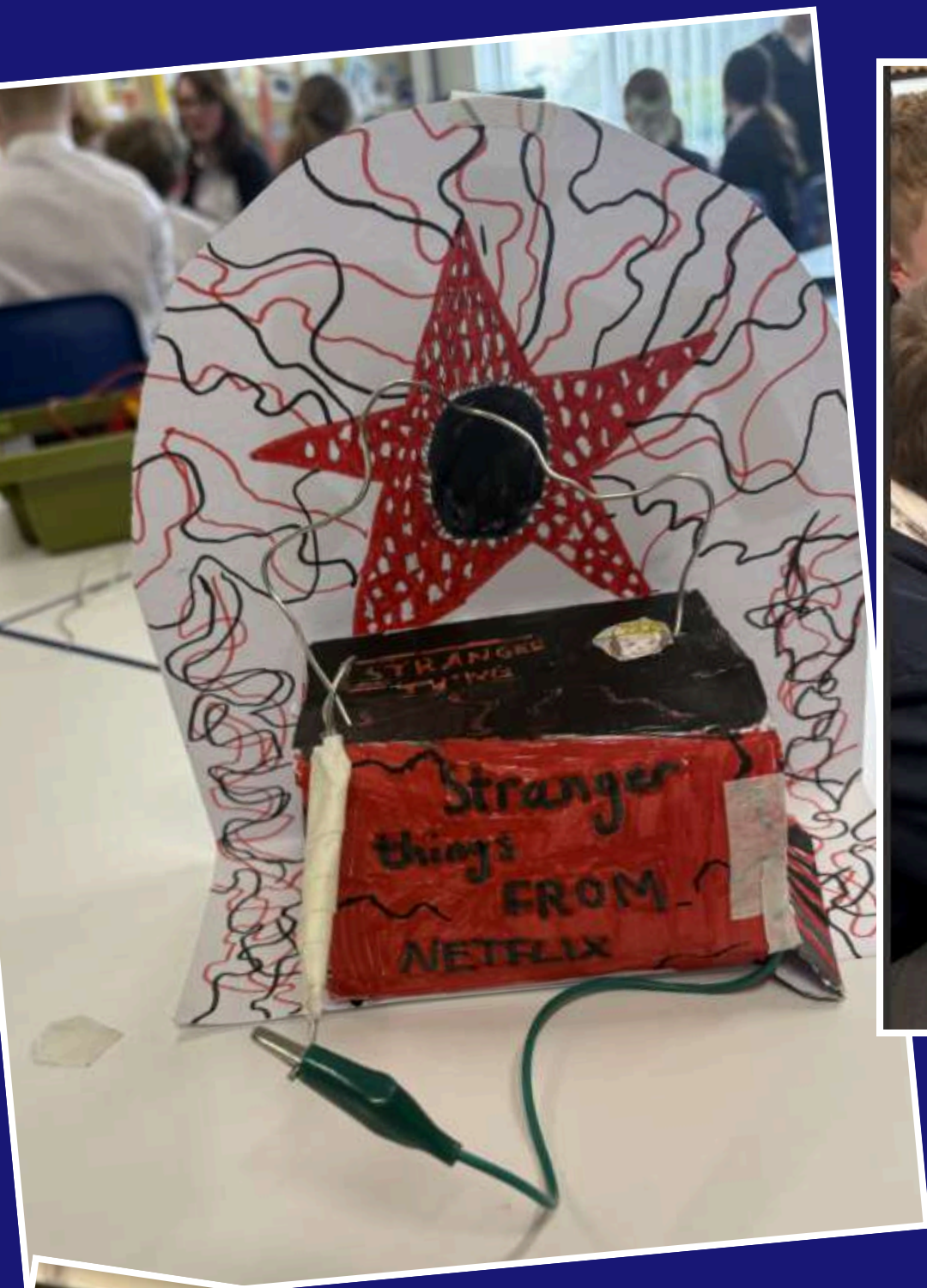
Thank you to Josh and the Rocksteady children who delivered an amazing concert on Thursday morning. Seeing our children make the very most of their God given talents and growing in confidence is wonderful to see. Well done children and thank you to Josh for his wonderful teaching. Thank you also to all of our families who turned up to support. You made it an extra special event.



