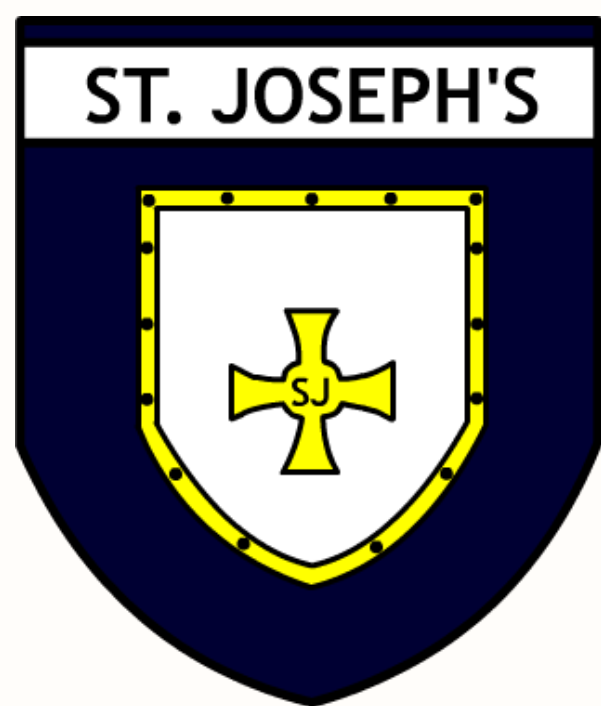




# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Newsletter 5

28.03.24

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Spring Term has been full of exciting opportunities for all our pupils, despite all the illnesses going around and the wet weather. We have had the Science Fair, Space Camp, the Clean Air Project, Science Dome, Forest School for KS1, bedtime reading evening in school, Rocksteady's Concert and visits to Upton House Country Park. Children in Key Stage 2 have also been learning violin, ukulele and recorder. It was wonderful to walk with the children and parents to Highcliffe Castle in the sunshine on Sunday and raise funds for our Crowdfunder. This term, we have continued our drive on encouraging the children to read regularly at home, receiving badges and certificates for their hard work. We welcomed parents in to visit our wonderful library, we have run phonics 'learn with your child' sessions for parents in Ducklings class and Year 1. We are continuing to promote reading for pleasure across the school - studies show that reading benefits the following:

- Reading attainment and writing ability;
- Text comprehension and grammar;
- Breadth of vocabulary;
- Positive reading attitudes;
- Greater self-confidence as a reader;
- Pleasure in reading in later life;
- General knowledge;
- A better understanding of other cultures;
- Community participation; and
- A greater insight into human nature and decision-making.

Reading to your child has a positive impact on their learning, vocabulary and imagination - please take time to visit the local library with your child over the Easter holidays. We also have lots of dyslexia-friendly books for children so do talk to your child's teacher if you need extra reading books at home.

In our end of term assembly today, we shared the story, 'The Garden, The Curtain and the Cross' - it helps to explain Easter to the children and the message is, 'Thank you, King Jesus - you're amazing!'. For Holy Week this week, we had prayer stations in the hall and the children were wonderful - very prayerful, engaged and helping each other.

A huge well done to the children and thank you to the staff team for their amazing work this term. Thank you for your support and all you do to work in partnership with us.

Wishing you a blessed and Holy Easter,  
Elizabeth Rippon



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

## Country Park learning

Following a successful funding application for educational workshop sessions, Years 2-6 visited Upton Country Park on separate days in February and March for a series of curriculum related workshops:

- Year 6 - Poetry in the Park (Literacy) & Art in Nature (Art)
- Year 5 - Romans (History) & Art in Nature (Art)
- Year 4 - Maps & Measures (Geography and Maths) & Firepit
- Year 3 - Nature Paints (Art) & Collecting Light (Science)
- Year 2 - Nature Day (Science) & Art in Nature (Art)

The children were led by a member from Upton and a team of volunteers and explored the grounds. They learned about the history of the park and the family who established it. The quality of learning and activities was excellent and very engaging for children of all levels of ability and background. All chosen sessions were linked with the children's learning in class and was a great opportunity to stretch what they knew and shine in a different environment. There was also time for lots of fun! Thank you Upton Country Park for five wonderful days of outdoor learning.





