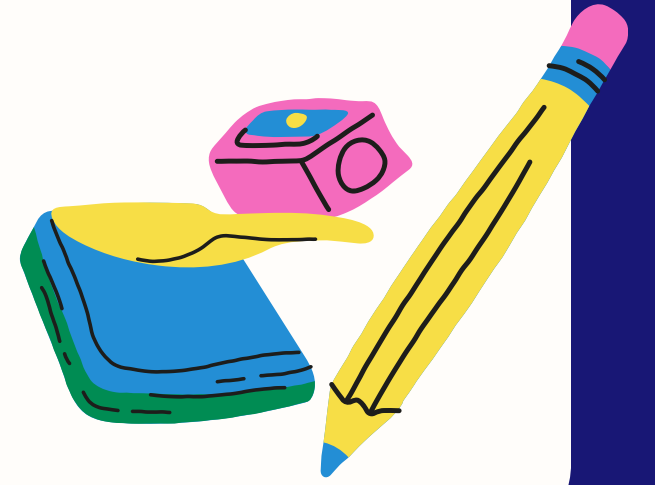




St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Newsletter 2

20.12.24

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of another busy and successful term, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to you all for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Your partnership plays a vital role in ensuring our children thrive both academically and personally.

This term has been a reminder of God's faithfulness and love in all things. Whether through the successes and challenges our children have faced in their learning, the joyful celebrations we've shared, or the quiet moments of reflection, we have seen God's hand guiding us.

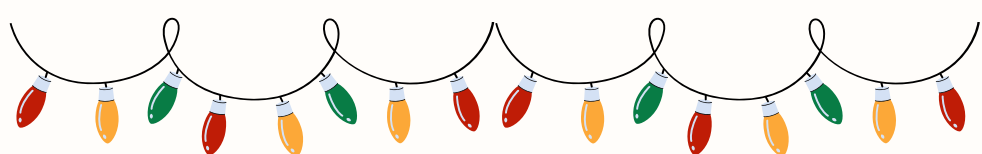
As we approach the Christmas season, we are reminded of the profound truth at the heart of our faith: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). The birth of Jesus is the ultimate gift of love, bringing hope, peace, and joy to the world. It is my prayer that this truth will resonate deeply in your hearts and homes as you celebrate with your families.

I am immensely proud of how our pupils have grown academically, spiritually, and socially this term. They have embodied the values we strive to instill - compassion, perseverance and courage - and it has been a privilege to witness their development as they each let their light shine.

May the break ahead be a time of rest, renewal, and cherished moments with loved ones. As we look forward to the new year, let us hold onto the hope that Christ brings, trusting in His plans for our lives.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and joyful Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.

God bless,
Elizabeth Rippon



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



Easyfundraising

Great news! We've already raised £1,393.67 with 83 supporters on easyfundraising. If you've already signed up, please keep remembering to use easyfundraising every time you shop online! Remember, you can raise donations from your weekly food shop, online shopping or just renewing your usual home or car insurance. If you haven't already signed up, please help us raise more by signing up now: [Easyfundraising](#)

SELLERS FROM 8AM
BUYERS 9AM-12pm

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

**£7 PER CAR
£5 PER TABLETOP**

CAR BOOT & TABLETOP SALE

PROCEEDS FROM ENTRY FEE GO TO OUR SCHOOL

SATURDAY 25th JANUARY

Come to our next Car Boot!

We will be holding our next car boot sale on Saturday 25th January. 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 01202 485976. All money raised goes back into the school.

Class Assemblies

Next term we will be holding class assemblies to which parents are invited. Please see the class assembly dates below:

Year 5: Friday 17th January - 2.30pm

Year 6: Friday 24th January - 2.30pm

Year 4: Friday 31st January - 2.30pm

Year 3: Friday 7th February - 2.30pm

Year 2: Friday 14th February - 2.30pm

Year 1: Friday 7th March - 2.30pm

Ducklings Mothers Day Liturgy: Wed 26th March - 2.30pm

Hot school lunches - book early!



Please note that the deadline for ordering school lunches for the first week back after half term is **Monday 30th December**.