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Buzzer games in science

It was lovely to see Year 6 demonstrating their Steady Hand Game designs which they created in Design and Technology lessons. Their product design focused on 'Form and Function'. Their final product had to have an appealing design and it had to work using an electric circuit with a buzzer. This links to their science topic on electricity which they covered in the Autumn term. I have to say they were great fun! Well done Year 6!



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PTA Easter Egg Hunt

Thank you to the amazing PTA for arranging a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt in school yesterday! Each class was given time to go out to the playing field to hunt for plastic eggs that had been hidden on the school grounds. Once the children found the egg, they returned it to their class teacher who exchanged it for a real chocolate egg! There was even the chance to find one golden egg for each class and this was exchanged for an even bigger chocolate egg! The children had a fantastic time and the whole event caused a lot of excitement. Thank you again to the PTA for funding this activity for our children.



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Wessex Wishes

Thank you to Frances Cornelius (a past pupil of our school) and Volunteer Chair/ Director of the Wessex Wishes charity who delivered Easter eggs for every child in the school! What a wonderful gesture of kindness. Thank you!



Super duper reader!



Well done to Layton who was sent to see me because he has been making amazing progress with his reading. Your teachers are so proud of you Layton.

Year 2 Ferris Wheels



Year 2 were very proud to show off their ferris wheels that they made in their Design and Technology lessons. They were super impressive children! Well done.