# LEARNING

## Ducklings

Ducklings really enjoyed their Forest school sessions this term. They have been learning about minibeasts, learning how to survive and make shelters and last week they have learnt how to start a fire using a flint stone. Well done Ducklings for your excellent attitude to learning.



## Year 1

This term Year 1 have learned so many new skills in Forest School! Our Forest School Leader Stephanie recently taught Year 1 how to tie lots of different knots and they are looking forward to using these skills in future D.T. lessons!



## Year 2

Mr Curran says: Year 2 have had a busy term. Some of the highlights were carrying out some fantastic and visually grabbing art when colour mixing.



In addition, the children also enjoyed carrying out some Design and Technology looking at structures, in the making of Baby Bear's Chair! We would like to thank the volunteering adults - we couldn't have done it without you!

We had some members of Y2, aka 'Girl Power' perform the song, 'Best Day of My Life' by the band, American Authors. They were absolutely fantastic and showed off what they had learnt as part of their Rocksteady weekly lessons!

Year 2 took part in the Clean Air for Schools project and completed a balloon chart about the breathing in of clean air.

On the evening of World Book Day, Year 2 heard some stories read to by Mr Curran with the fire in the background keeping them all warm. The parents joined the children in class whilst they heard some stories, 'Perfectly Norman' and 'Dragon Post'. They also enjoyed a hot chocolate and digestive biscuits. Year 2 learnt from Mary who taught about rail safety and how to stay safe around our local tracks and never to walk through a barrier when they are coming down and the alarm is sounding.

Year 2 also enjoyed the Planetarium with Year 1 when it visited from Winchester Science Centre. This learning also reinforced what knowledge they gained from their Space unit and time spent during Space Camp.

Upton Country Park was a highlight from this past term. The children enjoyed time creating art using nature's offerings as well as tree hugging and learning about how plants grow. The children sequenced the life cycle of a tree. Even though it was wet, it was a great day. We even managed to squeeze some time in for a play in the park.



Year 2 have also been thoroughly enjoyed their Forest School days. Unfortunately, this is the last term that they will have this and we would like to thank Stephanie for leading these sessions.

Year 2 have learnt about mud and made self-portraits using mud, carved pencils from strips of wood, learnt how to tie different types of knots, toasted marshmallows by the fire, created coloured bookmarks using nature's colours and even became official fire starters when making fire themselves using some now-known techniques! It was such an enhancing experience and broadened the children's experiences.





# LEARNING

## Year 3

Year 3 were very excited to welcome their parents into school on Wednesday to share their learning on ancient Egypt. In history the children were working towards answering the question 'What was life like in ancient Egypt?' and their artwork this term was leading towards the children making scrolls using an ancient technique. They then produced some artwork based on their studies of ancient Egyptian art. Year 3 finished the afternoon with story time and a chocolate.

## Year 4



Mrs Wasmuth says: Well done to Year 4 for a fantastic Spring Term of learning. For Literacy we wrote a Horrid Henry story, including speech.

The children did a fantastic job and were able to use their vivid imaginations and apply to Horrid Henry and friends! In Maths the children have been learning about Length and Perimeter with Mrs Corallo and multiplying by 10, 100, and 1000, factors and multiples, bus stop division and fractions with Mrs Wasmuth. Times tables up to 12 remain an important focus for Year 4.

A highlight of the term for Year 4 was our school trip to Upton Country Park. In the morning the class split into two groups and learnt about Maps and Measures. We explored the Park and looked for clues to solve a puzzle. In the afternoon we made fire (safely!)

As a class, in small groups we listened to the fire safety talk from the Park Ranger then chopped wood and attempted to light a small fire. We were very proud of the mature and sensible attitude all the children demonstrated and they were fantastic ambassadors for St Joseph's. Huge thank you to the adult helpers who came on the day.

Thank you all for your continued support and we wish you a happy and healthy Easter.