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: [Parent Portal \(myschoolmealorders.com\)](#)

LEARNING

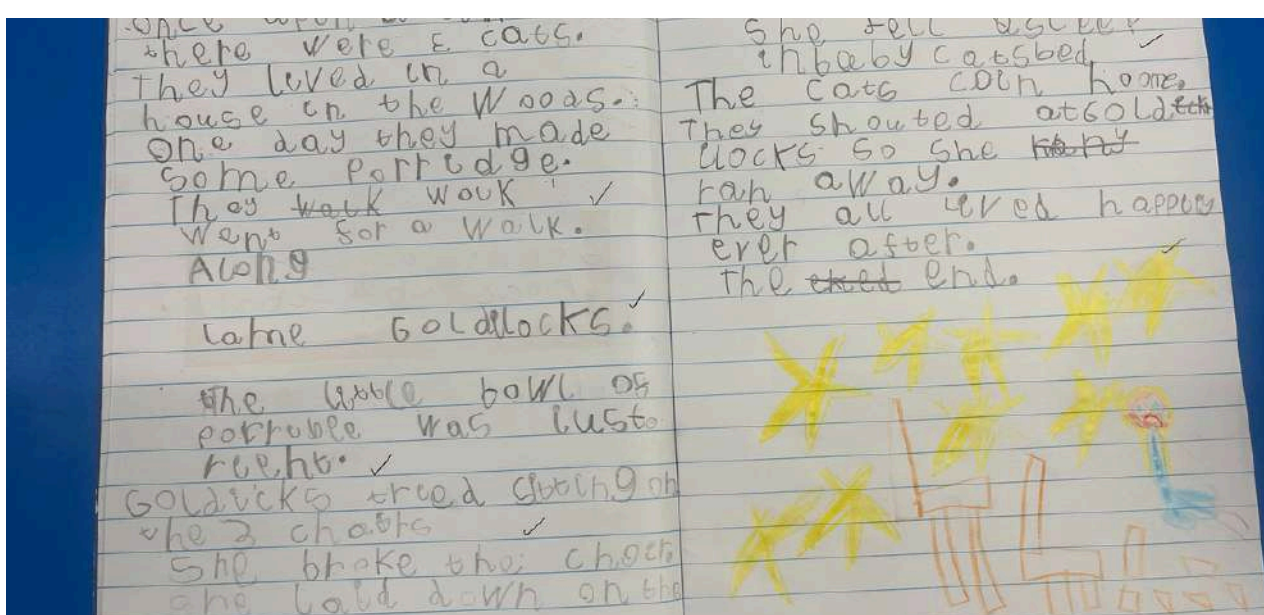
Ducklings

Ducklings have been so busy this half term. In our Literacy lessons they have learnt the 'Jack and the Beanstalk' story. They have been using the sounds they know to write words. Ducklings have learnt about ice and snow and they have been enjoying their new climbing frame. They were amazing in their Nativity performance, we are so proud of them. Well done Ducklings! You have done fantastic learning this half term.



Year 1

Year 1 have very much enjoyed learning to retell the story of Goldilocks and writing our own versions of the story using different animals instead of bears! We were really impressed with the imagination used within these stories and the care the children took when writing at length!