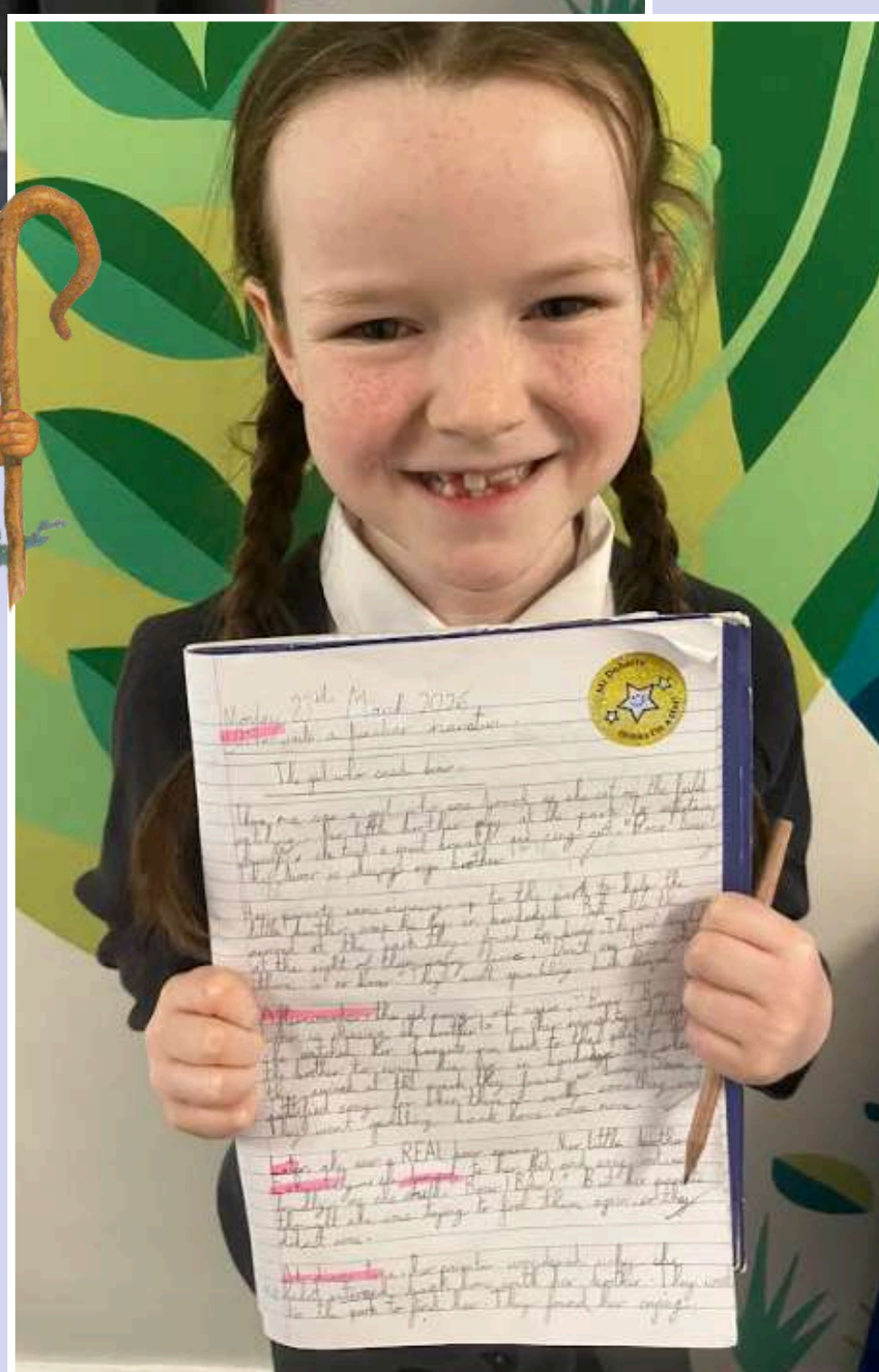
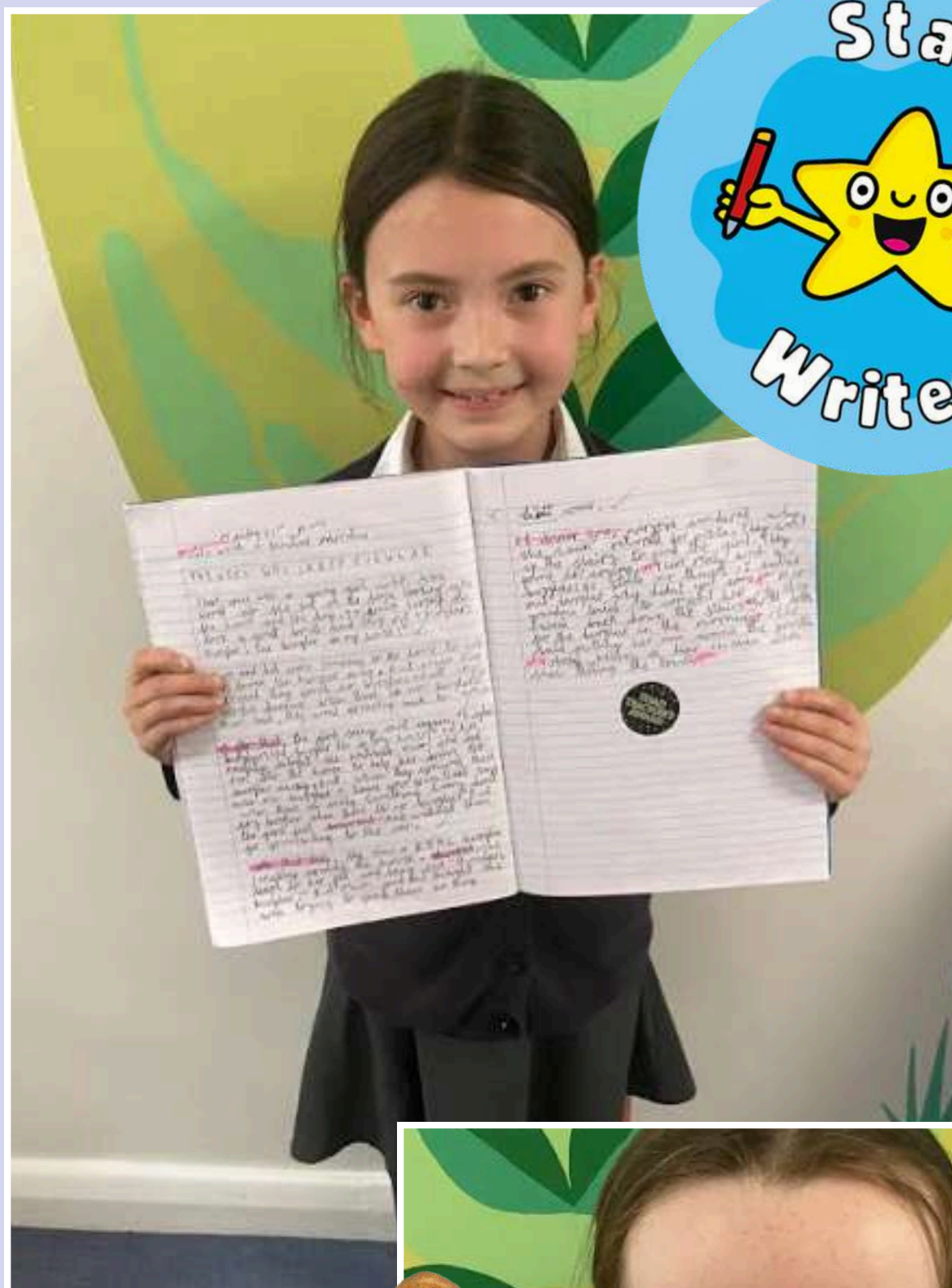
Jettson's jet!