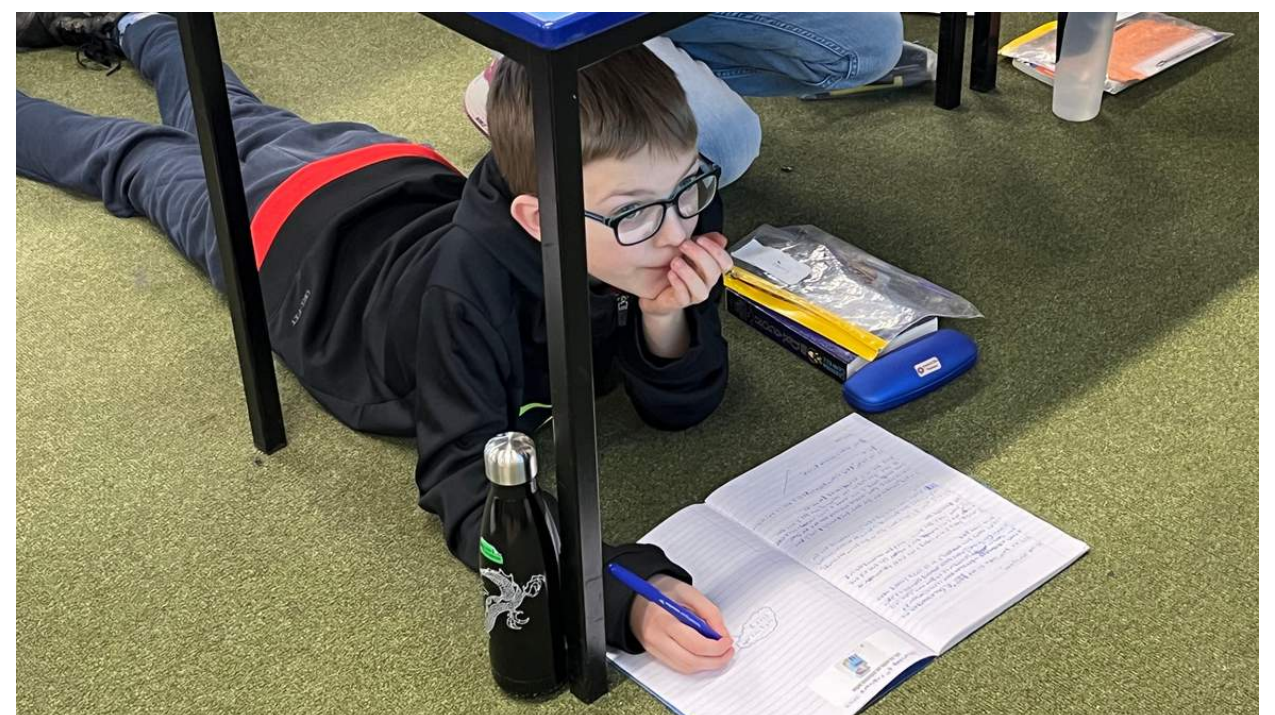
## Year 5

On March 7th, Year 5 had a fantastic day of science as they took part in the Road to RIAT STEM Challenge with the subject of Space delivered virtually by the Smallpeice Trust.

Generously funded by and delivered in partnership with the RAF Charitable Trust, the RAF and Accenture, the virtual workshop started with a hands-on project working in teams to design, build and test their creations. In the afternoon, the children took part in an activity, challenging students to design a sustainable aircraft of the future. Thank you to the Smallpiece Trust for a super day of STEM!

## Year 6

Year 6 had a fantastic day at Upton Country Park, where they enjoyed creating art in nature and writing their own poems, as well as exploring the grounds there and making the most of being outside for the day. Unfortunately in class, the Year 6 chairs quit for the day and the children had to work without them. Although they thought this fun to begin with, they soon realised their chairs were vital in helping with their learning. They wrote persuasive letters to the chairs and luckily, they came back.