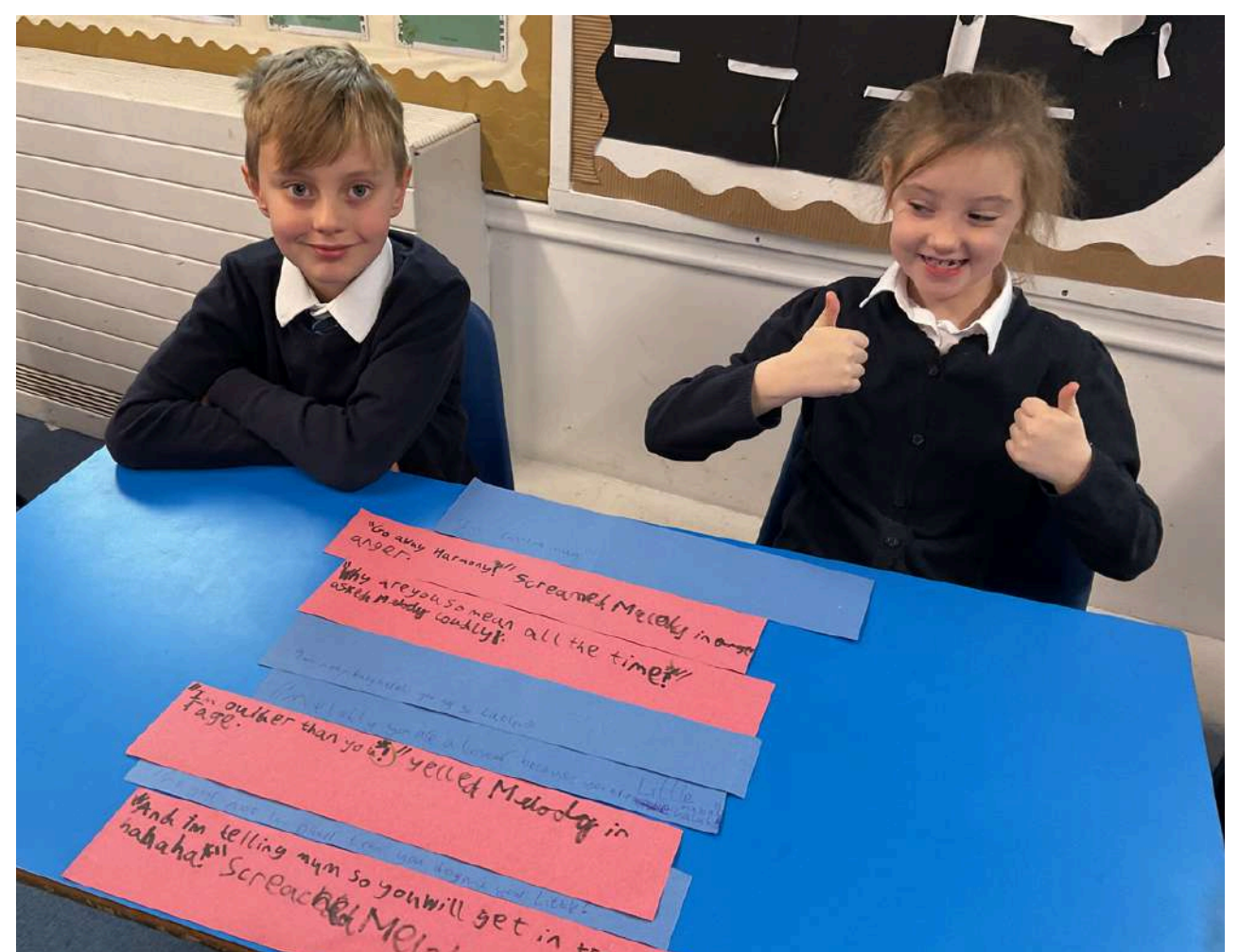
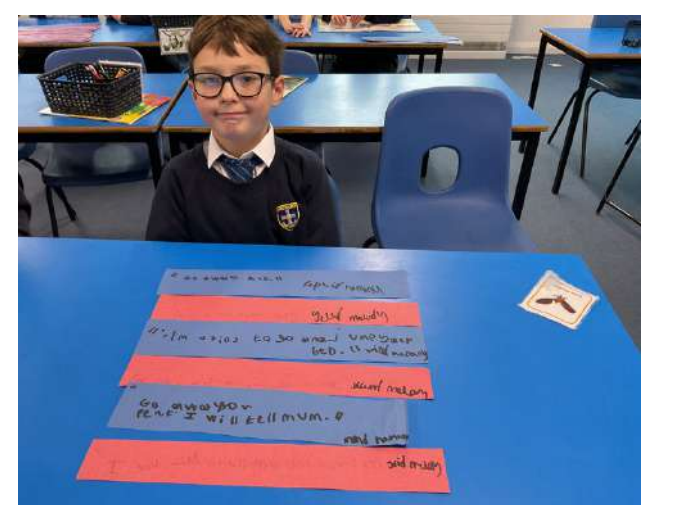
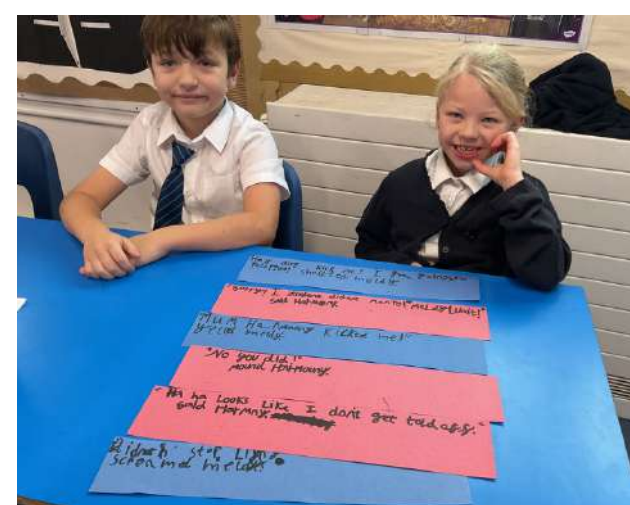
Year 2

