

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

14.02.25

Dear Parents and Carers.

**Newsletter 3** 

As we approach the end of the first half term of the Spring Term, I would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and to reflect on the positive strides our pupils have made so far this year. It's been a busy but rewarding term, and we are grateful for the enthusiasm, energy, and dedication shown by both our pupils and staff.

During this first half term, our pupils have been actively engaged in their learning, taking part in new and exciting projects such as Space Camp, Forest School, DT projects and sports - developing both academically and personally. It's been wonderful to see the growth in our school community, and we look forward to building on these achievements after the half-term break.

As we enter this time of rest, and as the days become lighter, let us focus on hope.

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

— Desmand Tutu

We hope that you all have a restful and enjoyable time, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for the second half of the Spring Term, ready to continue our journey of learning and growth together.

Thank you once again for your ongoing partnership and support. If you have any concerns or queries, please don't hesitate to contact us. Wishing you and your family a peaceful and blessed half-term break. God bless.

Elizabeth Rippon Headteacher

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

#### Buy books, change lives

Looking for some new books for your child to read through the half term? LoveReading4Kids has books with at least 10% off the usual retail price and when you buy from them we get 25% of the cover price donated to our school to spend on more books for our library! Follow the link to the website to discover some fantastic books: Buy a Book. Support a School. Make a Difference | LoveReading4Kids UK

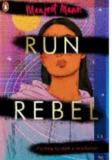


## Want to support our school?











#### **How It Works**



When you buy any book from LoveReading.co.uk or LoveReading4Kids.co.uk, 25% of the cover price is donated to schools, to spend on books.



When you purchase a book, at checkout you can choose our school name for the donation to be allocated to, and our school can then purchase books with the funds.

Buy books, change lives



#### BBC Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who donated to our our Children in Need mufti day in November. We are pleased to announce that we raised £140.62! Thank you to all of the children for dressing in something yellow and being part of this fundraising event. We will be proudly displaying our certificate (left) in the school.

#### Easyfundraising

Great news! We've already raised £1,513.53 with Easyfundraising and gained four more supporters, giving us a total of 87 supporters. Please help us raise more - it's easy to join and every time you shop online you raise donations for our school at no extra cost to you! If you haven't already signed up, please follow this link to help us raise more: <u>Easyfundraising</u>

### LEARNING

#### Ducklings

Ducklings have been having so much fun exploring our outdoor area. It's fantastic to see how their confidence has grown since September. They have also enjoyed their Forest School Sessions. This week they watched the process of corn turning into popcorn and they loved it!



#### Year 1

Year 1 have been enjoying designing and making their own puppets in textiles! We are very pleased with their finished puppets and we are looking forward to sharing them with the rest of the school in our class assembly.







#### Year 2

Year 2 had space camp last week, we had the best time and are very sad it is over! We loved looking at the moon and stars with a telescope. We were very lucky to see some planets too! We saw Jupiter, Venus and Mars. After exploring outside and observing the night sky, it was time for a film and hot chocolate. We loved getting cosy in our tents with our friends and watching the film. In the morning, we got dressed for the day and had breakfast. We enjoyed toast, cereal and yogurts!



#### Year 3

This half term in Year 3 has been all about FISH. We have the aquarium all set up and the plants are established. However, it has been a bit tricky getting the ammonia and nitrate levels right to welcome the stars of the show - the fish. The children have been so excited all term about this project and were very mature and understanding when I told them about the issues we were having. Despite not having any actual fish in the aquarium much of their learning activities have had a fish/water theme. They have written instructions to set up an aquarium, drawn and coloured pictures of fish, we have done fish maths (subtraction and number order practice), we have written a story, made some rainbow fish in art and in DT they made dioramas. There will be lots more fishy activities (and hopefully the fish too) next half term. We will also be taking the class up to Maidenhead Aquatics so will be calling for some volunteers soon.



#### LEARNING

#### Year 4

We have had a fantastic half term in Year 4! The children have been writing instruction texts in Literacy using the book 'Until I Met Dudley' and in Maths we have been learning about multiplication, division, length and perimeter. During Forest School on Tuesday afternoons the children learnt how to make a shelter, tie knots and how to make a light a fire safely. We hope the children have a wonderful and restful half term!