## Sport

We took pupils from Years 3 and 4 to a Fair Play Tag Rugby development tournament at Chapel Gate. The children enjoyed an hour of coaching as well as five games against other schools. They all enjoyed learning how to play as a team and learning skills of tag rugby. Well done everyone!





## World Book Day

We had a brilliant day in school celebrating everything books on World Book Day. The children enjoyed reading with children from different classes, as well as moving from class to class listening to a story read by each teacher. The highlight of the day was in the evening when around 100 children and parents came back to school to hear a story and have hot chocolate.



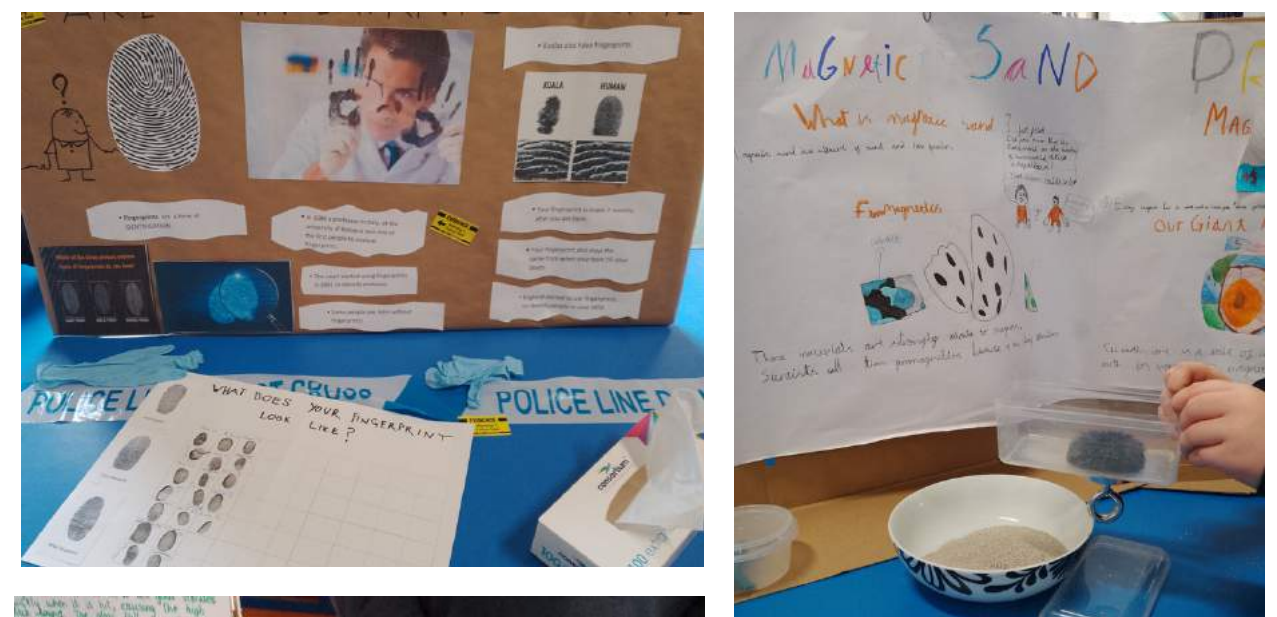
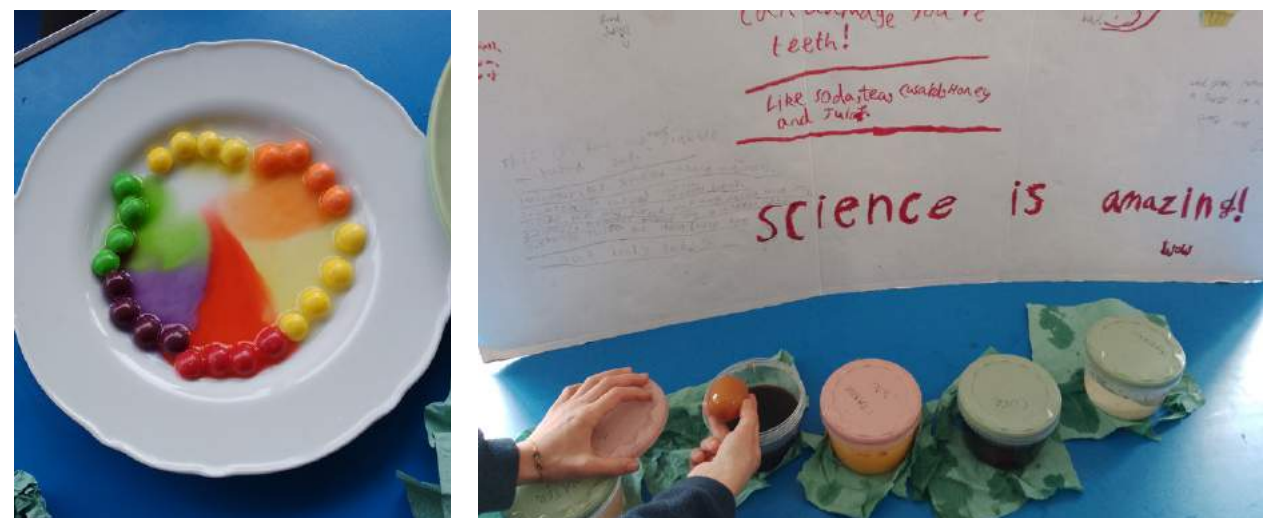
## Rocksteady Concert