Year 2 have been busy making 3D relief maps. They first sketched out a map and then explored using different materials to create textures and add 3D elements to their maps. Well done Year 2 they look great!



Year 3

In Year 3, we have been working really hard this half term with a focus, in literacy, on our key text 'The Queens Nose'. Using this book, children have been learning about the rules of speech. To help them we have been acting out conversations between characters and writing conversations on coloured paper to learn about turn taking in speaking. The most fun they had was when they were told they could write on their desks... this was greeted with shock and disbelief, until I started them off by writing on Robyn's desk! For speech marks we used macaroni (ask your child all about it). A lesson they won't forget in a while!



LEARNING

Year 4

Year 4 have made a fantastic start during the Autumn Term. They have worked really hard and made fantastic progress in all subjects. We are particularly proud of their progress in Maths with times tables and Literacy with their planning and writing of a Horrid Henry story. In November we enjoyed a trip to the Winchester Science Centre as part of our learning about Sound in Science. The children had a fabulous day and were able to enjoy practical examples of their learning during a workshop in the afternoon with musical instruments. In our Art and Design Power Prints topic the children completed a beautiful print design as a group. Highlights of this term have been the Nativity play and watching the children progress in their swimming lessons. They also learnt life saving skills during their swimming lessons which included swimming in clothes and rescuing each other. Their behaviour and conduct have been excellent during both and Mrs Dunn, Mrs Wasmuth and Mrs Hougham are very proud of the class. We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Dunn for teaching in class on Mondays, her contribution has been greatly valued. We welcome back Miss Wright to Year 4 in January. Thank you to all parents for your continued support and we look forward to a fantastic Spring Term.



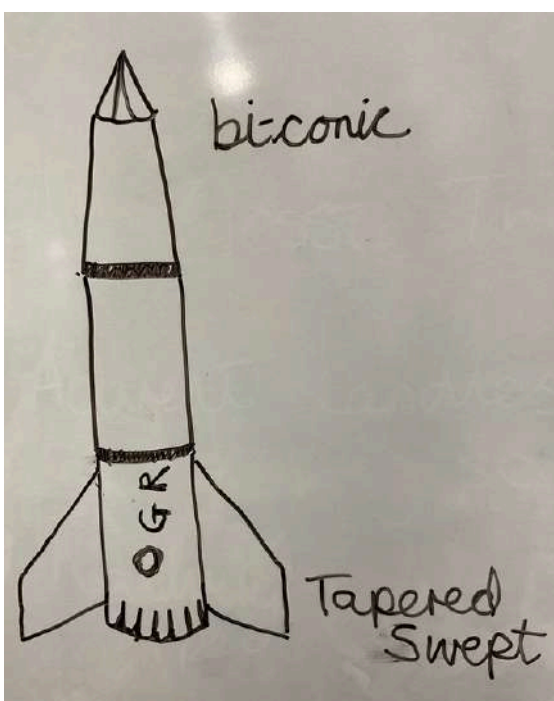
Year 6

Year 6 have worked incredibly hard this half-term. They have enjoyed learning about the rainforests in Geography and their English work has all been linked to this too. They wrote some brilliant persuasive speeches about the devastating impact of deforestation on our world, which they then recorded on a QR code, so they are actually delivering the speech.