I was so impressed this week when I was called down to Ducklings to see Jettson who had created this AMAZING fighter jet from the construction equipment after following instructions from an online model maker. Well done Jettson!

Star writers

Well done to Heidi and Molly in Year 3 who were sent to see me with their fabulous story writing. The children had been retelling their own version of The Boy Who Cried Wolf. The girls had changed the story to the boy who cries 'burglar!' They were great reads and I must say that the handwriting, punctuation and language choices are outstanding girls. Well done!



Lent crown of thorns

This week we took the last thorn from our Lent Crown of Thorns. Jettson had the honour of removing the last thorn. It has been so lovely to read about how the children and staff have been showing little acts of kindness towards each other. It is also so lovely to see that our children take the time out to write their messages.



Congratulations Florence!

Congratulations to a very proud Florence who received a certificate from Swim Academy for swimming 10 metres independently. An amazing achievement Florence. Well done!



What makes Alyssa happy?!



I had the most wonderful visit from Alyssa in Ducklings who was sent to see me with her RE work. The children have been learning about Holy Week in class and were asked what made them happy after hearing the story of the happiness of the people of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Alyssa responded by saying 'Jesus makes me happy'. What a wonderful response from one of our youngest children.

Thank you to our volunteer

Thank you to our Year 1 reading volunteer, Gillian, who made these wonderful Easter bags for everyone in Year 1. How kind!



Swim stars

Well done to Sasha and Shanice who raised £400 for the Marie Curie UK charity by taking part in a Swimathon last Saturday. Shanice swam 100 25m lengths in 2 hours 50 minutes and Sasha completed a triple 5000 metre swim over 2 days. An incredible achievement girls and a wonderful cause. Well done both of you!

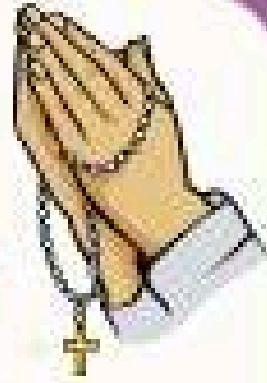


Please find the family prayer sheet for March below. This is a lovely resource to share with your families and friends.

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

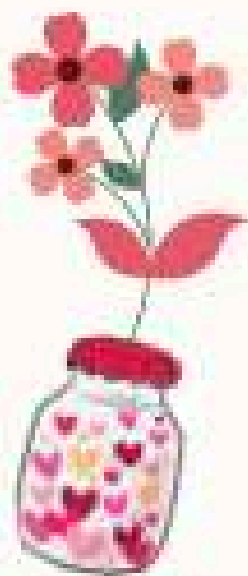
God freely forgives us because God is mercy. Think about how you are going to celebrate Holy Week as a family.