Well done to the children who have been working hard each week practising their music and songs for the Rocksteady Concert last week. The rest of the school watched with parents as the band members performed their fantastic songs led by Rocksteady band leader Joshua Rose. The children really enjoyed themselves. Well done everyone!



## Science Week

The children really enjoyed celebrating British Science Week during 11th-15th March. Pupils in Year 3, 4 and 5 were invited to take part in a Science Fair where they could demonstrate hands-on science experiments to the rest of the classes. We were very impressed with the hard work and enthusiasm of the children who took part. Please see some of the experiments below:



On Thursday 14th March, the school was thrilled to welcome a mobile Science Dome from the Winchester Science Centre. Each class was treated to an exciting planetarium experience with the theme of science throughout the day. This was made possible thanks to funding from the British Science Association's Kick Start Grant and funding from our PTA. The children had a brilliant day!





# SCHOOL LIFE

## Welcome our new PTA chairs

Thank you to everyone who came to the PTA AGM in February. We are delighted to announce that our new PTA co-chairs are Samantha Midgley and Felicia McPherson. Thank you to these parents for taking on the role to continue the ever important role of fundraising for the school.

The PTA is now busy planning the Summer Fayre which is our school's main annual event. The PTA needs as many people to help as possible so please respond to messages from your PTA class reps asking for volunteers. Our class fundraisers will continue throughout the Summer Term. Well done to the classes who have already held their fundraising events! The response has been fantastic.

**DIARY DATE:** Please put this date in your diary for our Summer Fayre - Friday 5th July, 4-7pm.

Our next PTA meetings are: Tuesdays April 16th, 21st May, 11th June all at 6pm. Please come along to support the PTA!

## Crowdfunder update

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Crowdfunder so far - we are currently at £3,540! We are continuing to raise money to create a dynamic outdoor learning environment for our pupils.

Well done to the class fundraisers that have already raised money for the Crowdfunder. Thank you to Arc Architecture for their generous donation and to everyone who turned out for our fundraising walk on Sunday. It was a glorious day to walk along the beach and we raised another £64 towards our cause. Well done to those doing private fundraising to contribute to our target of £10,000. We appreciate all of the support. Please feel free to pass our link on for donations:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/creating-a-dynamic-outdoor-learning-environment>