Year 6 were very fortunate to be the first school to have a drama workshop from Vita Nova. The workshop was all about not trusting people you meet online, especially if they give you gifts and ask you to deliver parcels for them. Year 6 were fully involved all afternoon and the message was very clear to the children.

Some of the children from Year 5 and 6 were asked to sing for the older members of our parish at the parish Christmas lunch at St. Joseph's Church. They performed some of their songs from the Advent Service and the girls showed their dance. The parishioners loved it and the children received many compliments afterwards. Year 6 also had a chance to take part in a television and media workshop at Somerford Primary School with presenters from the CBeebies show, The Rhyme Rocket, which was a fantastic experience.

Year 5



This half-term Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed participating in the ROAD to RIAT STEM event, Maths parent drop-in session as well as designing and creating their own science investigations. Our children have enjoyed many sporting opportunities also, where they have competed in: Intra-House, Indoor Athletics, Handball and Football competitions. The children have showed superb bravery, courage and determination throughout.



NHS Pharmacy First Service

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that we can help children feel better and get back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service. There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service. Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

Conditions they can offer prescription medicine for are:

- impetigo (aged 1 year and over)
- infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over)
- earache (aged 1 to 17 years)
- sore throat (aged 5 years and over)
- sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)
- urinary tract infections (UTIs) (women aged 16 to 64 years)
- shingles (aged 18 years and over)

A summary of the service is available as an [animation](#) and more information can also be found at: [nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst](https://www.nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst)
<https://www.boots.com/healthhub/a-z-services/pharmacy-first>.

App winner with JP Morgan

We were delighted to welcome back JP Morgan to our Monday assembly this week. Last term, JP Morgan invited St Joseph's pupils to design an app and all of the entries were judged by engineers at JP Morgan. This week they returned to announce the winner, which was one of our Year 3 pupils who won an Amazon Fire tablet! The winning app has also been made by JP Morgan.

St Joseph's uniform

A reminder that you can buy new logo uniform from our supplier QDOS. If your child receives pupil premium you are entitled to one free logo jumper each academic year. Please contact Dee or Carly on 07774 679472.

Alternatively, please email info@qdoschoolwear.co.uk.

We also have our very own second hand uniform shop on the Uniformd platform where we sell good quality pre-owned uniform with all funds raised going directly back to the school. Please visit the Uniformd shop here: [Uniformd](#)

E-safety guidance for parents

Please note that the December issue of our Online Safety Newsletter is now on our school website. This has some helpful information about staying safe online over the Christmas period. 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/>

Online Safety Newsletter Dec 2024

Talkie AI App
This app is rated as 17+ by the App store and 12+ by Google Play.
Talkie is an AI chatbot app. Users can use the app to create and interact with AI characters.
You should also be aware that this app includes in app purchases ranging from £4.99 - £49.99.
Talkie does offer a Teenager Mode; however, the content still may not be appropriate for your child. Bark reviews this app here, and recommend that your child should not be using this app:
<https://www.bark.us/app-reviews/apps/talkie-app-review>

Tips to help you talk about cyberbullying
Internet Matters have collated their tips to help you talk about cyberbullying with your child based on different age categories. The information is divided into four sections:

New Technology
With Christmas nearly here and with some children receiving new technology or related games, here is a quick reminder of the importance of setting up appropriate parental controls.

Games/Consoles
- Check age ratings: look at the PEGI rating of any new games.
- Remember, PEGI rates the gameplay so whilst it is important to review age ratings, you must also check to see if it has any communication elements.
- If a game does allow your child to communicate with others, then adjust or disable the settings as appropriate to your child.
- On the device itself, set up applicable controls such as restricting spending limits and managing who they can communicate with. Follow the links below to find out how to set up Parental Controls for some devices here:
Xbox: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>
PS5: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>
Nintendo Switch: <https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html>

Tablets/Smart phones
Set up parental controls on the device to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Furthermore, remember to check any apps your child requests to check that they are suitable for their age. Follow the links below to find out more:
iPhones/iPad: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>
Android Device: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>

STARLIGHT Club

LIGHT SNACK INCLUDED

AGES 4-11

NEED WRAPAROUND CARE?