#### Year S

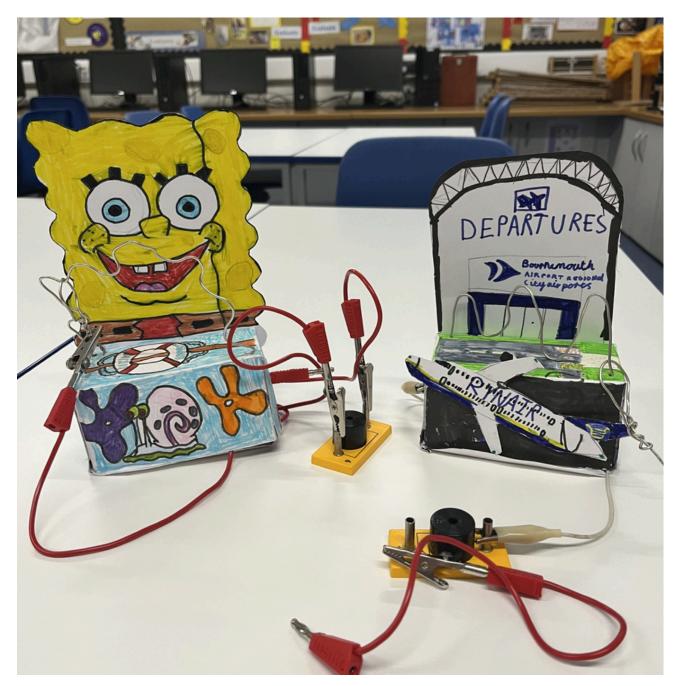
Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed their 'Imaginative Reflective Prayer' session this week with Maria, who has been teaching us how we can start to relax and calm our minds. We have also had the best time creating our Interactive Installations in our Sculpture unit with Mr Curran in Art, which focuses on three-dimensional art that aims to transform a particular place. The imagination and creativity on show has been spectacular.





#### Year 6

Year 6 have worked extremely hard this half-term. I hope parents enjoyed seeing some of their learning from their assembly. We have started our WW2 topic in class, which the children are loving. They are so enthusiastic about it and have produced some fantastic work from it. Mrs Leonard came in and spoke to the children about her Jewish grandfather's story during WW2, which really brought their learning to life and made it very real. In DT, the children have been making steady hand games, using their knowledge of electricity from their Science learning. I'm sure you'll agree that they look amazing!



#### Sport

This half-term we competed in the following events:

- Dare to Believe Festivals
- Multi Skills Festivals
- Gymnastics Events
- Girls Dorset Football League Matches
- County Cup Matches
- Step into Sport Festival

The children participating in these competitions have shown great resilience, composure and tremendous sportsmanship throughout. They have been a credit to St Joseph's Primary School.





#### SCHOOL LIFE

#### World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday March 6th, we are delighted to announce that we will be hosting a Reading Café in the hall and inviting parents to come in from 9am - 10.30am to read with their child. There will be refreshments available and a selection of books to choose from. Children are invited to come in to school on World Book Day in their pyjamas.

From the start of the week, beginning 3rd March, we will be hosting a book swap and inviting children to bring in one or more books they can swap. These will be collected during the week and then the children can choose their 'new' book on World Book Day. More details will follow nearer the time.





#### Come to our next Car Boot!

We will be holding our next car boot sale on Saturday 29th March. Please do come along to support either as a buyer or seller. All crafters welcome - please pre-book if you would like a tabletop in our school hall. Please call the school office on O12O2 485976. All money raised goes back into the school.

#### E-safety guidance for parents

Please note that the February issue of our Online Safety Newsletter is now on our school website. This has some helpful information about staying safe online. A reminder to visit our website for our monthly online safety newsletters with up-to-date information to keep your child safe online:

https://www.stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk/e-safety-1/



#### Hot school lunches

Please note that the deadline for ordering school lunches for the first week back after half term is **Monday**17th January.

Please do order in plenty of time as Forerunner is not able to add any orders after the deadline. If you haven't yet signed up to Forerunner and would like your child to have hot lunches, please book on the Forerunner portal: <a href="Mailto:Parent Portal">Parent Portal (myschoolmealorders.com)</a>



ACTIVITIES INCLUDE: INDOOR GAMES, ARTS & CRAFTS, LEGO, READING, OUTDOOR GAMES AND MORE

FOR PRICES AND TIMES PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.STJOSEPHS.DORSET.SCH.UK/STARLIGHT-CLUB-BREAKFAST
AND-AFTER-SCHOOL-CLUB