## Important Dates

| EVENT                                             | DATE                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Back to school                                    | Monday 15th April                        |
| PTA Meeting                                       | Tuesday 16th April                       |
| Year 4 Bikeability                                | Friday 19th April                        |
| Speak Out Stay Safe Assembly KS1 & KS2            | Monday 22nd April                        |
| Navigator visit - Building Resilience Workshop    | Tuesday 23rd April, 9-10.30am            |
| Year 5 Leeson House Residential Trip              | Wed 1st May - Fri 3rd May                |
| <b>Bank Holiday</b>                               | <b>Monday 6th May</b>                    |
| Ducklings class trip to Longdown                  | Tuesday 7th May                          |
| KS2 SATS                                          | Monday 13th - Thursday 16th May          |
| Free Scooter Training for Ducklings and Year 1    | Tuesday 21st May                         |
| Review Morning - parents come to see child's work | Friday 24th May                          |
| <b>Half Term</b>                                  | <b>Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May</b> |
| Year 4 Multiplication Times Tables Check starts   | Monday 3rd June                          |
| Sustainability Week                               | Monday 3rd June - Friday 7th June        |
| Year 6 Avon Tyrrell Residential Trip              | Monday 10th June - Friday 14th June      |

## INSET Days 2023

Friday 21st June 2024, Friday 25th October 2024





# SCHOOL LIFE



## E-Safety

Are you worried your child has too much screentime or would like more advice on how to support your child in managing their screen time? Internet Matters have a wealth of information on their website to help support you.

This first link discusses how to get the most out of screen time and how to talk to your child about screen time based on their age:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/protect-your-child>

This second link provides advice on how to tackle too much screen time and what the signs of too much screen time might be:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/deal-with-it/>

This final link provides a guide on how to balance screen time:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/creating-a-balanced-digital-diet-with-screen-time-tips/>

For more information like this to keep your child safe online, please see our monthly parent newsletters on our school website: <https://www.stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk/e-safety-1/>

## LoveReading4Kids donates 25% of every order to schools

At St Joseph's reading for pleasure is very important and we love to have a well stocked library for our children to enjoy. We have applied for funding via the LoveReading4Kids Funding For Schools Scheme to buy more books for our school. As we wait for a decision, we can receive donated funds with LoveReading4Kids when a customer or our school community purchases books from [loveReading4kids.co.uk](https://loveReading4kids.co.uk) or [loveReading.co.uk](https://loveReading.co.uk). When you buy a book you can allocate 25% of what you spend to our school! This will be donated by LoveReading4Kids. The balance is then added to our school dashboard and we can purchase books for our school library.

## Holidays during term time

A reminder that under the guidance of BCP, all unauthorised holidays and absences of 5 days or more taken during term time will result in a Fixed Penalty Notice. The fine is £60 per child, per parent if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice; rising to £120 if paid within 28 days. Please see more about our attendance policy on our website, under the heading 'Attendance'. It is very important to let the school know if you are taking your child out of school to help us to safeguard your child. Please keep the school updated with any changes to your home address or phone number so that we have the most up-to-date information on our system in case we need to contact you in an emergency. Please let the school office know if you have moved house or changed phone number.

## Navigator sessions

We were delighted to welcome our school navigator, Sabina, to our parents' evening last week. Sabina will be attending school every month to help parents and carers with any questions about parenting, children's behaviour at home or school, time management or sleep. Please see the following scheduled dates and times that Sabina will be attending school. To attend any of these sessions please book in with the school office.

- **Tuesday 23rd April, 9-10.30am - 'Building Resilience and importance of school attendance' workshop.** The workshop is for those who would like to learn more about child anxiety and how to build resilience around this. It is very informal and we look forward to seeing you there. Please let school know if you are wanting to attend as spaces are limited.
- **Tuesday 14th May, 9-10.30am - parent drop-in**
- **Tuesday 18th June, 9-10.30am- 'Managing Challenging Behaviour' workshop**
- **Tuesday 9th July, 9-10.30am - parent drop-in**

If you would like to book a session on any of these dates please call the school office on 01202 485976. Please also let us know if you would like to attend the resilience workshop on 23rd April and we will put your name on the list!

Please note that Sabina is also at the Somerford Hub every Friday from 9-11am for anyone to access.

## Food vouchers

If your child receives pupil premium, you will have received the food vouchers via email for the half term. These vouchers are part of a national grant to support families through recent hardship. We will let you know if there are any changes to the funding of these vouchers for future school holidays.