TRY STARLIGHT - OUR BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

BREAKFAST CLUB: 7.45-8.45AM
AFTER SCHOOL CLUB: MON-THURS UNTIL 6PM, FRI UNTIL 4.45PM

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 6th January
Year 5 Imaginative Prayer series	Thursday 9th January
First Aid sessions	Week commencing Monday 13th January
Year 5 Class Assembly - parents invited	Friday 17th January
Year 6 Class Assembly - parents invited	Friday 24th January
Year 4 Class Assembly - parents invited	Friday 31st January
Year 5 Imaginative Prayer series	Thursday 6th February
Year 2 Space Camp	Thursday 6th February
Year 3 Class Assembly - parents invited	Friday 7th February
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 11th February
Year 2 Class Assembly - parents invited	Friday 14th February
Cookery Days for Year 4 and Year 5	Tuesday 25th February
Rags to Riches clothing recycling collection	Thursday 6th March
Year 1 Class Assembly - parents invited	Friday 7th March
British Science Week	10th - 14th March
Class Photos with the school photographer	Thursday 13th March
Parents' Evening	Monday 17th March
St Joseph's Feast Day	Wednesday 19th March
Year 5 Imaginative Prayer series	Thursday 20th March
Parents' Evening	Thursday 20th March
INSET DAY	Friday 21st March
Regent Centre Community Performance - school choir	Wednesday 26th March
Ducklings Mothers Day Liturgy	Wednesday 26th March
Easter Holiday	7th April - 21st April



INSET Days 2024-2025

Fri 21st March 2025, Mon 21st July 2025, Tues 22nd July 2025

COMMUNITY

Holiday activities

Holiday Activities and food programme (HAF): The Department for Education funded holiday activities and food programme (HAF) provides free holiday activity places for children and young people in receipt of benefits-based free school meals, from reception year to age 16. [Holiday Activities and food programme \(HAF\)](#).

Holiday activities: [BCP FID Holiday activities](#)

BCP Libraries: [Find a library](#) | [BCP](#) An example of some events being held at Broadstone Library is attached.

BCP Mumbler – your local parenting community: [Christmas in Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole - Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Mumbler](#) includes free things to do, holiday clubs etc

The Parks Foundation: [Home - The Parks Foundation](#) events and activities in local parks. Programmes of events here: [The Parks Foundation Events - Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Mumbler](#)

Creative Kids: Please see attached from Creative Kids <https://creativekids.org.uk/> They have fully funded full days available to all FSM children.

Mental Health Support

SHOUT: Shout is the UK's first and only free, confidential, 24/7 text messaging service for anyone who is struggling to cope. Text 'SHOUT' to 85258

YOUNG MINDS: The UK's leading charity fighting for a world where no young person feels alone with their mental health [YoungMinds](#) | [Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People](#) | [YoungMinds](#)

CONNECTION 24/7: 24/7 helpline open to all ages. If you require urgent mental health support call 0800 652 0190 or NHS 111.

CHILDLINE: Call 0800 1111 [Childline](#) | [Childline](#) Childline is open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Counsellors will listen and support you with anything you'd like to talk about. Call for free on 0800 1111.

PARENTALK: (ACTION for CHILDREN) Down-to-earth parenting advice you can trust. Find answers to parenting questions in our advice articles. Or talk to a parenting coach about anything that's worrying you. It's all free, and no topic is too big, small, or embarrassing. [Parent Talk - Support for Parents from Action For Children](#)

Watermans Park | January programme

Meet by the park entrance



GreenFingers

Fri 10 & 24 January | 10.30am - 12.30pm

Join our friendly volunteer group to get involved in practical conservation in your local park. No experience needed.

Please bring gardening gloves and a reusable mug if you have them.



Volunteering

Wildlings

Wed 22 January | 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Join us after school for some fun nature-based activities - from crafts to species surveys. Adult supervision is required, we would love for the grown-ups to get stuck in and learn about nature, too!



Free event

The Big Bird Count

Sat 25 January | 12.30pm - 2pm

A relaxing walk around the park to see how many birds we can spot and what species. We'll record what we see and add our findings to the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2025. If you have a pair of binoculars, please bring them with you.



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