OR EMAIL: STARLIGHTCLUB@STJOSEPHS.DORSET.SCH.UK

## SCHOOL LIFE



#### Important Dates for your diary

EVENT	DATE
Back to school	Monday 24th February
Cookery Day Year 4 and Year 5	Tuesady 25th February
Book Swap week	Week beginning 3rd March to celebrate World Book Day
World Book Day	Reading Cafe in the hall 9-10.30am
Year 1 Class Assembly - parents invited	Friday 7th March, 2.30pm
British Science Week	Monday 10th - Friday 14th March
School Nurse Drop-in	Monday 10th March, 8.45am - 9.30am
Class Photos with the school photographer	Thursday 13th March
Parents' Evening	Monday 17th March
St Joseph's Feast Day	Wednesday 19th March
Dr Bike visiting	Wednesday 19th March
Year 5 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 19th March
Year 5 Imaginative Prayer series	Thursday 20th March
Parents' Evening	Thursday 20th March
INSET DAY	Friday 21st March
Year 3 Egypt Workshop	Tuesday 25th March
Leeson House Parents' Information Evening	Wednesday 26th March
Regent Centre Community Perfornance - school choir	Wednesday 26th March
Ducklings Mothers Day Liturgy	Wednesday 26th March
National Skipping Day	Friday 28th March
Rocksteady Concert to parents	Thursday 3rd April
Easter Holiday	7th April - 21st April



#### School Nurse Drop-In

We are pleased to announce that the School Nurse will be starting Drop-In sessions again at school and our first session will be on **Monday March 10th** from 8.45am to 9.30am. Appointments will be first come first served.



Our spectacular Summer Fayre will be on Friday 6th June this year and there will be lots of fun activities, games and stalls on offer. More details to follow. Please feel free to come along to any of the PTA planning meetings.

#### Smartphone free childhood - sign the parent pact

Smartphone Free Childhood is a grassroots movement of parents who believe childhood is too short to be spent on a smartphone. Join the thousands of parents across Britain working together to make childhood better for their children. Sign up here: <a href="https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/join">https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/join</a>



CHANGETHENORM

Smartphone Free Childhood is a grassroots movement of parents who believe childhood's too short to be spent on a smartphone

#### We're on a mission to



Bring parents together to start new and positive conversations about the problems of smartphones and social media in childhood



Empower parents to wait to get their kids a smartphone until at least the end of Year 9, through signing up to the Parent Pact in their region



Demonstrate that parents are demanding change at scale, and therefore force the government and tech companies to act

#### Why we're doing this now

We've been put in an impossible position by the tech companies. It's a lose lose - either allow our children access to something all the evidence tells us is damaging, or say no and risk alienating them among their peers at a crucial stage of their social development. We believe something needs to change, and it starts with all of us.

#### How you can get involved

**Sign the Parent Pact -** Join the growing movement of parents choosing to delay - it takes 30 seconds parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

**Join your WhatsApp community -** Find solidarity, support and inspiration - we have one in every county in Britain

whatsapp.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

**Help build the movement -** Volunteer to be a Regional Leader and start making change in your community regionalleadersignup.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

**Sign up to our newsletter -** Get the latest news and campaign updates from SFC HQ smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/newsletter

Follow us on Instagram/Linkedin
@smartphonefreechildhood
smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk



Scan to sign the Parent Pact #smartphonefreechildhood

#### COMMUNITY

#### Sensory Outreach Team

The BCP Council Schools OT Sensory Outreach Team will be hosting a series of workshops designed to help parents and carers better understand their children's sensory needs and to learn about effective sensory tools and strategies they can use at home. The event is free to attend and is designed for children of any school age.





# Understanding your child's sensory needs



This free workshop will be delivered by the BCP Schools OT Sensory Outreach Team.

The aim is to empower parents to understand their child's sensory needs, and have supportive strategies they can try at home.

#### The workshops will be held on the following:

Wednesday 19th March 1pm-3pm Wednesday 26th 4.15pm-5.45pm Manorside Academy Evering Ave, Poole BH12 4JG



Friday 25th April 1pm-3pm Wednesday 30th April 5pm-7pm Muscliffe Primary school, Broadway Ln, Bournemouth BH8 0AB



Tuesday 3rd June 1pm-3pm, Wednesday 4th June 6pm-8pm St Katharine's C Of E School, Rolls Dr, Southbourne, Bournemouth BH6 4NA



To request more information please e-mail: schools.otsensoryoutreachteam@bcpcouncil.gov.uk