## Hot school lunches

Please note that the deadline for ordering school lunches for the week after the Easter half term is **Monday 8th April.**



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 \(myschoolmealorders.com\)](https://myschoolmealorders.com)



# SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

## Improving mental health

CREATIVE WAYS TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH

**coda**  
music and arts trust

**ADULT  
'CREATIVE WELLBEING'  
PROGRAMMES**

**FREE ADULT PROGRAMME. NO NEED FOR REFERRAL**

**SOMERFORD**  
**MONDAYS**  
starting Monday 15th April  
**1 - 3pm**  
**at Somerford ARC**  
20 Southey Rd, Christchurch BH23 3EH

"No matter what's going on in my life, I always feel better after the session."  
programme user

[www.coda.org.uk](http://www.coda.org.uk)  
[martin@coda.org.uk](mailto:martin@coda.org.uk)  
01425 276161

This is a FREE service for local adults. Yes, really! We even provide the materials.

We would love to see you!

Coda uses music and the arts as tools for personal and social change, providing a place to learn, train and develop, and offering help and support through participation and creative therapy. We make a positive impact in our local community and tackle inequality by providing universal access to a broad range of artistic and creative services and by delivering innovative education and health programmes. Charity No: 1068710

Funded by 

The Somerford Arc is delighted to announce its brand new, Somerford based 'Creative Wellbeing' programme for parents and carers. Please see details below:

**Where:** The Arc, Southey Road, Somerford. BH23 3EH

**When:** Monday's, 1-3pm, starting Monday 15th April

**Who:** Open to all adults.

**What:** A calm, happy couple of hours for anyone who wants to get out of the house and improve their mental health by relaxing and being creative in a safe, non-judgmental environment. This is a free service provided by Coda (Backed by lottery funding) with the intention to improve the mental health of the local community in Somerford and the wider Christchurch area.

## Measles - protect your child

Measles is currently a growing issue nationally after seeing large increases in London and the West Midlands.

### What can I do?

MMR vaccination is the best form of defence against measles and has the added advantage of also preventing rubella and mumps. Over 90% of individuals will have protection against measles mumps and rubella after the first dose of the MMR vaccines currently used in the UK. A single dose of measles-containing vaccine is at least 95% effective in preventing clinical measles. After a second dose of measles-containing vaccine protection increases to well above 95%.

It is never too late to catch up. The MMR vaccine is free on the NHS and can be accessed via GP surgeries.

You can find out more information about measles and MMR at the following links:

**General information:** Measles - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk))

**Information for parents:** What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school - The Education Hub ([blog.gov.uk](http://blog.gov.uk))

**Information on MMR:** MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk))

## Sign up to our Parking Promise



At St Joseph's we are passionate about creating a safer environment outside our school. As previously announced, we have signed up to the Parkwise Promise - an initiative by BCP to reduce congestion around our school and help to make the roads safer for our children.

Together with our parents we want to work towards reducing congestion around the school and encouraging considerate parking at drop off and pick up times.

A paper form has already come home with your child but if you would like to request a new one, please do come to the school office where you can collect a form. We encourage as many parents as possible to support this initiative to ultimately make the roads safer for our children. Please ask for a form at the school office.

## Parish Centre for hire

Are you looking for a great venue to hold an event? The Parish Centre is available mostly at weekends at a great price of £17 per hour. The Parish Centre offers three great halls, a well equipped kitchen and a large enclosed garden.

To book either contact the Parish Centre by phone on 01202 483340 or by email at [bookings@icsj.org.uk](mailto:bookings@icsj.org.uk)

Please see the link below for leaflets with more information.