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.





SCHOOL LIFE

Important Dates for your diary

EVENT	DATE
Back to School for Summer Term	Monday 13 th April
Netball Development Tournament Y3/4	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 - Years 3,4,5	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
PTA Film Night	Thursday 4 th June
Year 2 Trip to Stanpit Marsh	Friday 5 th June
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



Monday 13th April

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



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



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



Community

Easter Fun



There are lots of brilliant, family friendly activities happening this Easter - perfect for keeping children busy, active and creative. From outdoor trails and seaside adventures to crafts, museum sessions and fun at our leisure centres, there's something for all ages to enjoy.

Many activities are free or low cost, and there are options both indoors and outdoors, whatever the weather. It's a great chance to get out together, explore our local area and make some lovely spring memories. Look at the full timetable here. [What's happening in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.](#)

Christchurch

Discover Christchurch's heritage through family-friendly trails weaving around the town's historic landmarks, followed by seasonal treats at the Priory Tea Rooms.

Highcliffe Castle hosts a charming Outdoor Easter Trail from 3-6 April, with children taking part for £3.50 and adults entering free. Across the Easter weekend, standard admission applies for adults while children go free. Woodland animal-themed crafts run 10am-3pm on 31 March, 2 April, 7 April and 9 April.

Families can enjoy the simple seaside pleasure of crab grabbing on Mudeford Quay, a classic Easter tradition with unbeatable harbour views.

The magic of pantomime returns to Christchurch for Easter as the Highcliffe Charity Players present Aladdin at the Regent Theatre. With matinee and evening performances available there are plenty of chances to join in the magic of this family favourite.

Bournemouth

From 28 March-12 April, Smuggler's Cove Adventure Golf invites families to join its eggstraordinary Easter Egg Hunt, where colourful eggs will be tucked away across the adventure-themed course with hidden letters which must be unscrambled to reveal a secret phrase. Three winners will receive seasonal goody bags, and glitter tattoos add extra sparkle to a day of adventure.

Step into the magical world of Flower Fairies: Enchantment by the Sea exhibition at Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum from 28 March-12 April with trails, dressing up, drop-in crafts and fairy-themed workshops. Children can design wings, create puppets and explore enchanting house and garden trails throughout the holidays.

Families can follow social-media clues to uncover hidden letters around the Pier Amusements arcade, unlocking a free Easter goodie bag once the mystery word is solved.

The Prom Diner by Boscombe Pier offers a cosy stop along the seafront, ideal for families enjoying Easter activities and coastal walks. Recharge with a nice treat or drink at one of our seafront kiosks and look out for the full reopening of our rebranded Pier Kitchen.

On 8 April, families can enjoy free Easter Playday at the Woodpecker Café at Queen's Park full of crafts, games and colouring, alongside a special Easter kids' menu. A puzzle trail priced at £2 provides added fun with a prize at the end.

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.

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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)



Christchurch Family Hub

01202 093500



Join us for an informal session to connect, share experiences, and access local support.

Whether you're a parent, carer, or family member, this is a safe space to talk and find help.

'I was diagnosed in 2018 with thyroid cancer, my son was 2 yrs old at the time.

After time apart for surgeries, recovery and treatment. I am keen to start a group that caters for my son and I too attend together... somewhere to chat and kids to be themselves and being altogether'

Supporting Families Affected by Cancer

STARTING 25/3 Alternating Wednesday, 15:30-17:00

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April 2026 Timetable

All regular 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

Understanding Anger	6 April 10am
School Anxiety	6 April 7pm
Facing Defiance	7 April 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	7 April 7pm
Anxiety Explained	13 April 10am
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	13 April 7pm
Introduction to OCD	14 April 10am
What is ACT?	14 April 7pm
Decreasing Depression	20 April 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	20 April 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	21 April 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	21 April 7pm
FREE Decreasing Depression	23 April 7-8pm
Improving Family Communication	27 April 10am
Autism: Improving Communication	27 April 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	28 April 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	28 April 7pm