[Parish Centre – Avon Stour Pastoral Area](#)







# SCHOOL CLUBS

## After-School Clubs

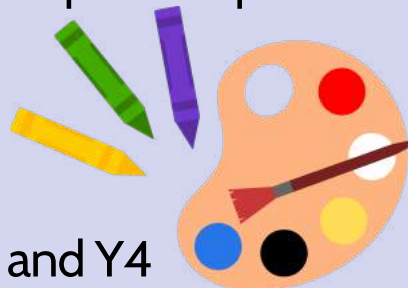
Please see the wide range of after-school clubs on offer at St Joseph's after Easter. For information on how to book please see our website: <https://www.stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk/> or email the school office on [admin@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk)

### MONDAY:

**Football Team Practice** for Year 5 & 6. 3.15pm-4.15pm.  
**Forest School** for boys and girls in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.  
**Coding Club** for Ducklings, Year 1 and Year 2 3.15pm-4.15pm

### TUESDAY:

**Art Club** for boys and girls in years 4, 5 and 6.  
**Football Coaching** for Reception, Years 1, 2, 3 and Y4

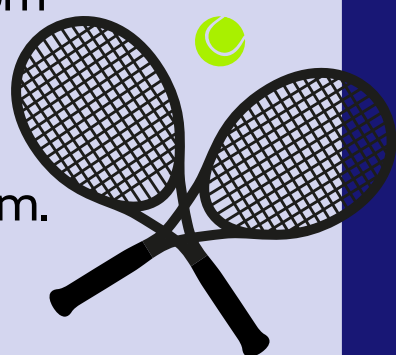


### WEDNESDAY:

**Coding Club** for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6  
**Karate** (Junior classes Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) (6.15-7.45pm)  
**Girls' Football Club** for Years 3, 4, 5, 6 3.15pm-4.15pm

### THURSDAY:

**French Club** for Reception to Year 6. 3.15pm-4.20pm.  
**Tennis Club** for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 3.15pm-4.15pm



### FRIDAY:

**Gymnastics club** for boys and girls in Years 1-6. 3.15pm-4.15pm

### MONDAY - FRIDAY:

**Starlight Club - Breakfast and After School Club**  
Breakfast club - 7:45am-8:45am  
After school club - 3:15pm-6pm Monday to Thursday  
After School club 3.15pm-4.45pm on Fridays

## ST JOSEPHS GIRLS FOOTBALL CLUB!

### WEDNESDAYS

3.15 - 4.15PM

### YEAR GROUPS: 3-6

BEGINNERS WELCOME!

SESSIONS RAN BY FA QUALIFIED FEMALE COACH

CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS!

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](http://WWW.STJOSEPHS.DORSET.SCH.UK/STARLIGHT-CLUB-BREAKFAST-AND-AFTER-SCHOOL-CLUB)  
OR EMAIL: [STARLIGHTCLUB@STJOSEPHS.DORSET.SCH.UK](mailto:STARLIGHTCLUB@STJOSEPHS.DORSET.SCH.UK)

## AFTER SCHOOL TENNIS CLUB

AT ST.JOSEPH'S SCHOOL ON THURSDAYS 3:15-4:15PM

A COURSE OF FUN COACHING SESSIONS DESIGNED TO HELP CHILDREN DEVELOP THEIR COORDINATION, MOVEMENT, STRIKING AND RECEIVING SKILLS

ALL SESSIONS TAKE PLACE AT THE SCHOOL AND ALL EQUIPMENT IS PROVIDED, BUT PLAYERS ARE WELCOME TO BRING THEIR OWN RACKETS IF THEY'D LIKE TO!

WE HAVE LOTS OF GREAT COACHING GROUPS TAKING PLACE AT OUR CLUB ACROSS THE WEEK TOO, AS WELL AS HOLIDAY CAMPS IN HALF TERM!

FOR BOOKINGS, SEE OUR ATTACHED LETTER OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [HTTPS://CSPARK.AT/ECSSC](https://cspark.at/ecssc)

USE SPECIAL CODE: **STJ1** FOR DISCOUNT ON OUR COURSES TAKING PLACE AT OUR CLUB  
(Code active from 25th March-14th April 2024)

LTA qualified coaches

DBS checked

First Aid trained

Safeguarding Certified

Dorset Tennis Club of the Year 2022

Dorset Development Coach of the Year 2021

HarryHLTC@outlook.com

07855 436701

Grange Road - Christchurch - BH23 4JD

Dorset Road, Somerford,  
Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 3DA  
[admin@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk)  
01202 485976

<https://www.stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk/>